

There are now 7 local Co-op stores collecting donations for local food banks and the NHS, all being co-ordinated by Alison Wright in Holmes Chapel. Lucy Taylor is continuing to help share these donations to her colleagues at Leighton hospital, and the latest recipients were the security team and Ward 15.

Dane Sound Community Radio

Dane Sound Community Radio is providing lots of information and support with their full programme of shows, and the 4 HCCS students are providing their shows from home. There is also a Sunday Hymns and Reflections show presented by Jill Booth to help those that are missing their regular Sunday church visits.

<https://danesound.com/schedule#8368a54e-17f4-462a-946c-e10d8f04be92>

Artwork

Amy Albon, teacher of art at HCCS, has been working with the local community to share the artwork produced by students in the Art Club, and these are being shared with the residents and displayed in the Co-op windows, and on the village noticeboard. There are collection points in both Co-ops for any artwork, paintings, photos or birthday cards. So if you want to you brighten someone's day by writing someone a letter, producing a painting or watercolour, writing a postcard or sharing a story please drop off at the collection points or email Miss Albon at the school.

Remember Olive who was celebrating her 90th birthday last week? She was absolutely delighted to receive so many cards and gifts and wants to thank each and every one of you. She celebrated with a slice of her homemade cake and started on her new counted cross stitch with 170 different colours!

Food Boxes

If you know of anyone locally that has received a food box but doesn't need it, please contact the Parish Council on 01477 533934 so we can collect it and re-deliver it a needy family in our community.

Book and Jigsaw Swap

In order to support our community, on behalf of Holmes Chapel Partnership, Teresa McFarquhar has set up a book and jigsaw exchange scheme. Although a lot of people use electronic readers these days, a lot of our residents still like to read a physical book. If you have paperback novels that you have read please think about donating them for others to read. I live at 1 Riverside Crescent, CW4 7NR and you can leave them outside my garage door or I can call round and collect them. I am also going to take in jigsaws. Please only donate/lend if they have all their pieces. If you would like these back put your name and address in the lid and I will return them to you after lockdown ends. Donations can also be left at The Parish Council Office in Church Walk and the Co-ops in Holmes Chapel and Sandbach. All books and jigsaws will be dated on donation and will be quarantined for 72 hours. If you would like to collect some for anyone you are looking after, or for yourself, please contact teresamcfarquhar@gmail.com. I hope this will be operational by Saturday but donations are being accepted from today.

VE Day Celebrations

As you will be aware, all the planned community celebrations have been cancelled but the day will be celebrated with presenters from Dane Sound providing a full day of VE Day inspired interviews, music and pageantry. Also featuring will be the audio from the Capture Crew. Residents have been busy making red, white and blue pom-poms and these will be displayed around the church from this weekend. Olive has very kindly made a number of crocheted Spitfire emblems to be displayed.

Sam, Y9, member of the Capture Crew, has produced posters for VE Day which are not displayed around the village and when I asked why he had made these he said "I decided to make some VE Day posters because many of the VE day celebrations are unable to take place. I wanted to support the VE commemorations by designing posters of the Second World War VE day. I wanted to show the happy celebrations, relief the war had ended and sacrifices they made for us.

Margaret is a resident I am helping while she is isolated at home in Holmes Chapel, fondly remembers the end of the war as a welcome relief from the fear of hearing planes overhead - she was born near Manchester Ringway. During a recent phone call she told me

“I was only a child during the war, I think I started school the day after war was declared aged 5. That must have been a very worrying time for all the mums as they left their little children at school.

I grew up in Wilmslow, and could walk to Manchester Ringway Airport, so we were worried about bombs. One landed near Styal Woods and the crater it made soon filled with water, and it remained a lake for many years after. We were frightened at night because you could hear the planes overhead but you didn't know if they were our planes or the enemy's. All our windows had blackout curtains - we used black material to sew on the insides of all our curtains to stop any light from our houses being seen at night through the windows.

My dad dug an air raid shelter in the back garden. He boarded it out and added a roof, and on top, on the outside, he built a hen house. So we were lucky because that meant we had fresh eggs.

We also kept 3 ducks in another house in the garden and I remember each morning, they all used to waddle up to the back door in the kitchen to be fed.

I can still remember the revolting smell of the vegetable peelings that we used to boil and feed the hens and ducks. There is no smell quite like it!”

The Cedars Care and the Westbourne Care Home, Bernard and Lovell Court

All the managers, staff and residents send their thanks to the staff and students at HCCS for the wonderful artwork that has been given to them, together with the donations of biscuits and cakes from the Co-op, as well as the PPE donations they have received.

If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please register at <https://www.hcpartnership.org.uk> or call 01477 533934

The new Communi-Trees in the window of the Co op, and the artwork from HCCS students.

