

East Woodhay & Highclere Coronavirus Community Support



Highclere
Society



EWH Neighbourcare



Inside our Newsletter #17 – 10th July

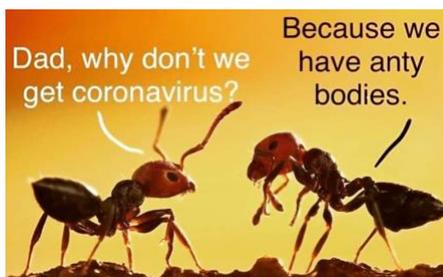
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We are here for you – one number to have:

- prescriptions delivered
- shopping collected
- a friendly chat on the phone

01635 745 600

<http://www.ewhneighbourcare.org.uk>



If you are reading this newsletter on Facebook or another site that means you cannot access the links to other websites go to:

<http://www.wooltonhill.com>

and click on the newsletter on the front page.

You can access and download the PDF file with active links from there.

Getting Back to 'Normal'

As of this weekend, artists, musicians and dancers can start performing live outside to audiences. There will also be the resumption of recreational sport, followed later by the reopening of our gyms, swimming pools and leisure centres.

From tomorrow, Saturday 11th July, our theatres, operas, dance and music shows can start putting on outdoor performances to socially distanced audiences. Taking various measures to make these places safe as they reopen. Venue capacity will be reduced, and organisations encouraged to move to electronic ticketing, to help test and trace.

Beauticians, tattooists, spas, tanning salons and other close-contact services can reopen from Monday 13th July, subject to some restrictions on particularly high-risk services.

Exercise is incredibly important for both physical and mental health. Even at the height of lockdown it was considered an essential activity - with countless people hitting their parks for their daily run or transforming their living rooms into temporary gyms. From this weekend onwards, millions of people will be able to re-join their local sports teams as soon as their organisations publish approved guidance. Recreational cricket is back on this weekend. Five-a-side football, basketball, hockey and countless other sports will follow shortly after.

From this Saturday 11th July you will also be able to enjoy outdoor pools and waterparks. From Saturday 25th July, gyms, indoor swimming pools and leisure centres can also reopen. Facilities will have to take measures to protect their communities. That includes for example using timed booking systems to limit the number of people using the facility and reduced class sizes. Equipment will be spaced out, and there will be enhanced cleaning throughout.

The Chancellor this week set out a package of tourism and hospitality tax breaks, to support these industries and protect the millions of people who work for them. That means a VAT cut on everything from tickets to shows, theatres, amusement parks to museums and zoos; lower costs for hotels, inns, caravan and campsites; vouchers for food and non-alcoholic drinks. We are all urged to make the most of this summer safely and support the places that we love and value.

Coronavirus Support as a Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Person

If you have a medical condition which means you're classed as being clinically extremely vulnerable to coronavirus or if you've been told by your GP or hospital clinician that you're clinically extremely vulnerable and need to 'shield' there are changes to the guidance that affect you.

The changes from 6 July are:

- you no longer need to socially distance from people you live with
- if you want to, you can meet in a group of up to 6 people outdoors, including people from other households
- you may also form a 'support bubble' with one other household if you want to, but one of the households in the 'support bubble' should be a single adult household (either an adult living alone or with children under 18 only). You can all spend time together outside and inside each other's homes, including overnight, without needing to socially distance
- If you need it, you'll be able to get a weekly box of basic supplies (until July 31st), get priority for supermarket deliveries and ask for help meeting your basic care needs
- If you have not already done so you should register whether you need help at the moment or not. You can register yourself, or on behalf of someone else.
- You must be registered online (Click [HERE](#)) by Friday 17th July. The last boxes of basic supplies will be sent out by 31st July 2020, so there is time to get the boxes to people. If you've got priority access to supermarket deliveries, you'll keep it after 17 July.
- And you can ask your local authority at [Hantshelp4vulnerable](#) or call 0333 370 4000 if you need urgent help. Click [HERE](#).
- If you have been recently advised to shield there is more information outlining the support available to you on the government coronavirus website. Click [HERE](#)
- the latest evidence indicates that the risk of serious illness for most children and young people is low. All children and young people should continue to shield until 31 July. A clinical discussion with your paediatric specialist or GP will be needed before any child or young person is removed from the shielded patient list. Health services will be in touch with children and their families over the summer, ahead of the new school term, to discuss what the new evidence means for them personally in the longer term. Families, carers and young people do not need to make immediate contact

From 1 August, the government will pause shielding unless the transmission of COVID-19 in the community starts to rise significantly.

