

East Woodhay & Highclere Coronavirus Community Support



Highclere Society



EWH Neighbourcare



Inside our Newsletter #34 – 19th March

[A Lookback on a Year of Support](#)
[Local Covid-19 Cases](#)
[Get your Tests](#)
[Vaccination Appointments](#)
[From the Rector](#)
[Easter Weekend – buying local](#)
[Activities – Staying In](#)
[Naturewatch & Walks](#)
[The Chase](#)
[Your Photos](#)

Neighbourcare are here for you – one number to have:

- prescriptions delivered
- attending a vaccine / medical appointment
- shopping collected
- a friendly chat on the phone
- or someone to go for walk with

01635 745 600



Do you remember this first page from our initial newsletter? Yes, it really was a year ago!

A Lookback on a Year of Local Coronavirus Support

As it has been a year since we first produced these Coronavirus Community Support newsletters, we thought it was appropriate to take a look back on these past 12 months.

Next **Tuesday, 23rd March** is 12 months to the day of the first lockdown in England, at 1pm it was announced that we should all stay home and that most businesses must close.

The local community pulled together and have done an amazing amount to support the people in the area. Our pubs have created tasty takeaway menus, local food outlets have delivered and arranged for collections and activities which would normally be done in person have gone online, which have kept us fit and also engaged in new hobbies.

A leaflet was funded by the Parish Council, explaining how help could be obtained and with the help of a small army of volunteers it was delivered to every household across the parishes of East Woodhay, Highclere and Ashmansworth.

This community newsletter, which is produced and issued with the support of East Woodhay Society, Highclere Society and the local Parish Councils, has meant we could keep up to date with the latest developments, amenities, things to do and most of all have stayed connected at a time when it was felt that 'local communication' was essential. These have been distributed across the community and many people have helped by sending it on to friends and groups of local people they know. The community has really pulled together to keep each other informed and supported.

At the time of that first lockdown there were 120 prescriptions at Woolton Hill surgery which needed to be delivered to patients. Responding to a call from the surgery, a team of 10 Neighbourcare volunteers cleared this backlog over the following 3 days.

Kintbury surgery closed to patients with all repeat prescriptions to be dispensed from Woolton Hill and anything prescribed following an on-the-day consultation dispensed from Kintbury.

A call was placed for volunteers to help and over 100 people came forward to support the work being done. Volunteer drivers then delivered all prescriptions for both surgeries, covering an area from Stockcross to Ashmansworth, Hungerford to Bishops Green and everywhere in between.



A central contact number **01635 745 600** was arranged and on any weekday up to 8 drivers could be delivering prescriptions from both surgeries and, where necessary, from hospitals and independent pharmacies.

On **Thursday 23rd April**, St Georges Day, the 1,000th prescription was delivered by volunteer, Melanie Akhurst, under the new system.

Acute prescription delivery feedback from a grateful patient read 'consultation at 11am, prescription delivered within the hour – amazing service in these worrying and stressful times'.

Monday 6th June saw the 'rule of 6, outside only' introduced, limited access to Woolton Hill surgery for repeat prescription collection and before the end of June compulsory wearing of face masks on entering the surgery.



Prescription deliveries for both surgeries continued until **6th July** when both surgeries re-opened. By this date 22 Neighbourcare volunteer drivers had delivered approximately 4,000 prescriptions travelling roughly 7,000 miles to villages and rural locations – all free of charge, thanks to the financial support we have received from both government groups and the generous local community!



Woolton Hill Junior School produced a rainbow banner to say 'Thank You' to Woolton Hill Stores

A shopping service with a team of 14 volunteers arranged collection/delivery of groceries for anyone needing it.

Over 60 trips to 10 different locations in Newbury and Andover for 'click and collect' were arranged for clients.

Woolton Hill stores and Woodland Stores in Penwood led the way locally with 'over the phone' payments for shopping which volunteers collected and delivered.

The dedicated team of 'well-being' volunteers from Neighbourcare have maintained contact with a number of people, many of whom were totally on their own throughout lockdown. Providing a

cheerful voice at the end of the phone and assistance with organising practical help if required has been of great benefit to many.

Summer came and went and in Autumn it became clear that a 'second wave' was developing. With a short lockdown in **November/December** and number restrictions for families to get together for just Christmas Day we came to the end of 2020. Throughout, Neighbourcare continued to deliver prescriptions.

The team learnt of roads and areas they didn't know existed and an article by Jim Stokes in Newsletter # 14, wonderfully described the challenges of driving around Inkpen. All our drivers have experiences of becoming lost, with Mark and Sue Hetherington recounting their challenges of trying to find 'the house with no name' in Newsletter # 11. Unfortunately, Gayle Ashby became stuck in a field on the first day she delivered prescriptions.

