

HAWKHURST COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Helping the community beat the virus

Newsletter No. 12

10th July 2020

Welcome to the twelfth edition of the HCSG Newsletter.

Incredibly, this is HCSG's twelfth newsletter since the first in April. Quite a feat, as we are all volunteers managing to do this in our spare time. Plenty to read in this bumper edition - and lots to get involved in. The newsletter is also published on our website:

www.hawkhurstcommunitysupport.com/hcsg-newsletter



A word from the Chair.....

I thought it might be helpful to provide an update on the current situation in our local area. Across the borough of Tunbridge Wells, it appears that about one new case of COVID-19 a day is being reported, with the rate of infection (number of people per 100,000) being lower than for England overall and for Kent as a whole.

As long as these figures stay low, hopefully, we'll be able to enjoy the continued easing of restrictions and have more opportunities to get out and about. This does, though, require every single one of us to do our part and follow the guidance.

The guidance is still to keep 2 metres away from people who are not in our household. Where necessary, this can be reduced to 1 metre as long as some other measures are put in place, such as wearing a face covering. The government guidance continues to emphasise the importance of regular hand washing and using hand sanitiser while we're out. And, of course, none of us should be leaving the house if we have any symptoms of COVID-19.

Life will continue to be different for the foreseeable future, but the measures that have been put in place are to keep us all safe. Let's keep looking out for each other.

Clare

Volunteer & Client numbers:

We currently have 137 volunteers and 187 clients registered with HCSG.

Can you help us manage HCSG?

As we reported in the last newsletter our amazing Volunteer Manager, Astrid Miller, is leaving us very shortly.

Astrid is one of the founding members of HCSG and has done an outstanding job as a member of our close-knit team, helping to create the present efficient and effective operation.

We are very sorry to see her go.

This means there is now an opportunity for a suitable volunteer to step into Astrid's place as **Volunteer Manager** on HCSG's Co-ordination Group.

The role of the Volunteer Manager is to manage and support the HCSG volunteer force, through the ten Area Managers, and to play a full part in the management of HCSG as a member of the Co-ordination Group.

The role typically requires a commitment of roughly an hour a day and can be managed flexibly around other commitments.

The kind of person we are looking for will have good people skills and be well organised and a good team worker.

If you'd like to find out more about the role, please email us at hawkhurstcommunity@gmail.com and we'll be in touch.



Thank you Astrid for all your hard work for HCSG, we'll miss you!



Hawkhurst Village Magazine - the future

The current, longstanding editor Mike Appelbe has decided to hand over the magazine as soon as a suitable new editorial team can be found.

The magazine is a successful monthly community-led magazine which is well-liked in the village and the intention is for it to remain in its current form, although improvements could always be made. It should not lose its historical connection with St Laurence Church and will welcome articles from community groups, churches,

business and the Parish Council to reflect village life in Hawkhurst.

It has been a non-profit making business with publishing and printing costs covered by advertisers. Due to the COVID 19 lockdown, the last publication was April 2020 but the hope is for it to start publishing again in Autumn 2020.

A new Hawkhurst Village Magazine “team” is now required – editor, finance, sales and publishing. Enquiries should be made directly to Mike Appelbe on **01580 752367** or email: **mike.appelbe@barrettsgreen.co.uk**



Volunteers required at Bowles Lodge

We would love to hold some outdoor activities for our tenants here at Bowles Lodge.

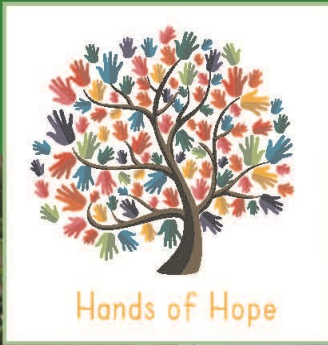
We have a beautiful garden that we're desperate to put to some good use and wondered if there are any volunteers in the Hawkhurst community who would like to host an event in our garden?

This could be anything from singing, poetry or book reading to arts and crafts to games or any other activity that you as a volunteer would like to offer to our tenants.

If you are interested, please contact Bowles Lodge on 01580 755465 to speak to a member of staff.

Bowles Lodge is an independent living scheme for people over 55 who require care.

www.westkent.org



When the going gets tough, the tough **Get Growing!**



Growing your own food is a fun and healthy way to fill your plate. It can help cut the carbon footprint of your food, boost your mood and your health, and give you a chance to get involved with your local community by supporting others in need by giving back any surplus you grow which will then be distributed to help support Food Banks and Community Support Groups.

We want to involve communities in food growing from plant pot to patio, whatever space you have. If you are experienced great if not, don't worry, it's all about trowel and error!



To find out how you can "Get Growing" simply email info@hohcharity.co.uk

Growing Together – Building Communities

Get Growing



What support is available?

We will provide the plants and support to get you growing fresh seasonal organic produce, whatever space you have. Growing can happen anywhere – garden, big or small, greenhouse, kitchen, windowsill. You provide details of your growing space and we will provide you with the appropriate plants.

You will get:

- A range of organic, in-season plants from vegetables to herbs, chosen specifically for your growing space;
- Instruction sheets for each plant you receive;
- Weekly Video links of growing sessions with our Head Gardener;
- Ongoing email support to take you through the growing season.

How can I get involved?

To "Get Growing" simply email **info@hohcharity.co.uk** to register. We just need to know where you are for delivery, what space you have to grow and we'll take it from there.

