

East Woodhay & Highclere Coronavirus Community Support



Highclere Society



EWB Neighbourcare



Inside our Newsletter #6:

- [1000 Prescriptions Delivered ...and counting](#)
- [East End Community](#)
- [From the Rector](#)
- [Shopping and Deliveries](#)
- [Basingstoke Voluntary Action](#)
- [Keeping Yourself Amused](#)
- [Next Newsletter](#)

We are here for you:

- transport to attend a medical appointment
- prescriptions delivered
- shopping collected
- a friendly chat on the phone

One local community support number, run by Neighbourcare:

01635 745 600



1000 Prescriptions Delivered...and counting

A new and major undertaking, in conjunction with both Woolton Hill and Kintbury surgeries, is the home delivery of repeat and acute prescriptions from Monday to Friday.

On receiving advice by text or telephone that a repeat medication is ready, patients can now ring the local Neighbourcare number, **01635 745600**, where details are taken for the prescription to be collected from the surgery by a volunteer driver who will then deliver to their home, free of charge.

Using this system means one person at the surgery collecting prescriptions for anything up to 20 people, immediately reducing the number of people going to the surgery whilst those who are self-isolating or considered vulnerable have the reassurance that necessary medication will continue to be available.

Acute prescriptions, following telephone consultations, are delivered either around lunch-time or late afternoon the same day by our volunteer drivers; feedback to the surgery from one patient read:

"By 3.15 that afternoon my prescription had been delivered as promised. What an amazing slick service! In these very worrying and stressful times you should be very proud of all your staff for providing such an outstanding service to us

all and please pass on my gratitude to everyone and keep up the fantastic work!"

In the past 4 weeks, volunteer drivers have delivered prescriptions for both surgeries to addresses from Ashmansworth to Stockcross, Newtown to Hungerford and everywhere in between.

Thursday 23rd April was not only St George's Day but also marked the delivery of the 1000th prescription to a patient's door, showing how community spirit is thriving in this area.



Volunteer driver Melanie Akhurst delivers the 1,000th prescription

East End Community

The central team of volunteers are doing a lot to help the community, but we also know there are many local groups also helping their local neighbours. One such community group is at East End and thanks to Pat and Fiona Coyne for writing the following to share with you all.

With only a handful of houses and less than 100 residents, East End has no shops, pubs or amenities. What it does have though is a fantastic community spirit and ethos, which has come together over the past few weeks since the Coronavirus outbreak.



Within a day of the lockdown we had set up a WhatsApp Group, to help our neighbours, from the youngest, Rory (only 5 months old), to our more “experienced” residents – it would be churlish to mention age!

The aim of the Group was to provide a forum where we could all help each other, whatever the requirement – whether it be shopping, picking up prescriptions, sharing ideas (e.g. recipes), or a helpdesk for anyone with any problems. For those who don't have WhatsApp, we resort to the more traditional methods of knocking on doors (whilst standing back 2m of course!) and making calls.

It was not long before we had collectively arranged for fruit, meat, fish and veg orders and deliveries to be coordinated between residents, with the odd loo roll being left on a doorstep for those truly in need in the short term.

Whenever people order and collect items from local stores, they post on the Group so others can also get supplies if needed, whether that be pet food or refreshments from West Berkshire Brewery (a most popular service).

The younger members of the hamlet have also played their part with painting displays take pride of place outside the primary school, lifting our spirits every time we walk past.



Rainbow pictures outside St Martin's School

There have been some interesting challenges requested and fulfilled, whether that be a need for straws for mocktails (a teenager's birthday party, whilst isolated) to nail clippers for someone's dog. And of course, it's a great way to distribute this newsletter, without the cost of printing and shoe leather.

We have our weekly gathering every Thursday at 8pm, (all coordinated through our WhatsApp Group) at a suitable distance from one another where we clap, bang saucepans, ring bells and blow whistles in support of the NHS. This has also become a way of raising spirits and celebrating our wonderful community and beautiful village.