This means:

- the government will no longer be advising you to shield
- the support from the National Shielding Service of free food parcels, medicine deliveries and care will stop
- NHS Volunteer Responders and Neighbourcare will carry on delivering the food you buy, prescriptions and essential items to you if you need it
- you will still be eligible for priority supermarket slots (if you have registered by 17 July)

You may still be at risk of severe illness if you catch coronavirus, so stay at home as much as you can and continue to take precautions when you do go out. You can do this by washing your hands regularly, avoiding touching your face and keeping 2 metres away from people outside of your household or bubble wherever possible.

From 1 August, you'll be advised you could go out to more places and see more people, for example, the advice is:

- you can go to work, as long as the workplace is COVID-secure – but carry on working from home if you can
- children who are clinically extremely vulnerable can go back to school (when the rest of their class goes back)
- you can go outside to buy food, to places of worship and for exercise – keeping 2 metres away wherever possible

This guidance will be updated with these changes on 1 August.

From the Rector: Revd Canon Christine Dale



Thank you to all our volunteers and to our fantastic Neighbourcare team. The invaluable information in this newsletter each week is such a help and reminds us how important it continues to be to respect the guidelines for our mutual well-being as the lockdown begins to ease.

Last Sunday we held an early online Family Service and later Holy Communion with some 60 folk joining us overall. This coming **Sunday 12th July** we are online at 11.00am for Holy Communion and at 6.00pm we are 'in church' at St Martin's, East Woodhay, for Evensong. Yes! You read it right – hooray! – we can begin holding services in church again! If you would like to join our e-mail circulation for all details and joining codes for online services, please send your e-mail address to me (contact details below).

As we plan worship in our church buildings, we are taking a phased approach with a mix of online and 'in church' for the remaining Sundays in July. The **midweek Holy Communion** restarts from next Wednesday 15th July at 10.00am in St Thomas' Church. For the month of August, services will all be 'in church' and we will hone our procedures. **A schedule of services from 12th July - end of August** is [HERE](#). Feedback tells us that going forward we should aim for a mix of online and 'in church' services and we are reviewing how this might work in practice in the autumn.

Please be aware that services in church will be somewhat different. As with everyone else we will observe government and Church of England guidelines for the welfare of all. We have prepared notes to help you know what to expect, please read them [HERE](#). Up to 30 folk are now permitted (by government guidance) to attend baptisms, weddings and funerals – do please contact me if you wish to enquire about these.

The church open sessions for private prayer publicized previously have been discontinued whilst we invest our resources into planning for worship in our buildings. The exception to this is St James', Ashmansworth, and the churchwardens send this message "The church will be open for private prayer every Sunday in August where relevant COVID precautions will apply." The churchwardens of St Michael & All Angels, Highclere, intend to open the church for private prayer on a Friday morning when there is no service in the church building on a Sunday. St Michael & All Angels', Crux Easton, remains closed for the time being until we can complete the necessary risk assessment and relevant measures for services to resume.

I look forward to seeing you in church soon!

with every blessing to you all

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

Thanks – from St Thomas Church

What a 'Super Saturday' 4th July turned out to be for the plant and cake stalls at St. Thomas' Church. All the cakes, marmalade & jam, were sold and at the end of the afternoon only four plants and two face masks remained! The financial result of Super Saturday was £624.50 for church funds.

Thank you to everyone who came to support the event.

Young People Support Services



ChatHealth is a confidential text messaging service that enables children and young people (aged 11-19) to contact their local public health nursing (school nursing) team about any aspect of your physical or emotional health.

Text: 07507 332 160

Organisation: Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust

Service: Southern Health school nursing service

Response time: Within 24 hours, 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday (except bank holidays)

Waste Tip Update

All householders will by now have received a letter from Hampshire County Council (HCC) about the withdrawal of access to the Newton Road Household Recycling Centre in West Berkshire.

HCC had for years paid W. Berks a subsidy for residents to have access to its Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC). Moves were made in 2015 to withdraw this access by W. Berks following access being withdrawn for its own residents in the east of the county to the tips in Reading and Bracknell. Changes to access were made after West Berkshire Council withdrew £97,000 from its funding for waste disposal in these towns. The W Berks authority decided the costs to cover the 75,000 visits to the tip each year, made by people crossing the border into Reading, were "too high".