This was the result of trying to turn around after realising she was in the wrong lane.



Oh, the joy of trying to rely on Google Maps! However, all the prescriptions were still delivered, even if a little late that day. Thanks, Gayle for not being put off and still continuing to deliver.



And so, to **January** and back in lockdown but now with hope resting on the vaccines that were starting to be rolled out through the country, over 80's and care homes first and then gradually down through the age groups.

A GP led hub of nine local surgeries came together to open at Newbury racecourse where over 25,000 people have been vaccinated so far, with Neighbourcare providing transport when required.

Mass vaccination hubs are open in Basingstoke, Reading and Oxford for booking through the NHS site. Requests for Neighbourcare drivers to take people to hospital/dental/surgery appointments have started again, all with strict Covid protocol in place.

March, schools are open and there is a 'road map' to, hopefully, guide us out of lockdown into a 'new' normal.



Neighbourcare volunteer, John Watson, volunteering at the Newbury Vaccination Centre at the Racecourse on his 70th birthday

This lockdown, the request for prescription deliveries has reduced dramatically but the surgery would urge you, if you don't have to pay for your medication for whatever reason, you should ask Neighbourcare to deliver and reduce the footfall into the surgery.

What a year it has been and in that year, Neighbourcare have delivered over 5000 prescriptions and driven over 9000 miles!

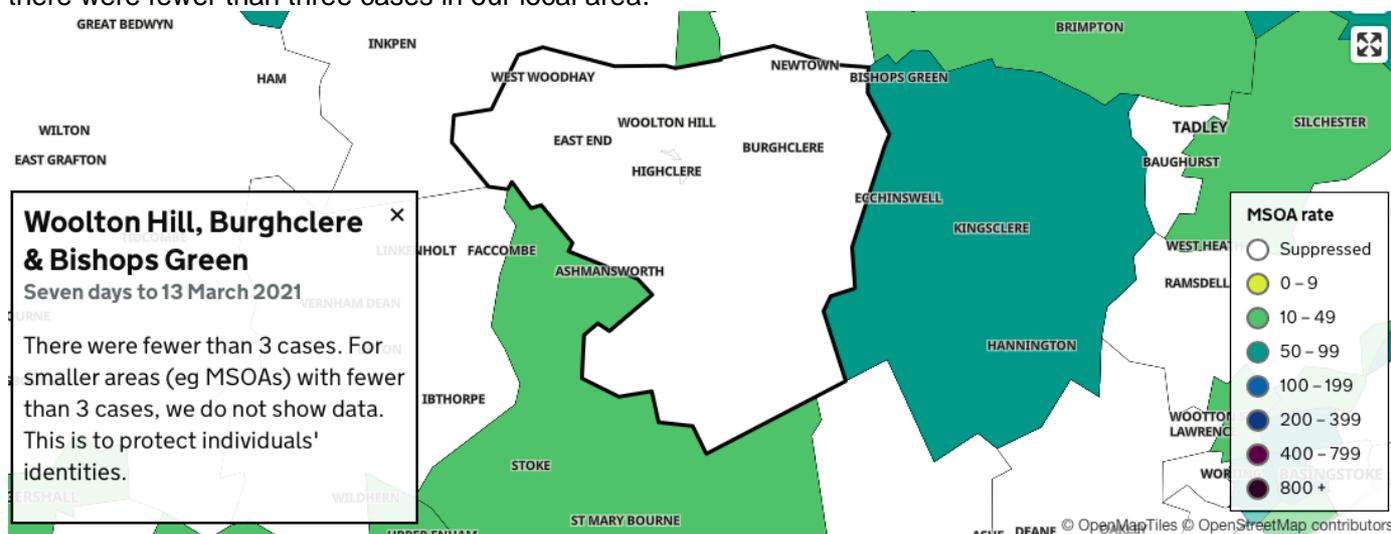
We are fortunate to have a surgery where the staff have worked tirelessly under difficult circumstances. We are so blessed to have an amazing group of volunteers, helping each other to make the best of the situation and supporting a community in need.

It is good to look back, but we know that irrespective of whether we have had a job, it is important to keep to the rules and remember the key message of Hands, Face, Space.