East End has always been a welcoming and inclusive Community where everyone is prepared to support and help each other – the virus has only made that spirit stronger as we continue to help each other in times of need.

If you are organising a local help group in your neighbourhood, please let us know via the website www.ewhneighbourcare.org.uk and we will pass on the details

From the Rector: Revd Canon Christine Dale

Thank you so much to our fantastic volunteers involved with East Woodhay & Highclere Coronavirus Community Support – what an achievement to reach the 1000th prescription delivery! I am aware of just how much that particular aspect of the work is appreciated locally. Thank you so much.

It remains the case that we must keep our church buildings closed and cannot hold public worship. We do however continue to pray and please do contact me with any prayer requests. We are becoming more experienced at online worship using Zoom and this coming Sunday (26th April) we are online at 11am for Holy Communion and at 6pm for Evensong (from the Book of Common Prayer). If you would like to join our e-mail circulation for details and joining codes for these services please send your e-mail address to me (contact details below).

Our churches Facebook page (North West Hampshire Benefice www.facebook.com/nwhbchurches) contains updates and information.

This week we posted about our churches' 'Pins and Needles' group (knitters and sewers) who have just delivered a batch of headbands to West Berks Hospital. Earlier in April they were asked if they could make headbands with fasteners which would help medical staff more comfortably wear face masks. What a great idea! And a huge Thank You to all our dedicated medical professionals, support staff and keyworkers!



Headband in use

With every blessing to you all
Revd. Canon Christine Dale
(e-mail: cdale001@btinternet.com, Tel. 01635 253323)

Shopping & Deliveries

Don't forget to keep your distance in our local shops

Woodland Stores post regularly on Facebook (link [here](#)) and they have regular deliveries of meat, fish, bread, eggs.... Just go to [Cook & Butchers](#) page and have a look at what you may like and then give Woodlands a call on 01635 253651. For free delivery, shop orders need to be received by phone or via Woodlands Store Facebook page by 1.30pm on Monday for Wednesday delivery or on Thursday at 1.30pm for Friday delivery.

Woodland Stores are also receiving some bedding plants next week. Do check the link above for information.

Well done to Woodland Stores and all their customers who contributed to the 'bin men' box.



Photo courtesy of Woodland Stores

A big thanks to Raj & Sue at the **Woolton Hill Stores/Post Office** (253463) for also keeping their shop so well stocked. Thanks for those early morning paper deliveries and also helping those who are isolating by dropping off shopping.

E-Gift Cards at Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer

Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer have both introduced a new E-gift card which you can purchase online and automatically email it to the person going shopping for you. The shopper can then use this to pay from a barcode on their smart phone or as a printout at the tills.

More information is at:

<https://sainsburysgiftcard.co.uk/Sainsburys/ByEmail/Argos/FrequentlyAskedQuestions>
and <https://www.marksandspencer.com/all-in-this-together/p/p60282075>

For all the latest **major supermarket opening times and delivery information** click [HERE](#)

Local produce:

Hampshire Fare publishes a large list of local producers who will deliver or arrange click and collect services. For details, click [HERE](#).

The Rural Pie company will be doing another delivery to Woolton Hill area on Saturday 2nd May. Pre-ordering is essential - click [HERE](#) for details.

