

HAWKHURST COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Helping the community beat the virus

Newsletter No. 10

12th June 2020

Welcome to the tenth edition of the HCSG newsletter, which we hope you continue to enjoy, circulated to the HCSG community on a Friday.

Do you have any feedback on the newsletter?

We would love to hear from you - please let us know by emailing us at:

hawkhurstcommunity@gmail.com



A word from the Chair.....

I'm sure many of us are enjoying the gradual easing of restrictions. I was so excited to be able to go and sit in my mum's garden after not having seen her for months, that I went on the very first day it was allowed.

However, I know there will be people who are worried about the increased risks of these changes. I want to reassure you that there is no need to rush to do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. Everybody's circumstances are different and we only need to make the changes we're comfortable with.

HCSG is still here for everyone that needs support, whether that's because you're in a vulnerable group, you're shielding, or you need to self-isolate. We recently surveyed our amazing volunteers, so we know we have enough volunteers to keep helping as long as needed. Thank you all so much for your support.

One small change is that our phone line now goes to answerphone. This is checked regularly, so please do leave us a message. I would like to thank all of our phone volunteers who have given up so much time to sit by their phones for the past few months. We couldn't have managed without you - thank you.

Clare

Volunteer & Client numbers:

We currently have 143 volunteers and 186 clients registered with HCSG.

Hawkhurst Community Trust 2018 brings you



THE GREAT HAWKHURST

SCARECROWS COMPETITION

**Judging by vote date:
June 27th 2020**

**PRIZES
AWARDED
FOR**
silliest!
most beautiful!
scariest!
tallest!

- ▶ *No rules - no entry forms - JUST FUN!*
- ▶ *Make a scarecrow and put it safely at your gate*
- ▶ *Hunt for other scarecrows round the village*
- ▶ *See all the photos on our website*

Send your photos to our Facebook page



Hawkhurst Community Trust 2018

Or email: hawkhurstcommunitycentre@gmail.com



www.hawkhurstcommunitycentre.co.uk



With the support of our local supermarkets, Waitrose and Tesco, HCSG ran a prize draw for all households who had actively used our services during May. A total of 95 households were eligible, having been helped by HCSG volunteers. The winner was chosen by random computer generation and we are delighted to announce that the winner was Deric Wood - *many congratulations to Deric!*

Mental Health, Housing and Financial Guide for Veterans

The HCSG have been approached by a member of the community whose grandfather is a veteran and who struggled financially and mentally after leaving the forces. They have produced a very useful guide about the housing and financial support available for ex-servicemen and women, which can be found here:

<https://businesscostsaver.co.uk/guide-for-veterans/>



Tesco Bags of Help

Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme where the money raised by the carrier bag charge in Tesco stores is used to fund thousands of community projects.

Tesco responded to the Coronavirus crisis by setting up the Bags of Help Covid-19 Communities Fund as a short-term fund to support local communities.

Organisations who were supporting vulnerable groups in their area were invited to apply for a single payment award of £500, to assist their organisational need.

HCSG applied and we are delighted to say that we have recently been awarded £500 to fund the work we are delivering in Hawkhurst.

SHOPPING ONLINE - Part (1)

Most of our clients are very happy with their volunteers shopping for them in the local supermarkets. However, some might be missing the variety of pre-lockdown shopping outings and would welcome a change of fare from time to time. Online shopping offers the opportunity to browse new ranges of groceries, to buy and pay for them from home and to have them delivered to your door.

This is the first in a series of guides to online shopping which will cover both the large supermarkets and local retailers. We will be focusing on suppliers which take payment by credit card and deliver to you, so you can manage the whole transaction from your home.

Supermarket shopping online

Many of the large supermarkets offer a sophisticated online shopping experience. Their websites display a wide variety of goods which are laid out in a way which makes it easy to select the items you need and place them in a virtual basket to check out at the end of your visit.

You will be asked to select a date and time for delivery of the items to your home - sometimes before you even start shopping. This is where you can come up against problems caused by the huge demand during lockdown: it can be difficult or impossible to find any free delivery slots as they are all taken. Or there may be a few left, but they require a premium payment.

For this reason, online shopping on supermarket sites might not be feasible for most of us. However, those officially registered as vulnerable can get priority for delivery slots. If you have received a letter or text from the Government telling you to register as a vulnerable person, or if you have a letter from your GP telling you to shield, you can register at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>.

The retailers use this register to decide who will get priority.

Here's a handy guide showing how to get priority deliveries if you are on the Government list:

Retailer	Website	Vulnerable Person telephone line	Notes
Ocado	www.ocado.com	Contact via internet: https://help.ocado.com/hc/en-us/requests/new	Existing customers only.
Tesco	www.tesco.com/groceries	0800 917 7359	Create an account and log on. If you are registered as vulnerable, you'll get priority. You can also call.
Asda	www.asda.com	0800 952 0101	Create an account. Asda will then contact you.
Morrisons	www.morrisons.com	-	If you have an account, Morrisons will contact you and give you priority
Sainsburys	www.sainsburys.com	0800 328 1700 (8am—11pm)	New & existing customers - Sainsburys will contact you. If you do not have a letter but think you qualify, call them.
Waitrose	www.waitrose.com	0800 188 884 or email: customerservice-team@waitrose.co.uk	Create an account. If you are registered as vulnerable or over 70, Waitrose will contact you.

Local Shopping Online

There's a lot to be said for shopping online with local retailers. They often specialise in particular products and ranges and can offer fresh, high quality produce and personal service. It's also good to support local businesses. In future issues we'll focus on a number of local retailers in turn, describing what they have to offer and how to order from them. This week, the focus is on.....**Park Farm Butchers.**

Everyone knows the Park Farm Butchers' shop in the Colonnade, which sells meat from its own local farm. But did you know they also have an online presence where you can buy meat, fresh milk and dairy produce, locally sourced fruit and vegetables, cheeses, pies and deli products? Plus, a wide range of bottles, jars and other quality goods?

The website is easy to use. Pick your shopping, put it in your basket and pay by card at the checkout. Deliveries are made on the following day, Monday to Saturday, and are free for orders over £25.00, otherwise the cost is £5.00. Please ensure you are in to receive your delivery as produce needs to be refrigerated immediately. Order online via the website: www.parkfarmonline.co.uk

Meet the HCSG Team

We continue with introductions to our Area Leaders and Volunteers.
This week it's the turn of Area Leaders **Ros Cory** and **Carol March**.



Ros Cory
Area Leader, High Street

"I am the Area Leader for High Street area. I have really enjoyed supporting our clients and working with an excellent team of volunteers. During lockdown I have been working in the garden, continuing my Pilates via Zoom and walking the footpaths around our beautiful village. The thing I miss most is seeing the rest of my family."



Carol March
Area Leader, Gills Green

"Hawkhurst has been my home for 36 years. I have four grown up children who all went to Puddleduck nursery and Hawkhurst Primary School. I have served on committees, as a school governor and at children's church at St Laurence in my time. In my free time I enjoy playing tennis with a friendly group at Hawkhurst Tennis Club. It is a privilege to support villagers with my lovely volunteers in this time of need."