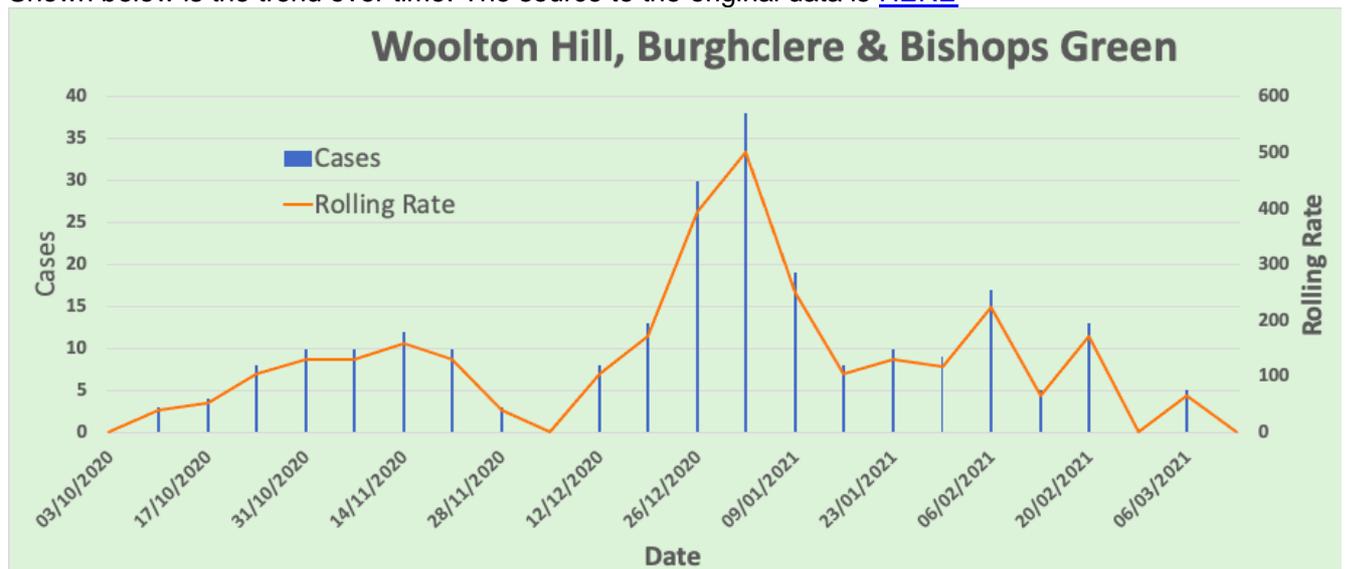


Latest Local COVID-19 Cases

The good news reported in the previous newsletter continues and in the last week of reporting there were fewer than three cases in our local area.



Shown below is the trend over time. The source to the original data is [HERE](#)



Get Your Tests

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease, we all need to play our part to help protect each other.

The following people in England will have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing made available to them:

- secondary school pupils and college students
- [staff of primary and secondary schools, nurseries and colleges](#)
- households, childcare and support bubbles of nursery children, primary and secondary-age pupils and college students
- households, childcare and support bubbles of staff of nurseries, primary and secondary schools, and colleges

Children of primary school age or younger will not be asked to test at this time.

How to get a rapid lateral flow test

There are different ways to get a test for pupils, students and staff of nurseries, schools and colleges, and members of their households, childcare and support bubbles in England who do not have symptoms of coronavirus.

Secondary school pupils and college students

Upon returning to school or college, pupils and students will be asked to take their:

- first 3 tests at their place of study under the supervision of a trained operator
- fourth test themselves using a home test kit

Pupils and students will then continue taking twice-weekly tests using a home test kit provided by their school or college. They should report all results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, either online or by telephone, as set out in the home test kit instructions.

If you're a member of a household, childcare bubble of a pupil, student or staff of a school, nursery or college, you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Get a test through your employer

Your employer may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact them to find out more.

Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.

You may need to book an appointment.

Collect test kits

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests.

Our nearest collection point is:

Newbury Showground, Priors Court, Newbury RG18 9QZ. [Get Directions](#)

Normal opening times

01:00pm - 08:00pm. Anyone 18 or over can collect.

Most collection points are open from 1.30pm to 7pm. You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment.

Do not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside these times.

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)

Order home test kits online

You can order 1 pack of home test kits containing 7 tests for home delivery. Your tests should arrive within 2 days.

[Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

What twice-weekly testing involves

You will be asked to:

- take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart)
- report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test

[Report your test result online](#) or by calling 119.

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result
- follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)

Pupils, students and staff should also tell their school or college if they test positive.

A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus. But this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all [coronavirus advice](#) including:

- regular handwashing
- social distancing
- wearing a face covering where recommended

Vaccination Appointments

Much has been published in the media about shortages of vaccine during April. As the vaccination program progresses so the number of second vaccinations will increase, reducing the capacity for first vaccinations despite the overall increase in vaccination capacity. To clarify the situation the Newbury Racecourse Vaccination Centre have issued the following statement:

We have progressed well with our cohort 6 patients and are confident that we have offered appointments to nearly all those of you that fit that group and are working hard to ensure those that haven't received a text or been called are contacted this week.

