



## SUPPORTER UPDATE APRIL 2020

### CORONA VIRUS - SOURCE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

#### Government instructions are:

- **Stay at home**
- **Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)**
- **If you go out, stay 2 metres (6.5ft) away from other people at all times**
- **Wash your hands as soon as you get home (and avoid touching your face!)**
- **Do not meet others (not in your household), even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.**

Clearly, we are now living through very unprecedented times. Even during WW 2 people were still able to move around and socialise, and in fact socialising was actively encouraged as a way of maintaining morale. Now we find ourselves severely restricted in order to combat the situation we are in. However, like our forebears, people are finding new and innovative ways to socialise. The internet has become an indispensable tool; facilitating everything from shopping to virtual gatherings of families and friends. But many who do not have access to the internet or their friends and families, face isolation and this is especially true for our elder villagers and other vulnerable groups. So it is at times like these the strength of our community shines through. Here are a few of the things that our community is doing now:

**A Facebook Group - Hassocks Volunteers and COVID-19** - You should have received a leaflet through your door about this support group. If you are a local resident who needs support, or if you know of somebody who perhaps does not have friends or family locally to support them who may need help during these times, you should feel free to contact this group. This special Facebook page, 'Hassocks & Keymer Volunteers – Covid19' has been set up specifically to enable people to reach out for help. The group can help with shopping, prescriptions, befriending phone calls and much more. Additionally, you can contact the group to offer help or ideas. For those in the community who do not have internet access there is a telephone line to contact volunteers: **01273 040111**.

**Age Concern – Hassocks** has closed the centre in Dale Avenue from Monday 23rd March until further notice, following government advice. However, they are keeping their website ([www.achassocks.co.uk](http://www.achassocks.co.uk)) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Age-Concern-Hassocks-1821739958144193/>) updated, so please keep an eye on both for the most up to date information. Staff will be available on the phone during the day, so if you need help, advice or a friendly chat please call the office on **01273 844461**.

**Day Lewis Pharmacy** - 01273 844254 . Regular prescriptions may take 4 working days to process. Friends and family can collect them for you and they just need your address.

**Mid Sussex Befriended Service** - Volunteers can be contacted on **0300 772 7703** for a friendly chat and support advice.

**Hassocks Community Food Bank** - is pleased to announce Budgens in the village has agreed to have a temporary food donation drop off point by the kiosk in the shop, so please drop your donations there or at Hassocks United Reformed Church on a Friday between 10am – 12 noon.

**Hassocks Parish Council** - is endeavouring to provide updated information for residents to help meet the challenge of the COVID-19 virus pandemic and has produced a page on their website devoted to the virus outbreak with various contacts: <https://www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk/local-response-to-covid-19/>

**Mid Sussex District Council** - For information about Mid Sussex District Council services such as Waste & Recycling, Benefits and Parking & Travel, as well as contact details for additional support services.

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/coronavirus-community-support/coronavirus-community-support/>  
Helpline [033 022 27980](tel:03302227980) lines are open 8 am to 8 pm 7 days per week.

**As we write the following local businesses are offering delivery/ collect services or open for business, observing social distancing controls:**

**Rushfields Farm Shop - 01273 857445** email: [farmshop@rushfields.com](mailto:farmshop@rushfields.com)  
website: <https://www.rushfields.com/farm-shop>

**Truffles Bakery - 01273 834802** website: <http://www.trufflesbakery.co.uk/> they also have a van visiting Keymer twice a week selling their bread and cakes plus other grocery supplies. The times/days/venue (Greyhound Pub or St Edwards Church) keeps changing so do check their website or Facebook page for latest details

**Hassocks Fish & Chips - 01273 846790** email: [hassocksfishandchip@gmail.com](mailto:hassocksfishandchip@gmail.com)

**Vegetables and Fruit** - in the car park at Southdowns Garden Centre

**Sussex Peasant** - Local produce, at the Hassocks Hotel on Mondays 2pm to 7pm  
<https://www.thesussexpeasant.co.uk/>

**Andy Twine Butcher** - Operating again with reduced hours and strict social distancing.  
Monday CLOSED, Tuesday through Saturday -7:30am -2pm, Sunday CLOSED. They are also delivering, but only to certain areas on certain days, so please order enough for the week. Wednesday: Burgess Hill & Hurstpierpoint, Thursday: Ditchling & Westmeston, Friday: Hassocks & Clayton area Saturday: Hassocks & Keymer. Please call **01273 842296**

**Ansh Food & Wine** - will deliver free to those whose household is in quarantine - **01273 842048**

**Hassocks Hardware - 01273 843878**

**Hassocks Pet Centre - 01273 842392**

**Hassocks Food & Wine - 01273 846108**

**Orion Convenience store - 01273 845533**

Shops in the village have most essentials so don't forget to use your HCO Village Discount Card whenever possible, as supporting our local shops has never been more important. For those Supporters whose subscription has now lapsed or was renewed via standing order on or after 1st April you will note that your discount card has now expired. New cards will be delivered just as soon as we are released from the current restrictions, in the meantime please continue to use your existing card.

### **What can your community organisation do for you?**

As you know, owing to the government directives, we have had to close the Star Cinema, the Community Cycle Hire shop and the monthly Village Market. These are all much loved facilities, which we will re-open as soon as it is safe to do so.

Our Green Group is sadly similarly restricted, but plans are in place for the pots and planters. Rest assured the Volunteers will be back at work as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

We are making a donation to the Hassocks Community Food Bank – the need for this kind of help is increasing and in no small measure because of the current restrictions. **Finally, if you believe we might be able to help you in some way do get in touch:**

email: [enquiries@hassockscommunity.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hassockscommunity.org.uk) or 01273 846481