The Yew Tree Garden Centre open up their online ordering (<https://yewtreecg.co.uk>) ordering at 2pm each day. However, when their daily capability is reached this access is then closed. Please be patient at this busy time. Phone lines (01635 255 250) 9am-12pm Mon – Sat

Takeaway & Delivery

The Red House - Highclere, 01635 255 531 <https://www.thehighclereredhouse.com>

The Pheasant – Highclere, 01635 253360 <https://www.thepheasanthighclere.co.uk/blog>

Lusso pizza and ice cream, 01635 32128 <https://www.lussokitchen.co.uk>

Saddleback Farm Shop Collection, 01488 638806 <https://www.saddlebackfarmshop.co.uk>

Fernworth Farm, Ashford Hill, 07966467058 <http://www.fernworthfarm.co.uk>

Basingstoke Voluntary Action

The East Woodhay and Highclere Coronavirus Community Support team is just one of a number of local voluntary support groups set up across the borough to deal with Covid-19. These groups are coordinated by Basingstoke Voluntary Action (BVA). BVA (previously known as BVS) was set up in 1965 and has been instrumental in starting or supporting many of the charities that are now household names in the borough working in close cooperation with the borough council's community team. During the coronavirus pandemic BVA has concentrated on:

- mapping the services still being run and what help they require
- identifying the new activities set up to support our vulnerable people and how to access them
- welcoming new volunteers and matching them with services/activities needing support
- identifying areas within the borough where no support is currently available

Part of that response has been the distribution of £200,000 of funding from the council to neighbourhood groups such as ours to help to cover the costs of operations like volunteer and travel expenses, equipment and printing required as part of the local response, emergency supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) and transport costs for the collection and distribution of prescriptions.

Commenting on the support provided by BVA, Mark Rand who is treasurer of the East Woodhay and Highclere team, said “*BVA have been a joy to work with. They have responded quickly and effectively and with none of the bureaucracy you sometimes get. They, and the council, clearly understand our needs and I thank them for the support they have both given us*”.

BVA have also published a list of funding streams to local organisations to provide support during the Coronavirus epidemic. Go to www.bvaction.org.uk for more details.

If you are walking locally make sure you can always keep 2m apart from others

Keeping Yourself Amused

Home Composting – advice and offers

Basingstoke and Deane cannot collect garden waste at the moment, but they have teamed up with getcomposting.com who publish a useful guide to home composting and also offer environmental products such as home compost bins and water butts. <https://getcomposting.com/composting-guide>

Discover Nature in our Gardens with the National Trust

Many of us have more time to notice the rhythms of the natural world unfolding outside our window or in our back garden. So, while we're staying safe at home, The National Trust is challenging us to experience the small moments of joy nature brings us in five different ways. [Click here](#) for more information.

Arts with the Corn Exchange

The Corn Exchange in Newbury is offering a range of FREE activities to suit all members of the family, from early years learning, through art and craft sessions to dance – see their [website](https://www.cornexchangenew.com) for the latest offerings. <https://www.cornexchangenew.com>

Do you know somebody without internet access?

The Corn Exchange recognises that not everyone has access to the internet and offers to call them or post them with some activities to enjoy. If you know someone who would benefit from this, Email getinvolved@cornexchangenew.co.uk

Teenage contemporary dance

Calling out to dancers aged 13-18!
Matthew Rawcliffe, winner of the Contemporary Final of BBC Young Dancer of the Year 2019, leads a 5-day FREE online dance course next week. Find out more and book your place [here](#):

Jewellery design competition – children & teens

Petra Jewellery at Viabes Craft Centre is running a 'Children's Lockdown Design Competition' and the winner will be able to see their jewellery design made into a piece for display. Deadline is 1 May 2020. To see how to enter, age categories and how to join, click [HERE](#)

Watch live theatre with the family

This week's free live theatre screening from the National Theatre is Twelfth Night, starring Tamsin Greig, available on YouTube from Thursday evening 7pm. To find out more, See <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>

Take part in a theatre review – if you like to share your thoughts on what you've been watching with other theatre viewers, then you can view a play each week and take part in the Corn Exchange Armchair Reviews through e-mail and Facebook. Each review discussion is based on a screening available to watch as a download. The play for the week is announced on Thursdays. To take part click [HERE](#) for details.

Next Newsletter

The following newsletter will be issued next week. You can request to receive this newsletter directly by registering via the website below:

www.ewhneighbourcare.org.uk

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