

# Age Concern Heathfield and District Latest Updates

## August 2021

### Good news at last!

We have now successfully reopened all our services and it has been lovely to see you all again after such a long break.

For the time being we will still ask that everyone continues to wear a face covering and use the hand sanitisers or anti bac wipes provided. We will continue to use the sanitising 'bombs' in the minibuses at the end of each day to ensure all surfaces are kept clean and safe and keep vehicles well ventilated. The safety of our clients and volunteers is a priority and I hope you all feel reassured by the measures we are taking. We will of course continue to monitor the situation and will not make any changes until we feel it is safe to do so.

I must give a huge thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers who have all returned to their roles full of enthusiasm, and who, as always, are committed to making sure everyone is kept safe and happy- we really couldn't do it without them and owe them such a lot.

In order to cut costs and save money, we decided during lockdown, to part with our oldest bus and to just keep the newest two. The expense of insuring and maintaining buses that were not being used was becoming excessive.

Our intention was to buy a replacement vehicle when sufficient funds had been raised, but we have recently received the fantastic news that Horam Parish Council have generously made us a donation towards the purchase of a new bus. This now means that we have sufficient money to purchase a new vehicle and plans are already underway to source one, which we hope to have before the end of the year. Our very grateful thanks to **Horam Parish Council**.

The Medical Car Service is now getting quite busy with bookings, and of course the Men's Shed can now reopen fully to its members, so after what seems like a lifetime, we finally have good news to report!

A very special thank you to you all for your continued support, kind words of appreciation and donations – we can now all start to look forward to a better, brighter future!

**Dawn Brock & Alan Hale - Co Chairmen**

**AGE**  
*Concern*

Heathfield and District  
Reg. Charity No: 205665

### Minibus Service

Our weekly shopping runs have now restarted, and we were delighted to welcome back some familiar faces as well as some new ones. This service operates every week on a Thursday morning. If you, or someone you know would like to be picked up from home and taken to the High Street or the Co Op for the opportunity to do a weekly shop, enjoy meeting people and have time for a cup of coffee too, then please contact us to book a place on **(01435) 866960**.



### Country Lunches

Has restarted and the first lunch was held at Punnetts Town Village Hall on the 28<sup>th</sup> July, and will continue fortnightly thereafter. The lunches cost £5 and include a home cooked, two course meal, followed by tea or coffee- good company and a friendly welcome guaranteed!



If you would like to attend, please contact one of the organisers to book a place:

Annabel on **07808 000615** or Julie on **(01435) 863690**

### "Everybody back on the bus!"

We didn't venture far, we were a select few, and we didn't stay long, but we all really enjoyed the first outing post lockdown in "Bus 15" to a local nursery.

Pickup started at ten o'clock and third on was Rosemary. She commented, as she boarded the bus, that she had been "waiting a long time for the bus to pass her house, turn round and pick her up". (She lives at the end of a cul de sac).

She said that she might know others on the trip but it didn't really matter because "it would be great to meet and chat with anyone".

Arriving at the nursery we all headed straight for the cafe and much time was spent nattering over coffee and cakes outside in the glorious sunshine.

Retail therapy followed, bean sticks, plants and a couple of shrubs, then everyone was glad that we could all get "back on the bus".

Objective achieved, good company, bon ami, a natter oh - and excellent coffee!



Written by Keith Edwards



Many of you have already enjoyed coming out with us during July and August for a local, short trip and we hope you will agree that this has been a good way of slowly encouraging everyone back out and onto the bus.

Now that confidence is being restored, we are planning some more trips to places a little further away, and for a longer duration.

Our programme for September – December is as follows:

Wednesday 15 September – Hilliers Garden Centre, Stone Cross -10.30am – 2.30pm

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September- Hilliers Garden Centre, Stone Cross 10.30-2.30pm

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Bexhill seafront and De la Warr Pavilion – 10.30am – 2.30pm

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Bexhill seafront and De la Warr Pavilion – 10.30am – 2.30pm

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Shopping - Beacon Centre, Eastbourne 10.30am – 2.30pm

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Shopping - Beacon Centre, Eastbourne 10.30am – 2.30pm

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Notcutts Garden Centre, Pembury– 10.30am – 3.00pm

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December- Notcutts Garden Centre, Pembury – 10.30am – 3.00pm

We would suggest a £5 donation for the transport for these trips, your choice of food and drink will be extra.

For more information or to book a place on any of these trips, please ring: **866960**



The latest batch of beautiful blankets have been delivered to our local nursing and care homes. In total 96 blankets and 30 fiddle muffs have now been distributed to Heffle Court, Millcroft, Oaklands Court, Holy Cross Priory and Mary St Dudwell. Well done and thank you to all our knitters!



## News from Heathfield Men's Shed

As from the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, the Men's Shed will be open for regular sessions from 10.00am – 2.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. An exciting range of new projects awaits, along with the gleaming new selection of equipment and power tools. Training and Induction is well underway, and plans for an official grand opening event are being planned – watch out for further details.

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**

## Visit from Deputy Lieutenant – Amanda Hamblin



We were delighted to have received a recent visit from Amanda Hamblin, Deputy Lieutenant for East Sussex, who came, not only to thank Age Concern Heathfield for their support to the Community during the pandemic, but also to find out more about the services we provide.

We hope that the visit will raise awareness of all the good work we do and will ensure that we reach those members of the Community who need our help most.

## Medical Car Service



We are now fully operational and are taking bookings for journeys to any form of medical appointment. Our drivers will collect you from home, take you to your appointment and will wait for you to bring you back home. A friendly, personal, door to door service, and at a third of the cost of a commercial taxi, it represents great value for money.

Our fixed charge system means that you will be advised of the cost of your journey when making a booking, and there will be no hidden extras!

Examples of some of our charges for return journeys are:

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Eastbourne hospital £25 | Uckfield £15 |
| Crowborough £20         | Bexhill £25  |
| Haywards Heath £30      | Pembury £25  |

To book a Medical Car, please ring: (01435) **515090**