

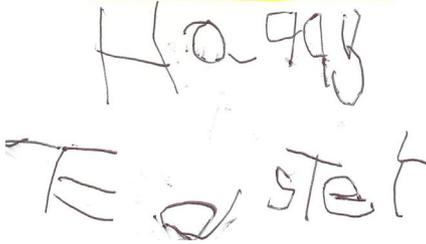


Herstmonceux Parish Council
Serving the people of
Herstmonceux Parish

Issue 1
Easter Weekend

HERSTMONCEUX VOLUNTEERS

An Easter update from your local community Herstmonceux volunteers



David Ford, aged 5

We all rely on our connections and networks at difficult times, and Herstmonceux has many thriving community groups. However many of these sadly can't function at the moment and many of our residents are very sensibly staying at home, instructed by the NHS or advised by government guidelines.

We hope this newsletter can be an informative but also entertaining regular bulletin. Do send suggestions for future editions to LCAV@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk

Personally it's been an absolute pleasure to get to know so many villagers so fast. We are lucky to live in Herstmonceux.

Please let us know if you have bright ideas for our community scheme to help to make life easier for those in isolation. Any idea will be considered and carefully risk assessed by the Parish Council team. As the weeks pass we are already planning to increase the telephone check-in and chat service. We all need to talk, and to spend a few hours away from the news!

This situation creates its own challenges for everyone and our volunteers are all signed up to do whatever we can to make these weeks pass safely and as happily as possible. It is certainly the strangest of times that any of us have lived through together (with the honourable exception of those of our community of a really good age!)

Pippa

HERSTMONCEUX VOLUNTEERS

email:
LCAV@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk

Dedicated helpline:
07934 712 707

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A SEASONAL POEM

Oh to be in England
Now that April's there
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning unaware
That the lowest bough and
brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bowl are in
tiny leaf.
While the Chaffinch sings on
the orchard bough
In England – now!

From Robert Browning's
Home Thoughts from Abroad,
suggested by David Gordon.
Do send ideas for future editions.

SHOPPING

Notes from the frontline!

What a pleasure it has been to volunteer for the Parish Council support line. When Pippa first suggested to me that shopping was needed I thought 'that sounds like an easy way to be useful. Can't be too hard'. How naive I can be, sometimes!

Don't get me wrong, I do mean it when I say it is enjoyable and I feel truly privileged to be able to help out. But believe me, shopping for lots of people, reading lists of items that are not familiar and trying to make sure I don't muddle up the orders is proving to be a job in itself. Thank you to everyone who has used the shopping service. Not only does it give me chance to leave the house but it also gets my brain working to an extent that I didn't expect.

Please accept my apologies if I have muddled up orders – I have a feeling people are probably too nice to say! Thank you for our chats when I turn up with a delivery. I look forward to my next outing and feel sure I'm meeting people who will become friends even when all this is over.

Kay Holden

CLERK'S CORNER

Hello one and all, I am very pleased to be greeting you through this special newsletter that is keeping us all in touch through our isolation period. I hope you are all keeping as well as possible and are dealing with these huge changes to our lives. I have been keeping up with the news, as I'm sure you will all have. I must admit to having a couple of days where I've felt very overwhelmed by it all but then I consider the good will of our wonderful NHS staff, local community pulling together, volunteering from many different walks of life and neighbourly care shown between all and I can't help but feel stronger again.

I am so pleased that so many have already been in contact with the helpline number, and for the anyone else – please call and we will do our best to meet your needs. We are so very lucky to have such amazing volunteers and so many of them. This community support scheme is going from strength to strength and we will be here for you throughout this difficult period. You are not alone.

Thank you to everyone who is making this scheme work, which of course means all of you who are self-isolating and doing your bit by staying at home. A big round of applause to you. Wishing you a Happy Easter with all of the hope that this season brings. Keep safe, keep well and see you on the other side.

Clare Harrison

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TULIPS

One of the highlights of this lockdown week has been the immense generosity of Herstmonceux Castle in getting their magnificent tulips bunched up for distribution to the NHS, frontline workers in the village and all those potentially vulnerable individuals who are known to us as self-isolating. The tulips may not have been able to be admired in their usual magnificent setting this year, but they have been hugely appreciated. Thanks to Alan, Janet and all those who made this happen.

FOODBANK

Some of the people we are shopping for have started to also donate to the local foodbank with cash or items. Thank you to them. While life is tough for so many in so many ways it is great to be able help them at a time when their regular donations are much diminished and need has expanded dramatically. We're keeping in touch on most needed items.

PHOTOS FOR NEXT WEEK

If you have access to a phone or camera please send in pictures for later editions. A record of Spring unfurling in Herstmonceux...

QUIZ QUESTION!

What is the connection between Oscar winning film The English Patient and Herstmonceux? Answer next time.

**PLEASE PASS ON THIS NEWSLETTER AND THE
HELPLINE NUMBER – 07934 712707
TO ANYONE YOU BELIEVE MAY NEED OUR
SERVICES. NO REQUEST TOO SMALL!**

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David Ford, aged 5

LOCAL SERVICES

We would be delighted to include in subsequent editions simple details for some of the trusted local services working so hard to keep people fed and watered, and otherwise looked after in such unusual conditions. Not everyone is on facebook or has access to a computer so please feel free to use our upcoming 'newsletter message board'.

GUIDELINES

REMEMBER Government and NHS advice is to stay at home. For those who are vulnerable and 'shielded' during the outbreak you should stay at home at all times. Do not leave your home to buy food, collect medicine or take exercise – neighbours and family may be able to help with shopping. If not please call the helpline on **07934 712707**.

If you are worried about your own symptoms or other health issues, visit **NHS 111 online** or, if you cannot get help online, **call 111**.

Staying at home and reducing contact with other people can be hard. So be sure to stay in touch with relations and friends over the phone or on social media. Spend time doing things you enjoy, and if you can, take some light exercise at home. Remember this situation is temporary and by staying at home you are helping to protect yourself and others.

PHARMACY DELIVERIES

For all of you not currently able to collect your prescriptions from Herstmonceux pharmacy we now have a team of volunteers happy to pick up and deliver, both morning and afternoon. Please call the helpline on **07934 712707** and do make sure your prescription is ordered and confirmed as ready to collect.

Prescriptions will be left at your door observing social distancing policies and we must witness your collection otherwise the delivery will be returned to the Pharmacy.

The Pharmacy is helpfully opening on Easter Monday from 11am – 5pm. Thanks so much to all the staff there.

Angie Creasey, Volunteer pickup co-ordinator

HEARING AID BATTERIES

As you know the Village Information Centre is closed for the foreseeable future. If you need batteries, please call Eastbourne Audiology on **01323 413783** and they will happily post out.