We have also been asked to go back through cohorts 1-6 to double check that we haven't missed anyone and that those who were unable to take up the offer of a vaccine when contacted due to illness or other reasons are contacted again with the offer of another appointment. We do not want anyone who wants to have the vaccine to be missed. Therefore, if you are over the age of 65, or 16 with underlying health conditions, and haven't been contacted by your GP surgery, please contact them via their websites. Please also ensure that your contact details are correct via the websites, using the 'Contact the practice' option.

In addition, we are now able to offer appointments to all those patients that fit into groups 7-9 which is all those over the age of 50. All of our GP Practices will begin contacting these patients via text or by phone (for those patients who do not have access to text messaging) and offering them the opportunity to book an appointment over the next week or so. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SURGERY; THEY WILL CONTACT YOU WHEN APPOINTMENTS BECOME AVAILABLE.

Please ensure that your correct contact details are registered with the surgery via their website, using the 'Contact The Practice', option.

Patients awaiting a date for their second vaccination should wait to be contacted by the surgery. Those who made bookings through the National Booking Service will have been given a day, time and place for their second vaccination when making their first appointment.

From the Rector: Revd Canon Christine Dale



Greetings and blessings to you all.

It is incredible to think this is the first anniversary newsletter! We did not imagine that we would still be living with such tight restrictions a year on. On a hopeful note, many of us have now received the first dose of the vaccine, for which we are truly grateful and applaud our wonderful NHS for all they have achieved. Thank you! This year has had so many challenges, but amongst these a positive outcome surely is a greater valuing of our local area and communities. I hope we all find we are more aware of our immediate neighbours and thank you again to all involved in this our local community volunteer collaboration.

We approach the solemn services of Holy Week leading to Easter, a festival of new life and hope in Christ. We are sad not to be able to hold our usual services, restrictions still prevent the singing of hymns for example, and face coverings (unless exempt) and social distancing are still required. However, we are going to return to a mix of simple 'in church' and online services from Palm Sunday evening to bring us together around the solemn themes of Holy Week and Good Friday and the joy of Easter.

Here is the table of services:

SUN 28th Mar <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Benefice Communion Evensong for Palm Sunday	<i>Online 'zoom'</i> East Woodhay	10.00am 6.00pm
MON 29th	Compline	<i>online 'zoom'</i>	8.30pm
TUES 30th	Compline	<i>online 'zoom'</i>	8.30pm
WED 31st	Morning Prayer Compline	<i>online 'zoom'</i> <i>online 'zoom'</i>	10.00am 8.30pm
THURS 1st Apr <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>Holy Communion of the Last Supper</i>	<i>online 'zoom'</i>	8.00pm
FRI 2nd <i>Good Friday</i>	<i>All churches open for private prayer</i> At the Foot of the Cross At the Foot of the Cross	Highclere East Woodhay	11.00am 2.30pm
SUN 4th <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Easter Communion Festival Communion (<i>with hymns!</i>) Easter Communion** Easter Communion** Easter Service** Easter Evensong**	East Woodhay <i>online 'zoom'</i> Woolton Hill Highclere Ashmansworth Crux Easton	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 4.00pm 4.00pm

** please book to attend these services on Easter Sunday. E-mail Sue at coordinator.nwhb@outlook.com to find out how, or to request link details for online services.

All our church buildings continue to be open for private prayer on Sundays. Churches with published opening times: St James', Ashmansworth 9.30am-4.30pm; St Martin's, East Woodhay 11am-3pm; St Michael & All Angels', Highclere 11am-12.30pm; St Thomas', Woolton Hill 10am-4pm.

If you want to ask for prayer, please do contact Canon Marvin (254718) or me (253323). with every blessing to you all,

Revd. Canon Christine Dale
(e-mail: cdale001@btinternet.com, Tel. 01635 253323)



Easter Weekend, 4th April – local sources for delivery or collection

Tilly's Treats (local) – handmade Easter Eggs & bunnies or chocolate truffle making kits click [HERE](#)

Montezuma's (UK) will deliver chocolate hens and eggs – vegan options too (*recommend the peanut butter filled dark chocolate mini eggs!*) click [HERE](#)

Hotel Chocolat (UK) ethical sourcing, delivery of Easter treats click [HERE](#)

Brew & Bakes – delivery of afternoon tea treats from Basingstoke click [HERE](#)

Roelofs & Rubens – ceramic bunnies, chicks & eggs, decorations from West Woodhay, order for delivery, tel 01488 668154 or click [HERE](#)

Honesty Bakery & Cafes open for patisserie, cakes & takeaways from 1st April:- Kingsclere, Overton, Greenham, Inkpen, Donnington, Saddleback. Opening times vary click [HERE](#).

