

# Age Concern Heathfield and District

## Latest Updates

**December 2020**



Message from the Chair .....

The end of the year is fast approaching and with the onset of winter and a new year on the horizon, comes renewed hope that 2021 will be a better, healthier year for us all. It certainly can't get any worse!

We would like to thank you all for your kind and generous support, the financial donations and the letters of appreciation – it really does mean a lot to us and we do appreciate it.

Special thanks must also go to our brilliant team of volunteers who have, for 9 months, shopped and phoned clients to make sure everyone is cared for. The success of these services is down to all the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, so a very big thank you to each of them.

We hope that 2021 will see a relaxation of some of the strict restrictions currently placed upon us and the reopening of some of the clubs and societies that you have all missed attending so much. We also hope that we may be in a position to resume at least some of our own regular services, but most of all we shall look forward to a long-awaited reunion with you all.

In the meantime, we are mindful of the fact that the winter months ahead and Christmas will be a difficult time for many, especially this year, with families possibly being forced to stay apart, and celebrations being cancelled, but whatever you may do over the Christmas period, and however you may be able to celebrate, we hope you have an enjoyable time

Take care and keep safe.

*Dawn and Alan*

**Dawn Brock    Alan Hale**



Heathfield and District  
Reg. Charity No: 205665

## AGM – October 2020

Whilst we could not go ahead with a public meeting for our AGM as we had hoped, we were delighted that over 50% of our members took the time to respond to the paperwork and the resulting postal ballot, which saw the following volunteers voted into office:

Dawn Brock – Co Chairman

Alan Hale – Co Chairman and Treasurer

Elizabeth Keating – Secretary

Ken Jarvis – Men's Shed Project Leader

Peter Brock – Men's Shed

Annabel Williams – Recruitment

Sadly, we said goodbye to previous members of the Executive Team- Mandy Jarvis, Natasha Read and Carol Ewart who have all stood down from the committee due to other commitments. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and support, but whilst no longer part of the Executive Team, happily, Natasha and Carol will still be involved as volunteers in the future.

## Knitting Project



Our 'knitters' and 'crocheters' have been hard at work clicking their needles to produce a beautiful array of squares which have been sewn together to make either blankets or bed throws.

Twelve completed blankets were presented to the residents of Heffle Court recently, and production of more blankets is well underway.

In addition to the blankets and throws, some of our 'knitters' turned their hands to knitting poppies. These have been passed on for sale locally, with the proceeds going to the Royal British Legion.

If anyone would like to join our knitting team, we would be delighted to provide you with instructions, needles and wool. Please phone **866960**



### Heathfield Men's Shed

**We've done it .....** the construction of the Men's Shed is complete and the workbenches, tools and equipment have started to be set up in readiness. Sadly, with the latest lockdown announcements, the opening has once again been delayed, but the Men's Shed will be an object of envy once those Sheddors can return!

Undeterred Sheddors have been making items to sell to raise funds, and in addition to some beautiful wood turned items, we welcome the popular return of the Heathfield Men's Shed reindeer accompanied this year by some snowmen!



Our Christmas reindeer are available to buy at £10 each and the snowmen at £5. If you would like to support us by buying one, please phone **866960** and place your order!

If you would like to find out more about the Men's Shed or about becoming a member, please phone Nic Stenhouse, membership secretary on **07850 992059**



### Medical Car Service

As mentioned previously, the rigorous guidelines concerning offering transport to clients is still making it prohibitive for us to resume our Medical Car Service.

We are, however, offering our regular clients who have no family member, neighbour or friend to help take them to hospital appointments, financial assistance to help subsidise the high cost of using commercial taxi services. Please ring the usual Medical Car Service number- **01435 515090**, and leave a message stating your name, address and telephone number, together with details of your hospital appointment and one of our team will ring you back.

All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence.

### Shopping Service



Our shopping service will continue to run for as long as clients require it, however we would like to offer our volunteers a break over the Christmas holidays. This will mean that our shopping service will close for one week. The last day of shopping will be Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, restarting on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. We would like to encourage clients to order extra shopping to last for this period, or maybe ask family members who may be visiting to help. If anyone is going to really struggle with this arrangement, please let us know and we will try to provide a reduced shopping service for fresh items such as bread and milk over this period. Please ring **866960** if you have any concerns.

### Jigsaw and Book Swap



This service has now been running for several weeks and a number of our clients are booking regular visits from the book and puzzle bus. All items are quarantined for 72 hours before being put back out in circulation, hand sanitisers used and social distancing adhered to on each visit. If you enjoy reading or the challenge of a jig saw and would like to book a visit from the bus please telephone **01435 866960** and we will happily arrange a visit.



### Telephone Buddies

Our team of telephone buddies still continue to regularly phone clients each week for a friendly chat and to ensure everyone is ok. We endeavour to offer a light hearted conversation with a good measure of fun and laughter to cheer you up!

If you or someone you know would benefit from this service please contact us on **01435 866960**