After the intervention of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in support of its residents a compromise agreement was reached between HCC and W. Berks for an interim measure to be put in place in exchange for a continued subsidy from HCC which in turn produced the permits that were received locally. That agreement has continued until this year when HCC have decided they can no longer afford to pay the £175,000 required by W. Berks. W. Berks have therefore withdrawn access to their HWRC.

There are 26 HWRC's in Hampshire. The nearest to our area are Andover which is a round trip of a minimum 26 miles from Woolton Hill and Basingstoke which is 36 miles return journey. In contrast there are 9 HWRC's within 30 miles along the A/M27 with several just 6 miles apart. W. Berks, HCC and the government have policies to reduce carbon emissions. Visits to Andover or Basingstoke tips will generate between 2 and 3 times extra co2 compared to going to Newtown Road.

Talks are underway between the local authorities to find a solution and Basingstoke and Deane has offered to contribute on behalf of its residents, though it has no direct role in the running of HWRCs. Both MPs are also involved, and the matter has been raised with the ministers responsible. Local Parish Council chairs are meeting to discuss what action to take together to establish the facts and potential solutions. Click [HERE](#) for position statement of East Woodhay Parish Council.

One possibility to help reduce emissions is for government to take action to prevent "waste wars" between councils and make all HWRC's open to everyone regardless of where they live.

Alternatively, HCC could build another HWRC in North West Hampshire to give our residents the same level of service they give to those living in the south of the county. Various suggestions of “pay as you go” and the possibility to buy a permit have also been put forward. However, no such systems are currently being discussed and would in any event require residents to pay again for services for which they are already paying but not receiving. Such systems would also be discriminatory against the less well off.

Much time and effort is going in to seek a resolution to this issue and it is to be hoped that common sense will prevail and a long term solution will be found.

Please can we encourage those who feel strongly on this issue to sign the online petition [HERE](#). Already, over 1000 have signed.

Neighbourcare Committee Update

We would like to announce a couple of changes to the Neighbourcare Committee and say a big thanks.....!

For two of the Neighbourcare Committee they had, until very recently, shelved their plans and for that we whole heartedly thank them. Lesley Foden (Chair of Neighbourcare) and Nicole (Call Coordinator) had intended to step down at this year’s AGM in early April but then along came Covid-19 and Neighbourcare changed dramatically to help support many in the community.

We thank both Lesley and Nicole for helping and guiding us through this dramatic time and with new processes in place they have now both been able to step down. We are delighted and so fortunate that Sarah Garland has agreed to take over as Chair. Sarah already fulfils the Safeguarding Role as well as being the local agent for Age Concern, Hampshire and has been playing an important role organising the volunteer shopping.

In the same way we are so pleased that Lisa Banwell and Diana Sketchley have joined Freida King and Chris Sketchley as Coordinators, taking calls from clients.

Here are some words from both Lesley and Nicole:

Message from Lesley Foden:

With much sadness, I have to announce that I am going to be standing down as Chair of East Woodhay & Highclere Neighbourcare (EWHN) at the end of June.

My original plan (with Neighbourcare continuing to run smoothly) was to give notice of my intention to step down at this year’s AGM and then make a graceful exit at the 2021 AGM, all the while preparing some paintings for an exhibition in the autumn of 2021. Of course, Covid-19 came along and that plan went out of the window: we cancelled our AGM, I shelved any thoughts of painting and it was all hands to the pump as EWHN focussed on responding to the needs of our community in whatever way we could.

I must admit, though, to having rather enjoyed the past few weeks, not just because I like a bit of drama but because of the fantastic way everyone in Neighbourcare has united and put so much effort into making things work! Long hours, new ways of working, new relationships, new roles, new people ... everyone has given (and still is giving) 110% at a time when it matters. I’m also



The committee, saying thanks to Lesley, from left to right: Sarah Garland, Keith Nunn on the phone held by Sarah, Ann Evans, Freida King, Lesley Foden, Mark Rand, Chris Sketchley

acutely aware, however, that for many of you life as a volunteer for Neighbourcare seems to have ground to a halt or (if you kindly signed up during our recruitment drive in March) not even taken off! Just another strange twist of fate in these weird times. I hope you will bear with us as we continue to navigate our way through this situation - we have not forgotten any of you!

