

Hughenden Street Association Newsletter, 18th June 2020

*Street Associations have been set up across Buckinghamshire in particular response to growing concerns for the safety of older residents who may become victims of doorstep crime or online scams. The first association was set up in Hughenden and invaluable lessons have been learned as a result of this pilot. Associations now exist in Aylesbury, Burnham, Chesham and Princes Risborough. The Associations are funded by the **Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner** and **Buckinghamshire Council** and supported by **Hughenden Parish Council**. Working in partnership with **Hughenden Neighbourhood Watch** which focusses on community safety including burglaries, anti-social behaviour and doorstep crime. The Association's priorities are on the physical and emotional aspects of well-being, whether it is the impact of a crime or feeling socially isolated. Other partners include **Trading Standards**, **Prevention Matters** and the **Community Safety team**.*



Hughenden Street Association – the story so far.....

Hughenden Street Association (HSA) has established itself as a key resource for residents across the parish particularly during the Covid19 pandemic. Publishing a weekly newsletter of tips and suggestions and championing campaigns such as the One Can Trust food bank as well as what has been going on in each Ward have been well-received. Many of the 100+ Association members spread across the parish have also supported neighbours with regular telephone calls, getting their shopping and prescriptions. There are very few streets that do not have an Association member ready to help. The key resources they use are the **Association's Directory of Services** (attached) and the **Buckinghamshire Council Online Directory**. These directories list all the relevant statutory services as well as known local community groups such as residents associations, art groups and so much more. Both are regularly updated.

The **Buckinghamshire Street Association** has run workshops on key issues including: doorstep scams, domestic violence, dementia and promoted a range of exercise classes to help residents remain active. It also produces guidance notes on key issues such as money handling during the pandemic. HSA predates the lockdown and our video gives a real flavour of the work that has been undertaken: <http://bit.ly/2Skst40>

Priorities for 2020

Just before the lockdown the HSA Steering Group (which meets bi-monthly) had reaffirmed its vision and mission and how these would be delivered. There are four Wards within the parish, each with a Ward Leader who is well-connected within their community and is keenly aware of the issues within their Ward. One key priority was to forge stronger links with all the community groups across each Ward. We share a common agenda: to create safer and connected communities encouraging residents to identify the needs of their neighbours to help them engage in the community.

Looking ahead....

The network created within the parish to address the community challenges faced as a result of Covid19 has the potential to ensure that community life in Hughenden becomes better connected, supportive/supported, stronger and friendlier so that all residents are involved in it to the level they desire. This is a priority for the Association. HSA is keen to support the network using its resources to address such key issues as on-going loneliness which cuts across all ages, living with dementia and disability.

It is recognised that those groups set up to support residents during the Covid19 pandemic may be scaling back their activities. Volunteers may be returning to work which can be a little daunting and unable to support this role. This is where the Association can signpost residents to useful resources as well as exploring support options within the parish. However there may be others whose personal circumstances mean that they can and would like to continue volunteering in some form or other. They could become members of the Hughenden Street Association! This usually involves being a recognised point of contact on their road – a **Street Representative**. A Member's Pack with a standard letter of introduction to pop through neighbours' doors and the Directory of Services are provided. The role is not onerous and it is a good way to get to know neighbours as well as maintaining the level of contact created as the community came together during the pandemic.

Interested ?

**Contact Hilda Stearn, Communications
Coordinator for a no-obligation chat.**

Email: hughendenstreetassociation@gmail.com

Phone: 01494 564933 or 07808 229476

Ward Leaders

Great Kingshill – Stan Jones

Hughenden Valley – Anne Smart

Naphill & Walters Ash – Gloria Leflaive

Widmer End – Ann McCarthy