Plenty more ideas from local independent businesses on the Borough Basket – click [HERE](#)

Activities – Staying In

Paint a HOG? There will be a Hampshire Hog trail around Basingstoke in the summer, and you can apply to decorate a life size fibreglass hog. Click [HERE](#)

Draw or paint - selected objects from Hampshire collections – zoom sessions, free, book in advance -click [HERE](#)

Global recycling day was 18th March - read about Saxon recycled jewellery [HERE](#)

Donate an item – West Berks Museum is putting together a collection of stories and artefacts which will tell future generations about life during the pandemic. What would you include?? Contact collections@westberks.gov.uk

Explore Nature & Poetry of the South Downs – series of zoom workshops for Hampshire residents April–June contact Deborah.neubauer@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk

Theatre On-line

Deaf theatre fans are invited to give input to the Watermill Theatre about their wishes for theatre with BSL (signed). Monday 22nd March 11am, Book [HERE](#)

For young children – Interactive performance of the Ugly Duckling, Thurs April 8th, 4pm, for tickets click [HERE](#)

Staying active

Couch to Bhangra! – a series of free, short exercise routines over 4 weeks to get you moving, from Our Parks, on-line Click [HERE](#)

Standing Pilates – free 17 minute on-line class from The Girl with the Pilates Mat click [HERE](#)

Naturewatch

Hedgehogs are starting to make an appearance in our gardens at night.

For information on how to help these endangered creatures, see the hedgehog preservation society click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).



The Chase

Have you seen this week's Newbury Weekly News? There is an excellent double page photo feature of The Chase. If you fancy a walk in The Chase it is handy to have a map, Click [HERE](#)



Local photographer, Alan Teece has also taken this wonderful atmospheric shot of the stream in the Chase.

Beauty in Spring – your photos

Send us an image – We are always pleased to see your favourite local views – email images for future newsletters to EWCleresNews21@gmail.com

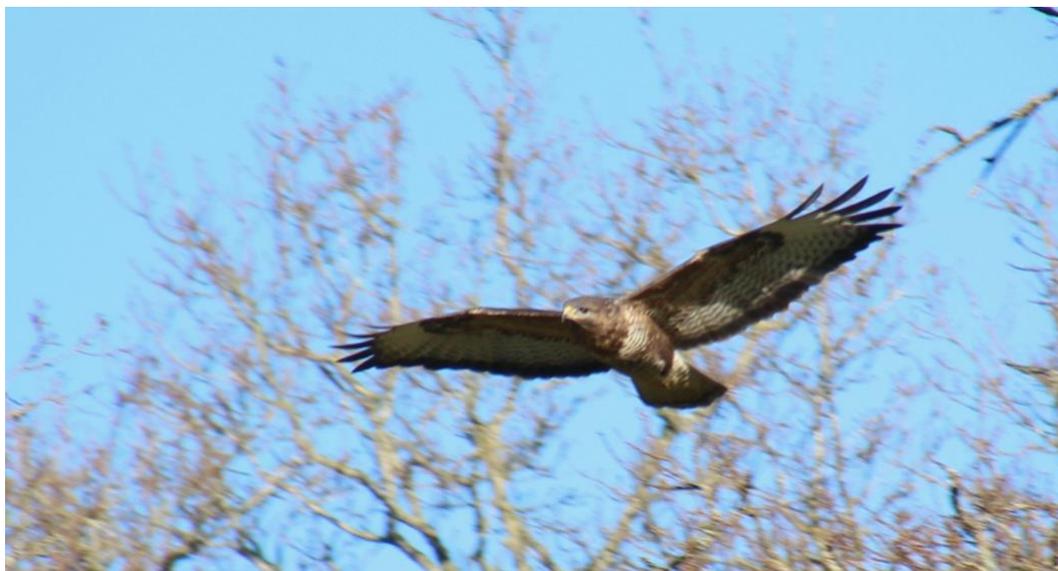


Thank you to Moyra Harkness for sending in this lovely spring photo of lambs taken from the footpath between Westridge and Pantings Lane

If you are inspired by either of the photos taken of birds below [HERE](#) is a beginners guide to birdwatching from the Hampshire Countryside Service.



Alan Teece took this magnificent woodpecker



This graceful buzzard was captured by Carole Thelwall-Jones near Woolton Hill

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Highclere
Society



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