



OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN 1 April 6

Dear OHSCA members, each week we will send out a bulletin of (hopefully) useful and interesting news during this difficult and strange time for all. The Bulletin is in addition to the quarterly newsletter. Please feel free to send in your views, ideas, news or 100 word personal reflections or diary entries to me at gretaohsca@gmail.com

Please pass a copy of this Bulletin to any neighbour who you think might be interested or need help – with your own contact number if you feel willing.

Something to ponder on, from Peter C. Baker, in 'The Long Read', The Guardian 4 April:

“Disasters and emergencies do not just throw light on the world as it is. They also rip open the fabric of normality. Through the hole that opens up, we glimpse possibilities of other worlds. Some thinkers who study disasters focus more on all that might go wrong. Others are more optimistic, framing crises not just in terms of what is lost but also what might be gained.”.... “For years, in mainstream politics the conventional line – on everything from healthcare to basic living expenses such as housing – has been that even if the world has its problems, expansive government intervention is not a feasible solution. Instead, we have been told that what works best are “marketplace” solutions, which give large roles to corporations motivated not by outdated notions like “the public good” but by a desire to make a profit. But then the virus started spreading, governments spent trillions in days – even going so far as to write cheques directly to citizens – and suddenly the question of what was feasible felt different. From this perspective, the task today is not to fight the virus in order to return to business as usual, because business as usual was already a disaster. The goal, instead, is to fight the virus – and in doing so transform business as usual into something more humane and secure.”

Messages from Canterbury and Kent Councils for persons who need help or want to help others:

From Canterbury City Council: Donate to the Canterbury coronavirus appeal. This appeal is run by not for profit organisations and volunteers. Your donation will help us to support the people in our district that need it the most at this critical time. Please give generously if you can at <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/donate>. **Canterbury CC run a help line to assist in all areas of need, especially for those self-isolating: 01227 868598 Option 8**

Sign up with CCC to volunteer your help. Find out about who can volunteer and get involved at <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/volunteer>

Many vulnerable residents may need extra help at the moment. That's why we're looking for volunteers to join us in helping to support these vulnerable groups. As a volunteer, you could:

- Help with shopping
- Collect regular prescriptions
- Make a friendly phone call to someone isolated

From Kent County Council: A 24 hour helpline has been set up to support vulnerable people in Kent who need urgent help, supplies or medication. The helpline – called *Kent Together* – provides a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help during the Coronavirus outbreak. It is a collaboration between KCC, central Government, District, Borough and local councils, emergency services, the voluntary and community sector, the NHS and other partners to ensure help is at hand for vulnerable people. It is also the place to report your concerns about the welfare of someone else. **If you are vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks, you can contact the Kent Together helpline at [https://kentcc-self.achieveservice.com/service/Kent Together?User_type=Public](https://kentcc-self.achieveservice.com/service/Kent%20Together?User_type=Public) or by calling 03000 41 92 92.** Visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/> for more.

Also consider **Age UK, 01227 0800 6781602** (quite a long wait), and **Mind 0300 123 3393**.