

HAWKHURST COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Helping the community beat the virus

Newsletter No. 20

4 December 2020

The newsletter is also published on our website:
www.hawkhurstcommunitysupport.com/hcsg-newsletter

A word from the Chair.....



What a mixed week of news. On the downside, I'm sure most of us were worried and disappointed to learn that we would be in Tier 3. And I know for many people it felt rather unfair when the numbers in our little area of Kent are well below the national average. I attend regular meetings with TWBC and the other Parish Council Chairs. This week we were informed that one of the more compelling justifications for us being in Tier 3 is that there are now more COVID cases in the local hospitals than at any other time in the pandemic.

It really worries me when I see people saying that they disagree with the tiers and aren't going to follow the guidance.

Over the past month or two, feedback from TWBC is that most people are following the guidance. We're now seeing a reduction in the number of cases across the Borough - I'm sure this isn't a coincidence. It's been such a tough year that we need to continue to look out for each other and keep everyone safe.

On the upside, the news about the vaccines is something to really celebrate. It's amazing to think that shortly there could be three vaccines available. That's definitely a Christmas present worth having. If you need something else to brighten up your days/evenings, then take a moment to admire the Christmas lights and the advent windows around the village.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who has donated to Food4Families. It's truly heart-warming to see the level of support this project has received. Thank you all so much. Whether you're an individual organising something yourself, donating as part of a group, an organisation or a business, your support is very much appreciated. It's hard to keep up with all the generous donations - what a lovely problem to have! I don't want to miss anyone out in my thanks, so we'll be putting together a complete list of thank-yous in our special Christmas edition of the newsletter.

Take care.

Clare

Marlborough House School Father Christmas Run

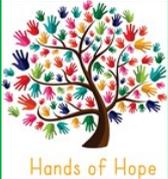
Staff and pupils running to Lapland!

Our Mint spies (geddit?!) have intercepted a letter to parents from the Deputy Head of Marlborough House School. It reads as follows:

“As the festive season is soon to be upon us, we are very keen to continue to support the local charity of Food for Families, especially during these particularly difficult times. To celebrate the season, we have arranged to provide ‘Christmas Dinner’ to families in need in Hawkhurst by providing all the elements of Christmas lunch with some extra goodies thrown in.

To raise funds to support this initiative we are planning a sponsored event for Friday 4th December. All staff and pupils in the Prep School are being invited to take part in a Father Christmas fun run to Lapland! Dressed in our Santa suits (or some home-grown red Santa outfit, as we don’t want to add to landfill) we will be running laps around the grounds, which will hopefully add up to the journey to Lapland. Mr Kimber reliably informs us that this is about 1500 miles directly or 2000 miles by land so we need all the motivation we can get!”

Thank you and good luck to all involved.



Hands of Hope

Hands of Hope: Last chance to register for Get Growing Spring!

Get Growing is a FREE community project delivering Grow Kits and ongoing support to those who want to grow their own food no matter what space they have.

Supporting individuals, families, nurseries, care settings, schools, community gardens as well as community & voluntary organisations, Hands of Hope can get you started and if required, can also provide onsite training and community garden development support.

To register your interest, click on the link below and complete the pre-registration form - it takes only a few seconds.

Remember Get Growing is FREE and provides:

- 🌱 Compost
- 🌱 Fibre Pots
- 🌱 In-season vegetables, herbs & salads suitable for your space
- 🌱 Plug Plants
- 🌱 Instruction on sowing seeds, preparing soil or pots and planting out
- 🌱 Opportunities for collaboration in the development of community spaces

www.get-growing.co.uk

Coronavirus update

Since the start of the pandemic, the Borough has recorded **1,377 cases and 59 deaths***.

During the 7 day period to 28 November, **114 cases were recorded in the Borough: 96 cases per 100 thousand population, compared with 155 for England as a whole.**

Hawkhurst, Benenden and Sandhurst recorded 14 new cases in that period, equivalent to 156 per 100 thousand—slightly above the national average and up 40% on the previous week. Cranbrook, Sissinghurst and Frittenden recorded 13 cases, or 169 per 100 thousand, with no increase on the previous week.

**Deaths occurring from any cause within 28 days of a positive test for COVID-19.*

Sources:

Data: Gov.UK - Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK.

Table: BBC News

Key differences in England tier system

TIER 1: MEDIUM

Follow the rule of six if meeting indoors or outdoors

Pubs and restaurants to shut at 11 pm

People encouraged to minimise travel and work from home where possible

Spectators allowed at sports events and live performances (limited numbers)

Personal care including hairdressing allowed

TIER 2: HIGH

No household mixing indoors

Rule of six will apply outdoors

Pubs and restaurants to shut at 11 pm

Alcohol only served as part of substantial meal

Spectators allowed at sports events and live performances (limited numbers)

Personal care including hairdressing allowed

TIER 3: VERY HIGH

No household mixing indoors or outdoors in hospitality venues or private gardens

Rule of six applies in outdoor public spaces like parks

Pubs/restaurants closed except for delivery and takeaway

Indoor entertainment venues closed

Guidance against travelling in and out of the area

Personal care including hairdressing allowed

Look out for the Christmas edition of our Newsletter which will be published in conjunction with the Hawkhurst Parish Newsletter on December 18th.