07968 333 097
www.hohcharity.co.uk



Get Growing – Linking Local Food with Community

URGENT CALL FOR ACTION

Don't let developers build on Hawkhurst Golf Course!

A revised application has been submitted by Cedar Drive to build 340 new houses on the 49 acres of green space that is currently Hawkhurst Golf Club, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This is totally unsuitable for the following reasons:

- **significant and irreparable harm** to the AONB
- **unsustainable location** – Hawkhurst does NOT have the infrastructure to support this increase in population. Residents will be dependant on their cars, on already severely congested roads and against all climate change concerns
- **highways safety** – KCC and the developer's own safety audit have identified significant safety concerns with the proposed roundabout and layout in a location already suffering from acknowledged speeding issues
- **impact on Hawkhurst crossroads** – the developer's own figures predict a 100% increase in traffic on the High Street, over 8,000 car movements per day and a daily average queue length of 125 cars (600m) on the High Street side of the crossroads
- **impact on Flimwell junction** – even greater delays are predicted
- **impact on the village's smaller roads** – Slip Mill Road, Delmonden Lane and North Hill Road will become rat runs as motorists seek to avoid the crossroads
- **increased pollution levels** - the village's air quality is currently running *above the danger level* of 40 micrograms per cubic metre; it is already almost double that figure
- **increased noise levels** – inevitable from 8,000 additional car movements per day
- **impact on sewage system** – this is overloaded and cannot cope with current volumes, already representing a danger to health
- **ecology** – even the revised application will cause the loss of a huge number of trees and impact upon numerous important habitats. The alleged bio-diversity net gain is unsubstantiated.

What you can do as soon as possible:

Make your objections clear on the TWBC planning website:

www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-application-search and enter
19/02025/HYBRID

or email the Case Officer Kevin Hope: kevin.hope@tunbridgewells.gov.uk and
planning@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

or write to: Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Mount Pleasant Road,
Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS quoting application 19/02025/HYBRID

If you have any questions, please email us at: protecthawkhurstvillage@gmail.com and follow us on

Facebook: Hawkhurst – SAVE OUR VILLAGE

STOP THIS UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SHOPPING ONLINE - Part (3)

This is the last in our series of guides to online shopping, focusing on suppliers which take payment by credit card and deliver to you, so you can manage the whole transaction from your home.

In previous editions we looked at the offerings of the large supermarkets and companies which supply all the ingredients you need for a cook-it-yourself meal. This time we provide contact details for two suppliers of ready-meals which you can simply pop into the oven or microwave for a quick, convenient meal.

Cook	www.cookfood.net/menu/main-meals T: 01732 759020	This website offers a huge range of frozen ready meals of all kinds. Free home delivery for orders over £40
Wiltshire Farm Foods	www.wiltshirefarmfoods.com T: 0800 077 3100 or 0800 046 5614 if you have a shielding letter from the Government	A wide range of frozen ready meals in different portion sizes. Free delivery.

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 each Newsletter we focus on a particular local retailer, describing what they have to offer and how to order from them. This week, the focus is on

Folly Farm Shop

This time we venture a little farther afield, to Folly Farm Shop in Sandhurst. This is a small family farm outlet which offers vegetables, meat, fruit, salad and dairy boxes from other small farms - "*delicious bundles of joy and goodness*" according to the website!

Folly Farm delivers to your door on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Delivery is free on orders over **£17, otherwise £2.35.**

www.follyfarmshop.com

The HCSG website contains a comprehensive directory of local businesses offering online ordering and delivery to your door:

www.hawkhurstcommunitysupport.com/local-business-directory

How does your garden grow?

An area of council land that runs up the side of a footpath into Norris Close and had been left to get overgrown, has been lovingly brought back to life by residents Barbara and Peter Goad and friends.



It is now an attractive piece of well-kept grass and a combination of planted beds next to a small wooded area. This too has been thinned out and had wild flowers and shrubs planted amongst the trees. Its creation has also provided a place where several local residents who live alone have been able to get together occasionally in the sunshine (socially distanced of course!) for much needed company during these difficult times. It has become a talking point for many who use the pathway and witnessed the hard work.



The project was taken on by Barbara as a constructive way to cope with lockdown, but in doing so she has provided the neighbourhood with something beautiful for everyone to enjoy. As the daughter of an elderly resident in Norris Close who enjoys the benefits of this little oasis, I would like to say a big thank you to the Goads and anyone who has contributed, for showing us how a small act of community spirit can go a long way! *Jane Nudd, Volunteer*

Meet the HCSG Team

We continue with introductions to our Area Leaders and Volunteers. This week it's the turn of Volunteers **Tim Baker** and **Kitty Kittley**.



Tim Baker
Volunteer, Four Throws

Tim Baker is a tall wrinkly actor, a rude comic novelist and a lockdown children's storyteller big in commercials, appearing as Posh Santa for M&S, the dotty Grandpa for ASDA and Scrooge for Currys PC World. Tim is also an obsessive bird photographer and has a comedy website at www.timbartholomew.co.uk. Father of three and wicked stepfather to another three, Tim lives near Four Throws with his long-suffering wife, Julie and their dog.



Kitty Kittley
Volunteer, Rye Road

"Hi, I'm Kitty Kittley (yes, that really is my name!). I grew up in the area but lived in London for quite a while before moving back to Hawkhurst in 2017. I have two young children and work as a personal trainer from home, running small group fitness classes and one to one sessions from our lovely studio. It's been such a pleasure to be able to help the community over the last few months and I feel fortunate to have met some really interesting and lovely people!"