It has been an enormous privilege to be Chair of EWHN for the past five years as we have worked through the challenges of GDPR and, this past few weeks, as we have reinvented ourselves, almost overnight, to respond to the Covid crisis. It has made me feel extremely proud to have been able to say to anyone who asks, "I'm Chair of EWHN"!

However, knowing as we now do, that the effects of this pandemic are going to be around for a long time and that more uncertainty and evolution lie ahead for EWHN as it emerges into a new way of operating, I realised that (perhaps counter intuitively) now is probably a great time to step down. Not to mention that I simply must crack on with my exhibition preparation.

Thank you, everyone. I have been part of a fabulous Team and have really enjoyed the last five years.

I'm going to remain on the books as a driver ... so it's not goodbye!

Lesley Foden

Message from Nicole Bentham:

I am really sad to be leaving the Neighbourcare family. Since I joined nearly 5 years ago the brilliant committee network has been incredibly supportive and worked very closely together to meet a variety of challenges. These have included complying with the dreaded GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) which the government introduced in 2018, and most recently setting up whole new structures to meet the Covid emergency, all the while grappling with new and ever more sophisticated technology. It has been quite a learning curve but a most rewarding experience.

Then there are the amazing volunteers. At first there was the committed group of drivers who would gladly pull out all the stops time and time again to get the clients to their appointments at hospitals, clinics, dental surgeries and more, across a vast area and with some destinations offering particular challenges, usually involving parking! As some of the drivers we had thought were irreplaceable retired or moved away, their shoes were filled by new candidates who proved equally committed and dependable. And then Covid hit and we thought we could do with a few new volunteers. We were overwhelmed by the response to the first tentative appeal and we now have a parallel team of stalwarts who collect and deliver prescriptions, collect shopping, deal with posting requirements and so much more. All these wonderful people continually restore one's faith in human nature.

And finally, there are the lovely clients, and they are what it's all about. It is a privilege to chat to them and hear their stories, and to provide an essential service for them for which they are unfailingly so grateful. They have become friends, whether we've met face to face or not, and the whole team is united in concern for their welfare.

I wish I could carry on but unfortunately, I have come to a stage in my life when I am trying to keep too many plates in the air at once. Who knows what the future will bring for Neighbourcare? Whatever happens I wish you all every success in meeting the challenges to come.

I shall miss you all enormously.

Nicole

Activities

For all ages – The Royal Society Science week - 13th – 17th July, with a host of stars, on line activities, videos, quizzes aimed at various age groups and celebrating both cutting edge science and historic discoveries ... Click [HERE](#) for details.

Wildlife photographer of the year exhibition – you can visit the exhibition at the Winchester Discovery Centre over the summer, for tickets click [HERE](#) or view highlights on line [HERE](#)

Whitchurch Silk Mill has reopened the museum, shop and take out / outdoor café. For details click [HERE](#)

Newbury Library - open from Monday 13 July for book collections by appointment only. Please telephone the library to order your books (01635) 519900 or use their new Order & Collect service. Click [HERE](#)

Watch free live stream performances

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat – 48 hours only from Friday 10th July 7pm. For details click [HERE](#)

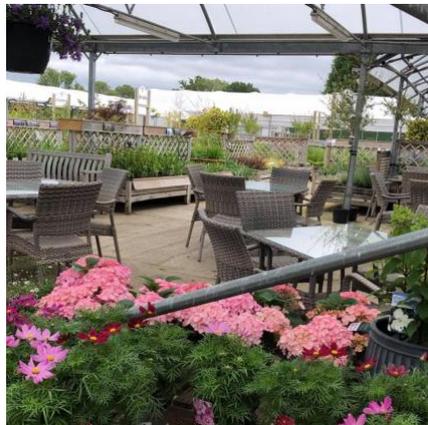
From the National Theatre – **The Deep Blue Sea by Terrence Rattigan, starring Helen McCrory** available from Thursday evening 7pm. To find out more, click [HERE](#)

Unfortunately, **Northcroft outdoor pool** will not be opening this summer

Local Pubs and Shops

Please see last week's Newsletter for all the details on local Pubs and Shops. Click [HERE](#)

In addition, to the information posted last week, the Yew Tree Garden Centre café is now open.



Yesterday, it was announced that Newbury's John Lewis store is to close permanently. The Parkway store is one of eight John Lewis shops to close. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Next Newsletter

The following newsletter will be issued next week. You can request to receive this newsletter directly by registering via the website Click [HERE](#)

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Highclere Society



EWH Neighbourcare

