

**A Message to Volunteers and Supporters from
June Trantom, Manager of Farnham ASSIST**

**Farnham ASSIST
7, St Georges Yard,
Farnham GU9 7LW**

01252 717710

Tuesday, 7th April 2020

Dear Volunteers and Supporters,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful way we have been able to come together to ensure that our work in supporting the older folk in our community are being supported and that Farnham Assist as a charity is secure in these challenging times. Thanks to our amazing team of volunteers we are currently in touch with 208 individual people who are living alone for a regular chat on the phone and also offering to collect prescriptions and shopping as required. I have received wonderful feedback telling me how much a friendly voice on the phone is helping and also the knowledge that we are offering to help. We are all struggling with social distancing, not seeing friends and family and the disappointment of cancelling events that we had in our diary, but despite that I know how much you are giving to others. Thank you so very much.

We are now working as part of the Farnham and Villages Coronavirus Community Hub and I have mastered the technology of Zoom to attend weekly virtual meetings with all the other organisations involved, including Foodbank, Meals on Wheels, local church leaders, CCG (Frimley Park Hospital) staff, local media, Jeremy Hunt's office and council representatives from Surrey, Waverley and Farnham Town Council. There is no doubt that this situation has brought out the best in the vast majority of people and many want to help. Being a part of the hub means that we have support to manage the offers of new volunteers and also a better co-ordinated approach to helping those who need it. I have been really impressed by the way it is working. Hopefully you will have received a leaflet through your door this week giving details of how to contact the hub, but if not then please do direct local residents who need help to **01252-745446** the **Coronavirus helpline**.

Thank you too to all our supporters who sustain our work financially. You are our life support as we try to keep the charity going without the opportunity to hold fundraising events. Large or small your gifts are very much appreciated and enable us to pay the bills - as we still have to pay rent, insurance and the ever larger telephone bill! It also means that, once we are through this challenging time, Farnham Assist will be ready to offer those wonderful opportunities for social contact again though lunches, regular clubs, events and outings.

Many charities are struggling financially and I really appreciate the fact that you are sustaining the work of Farnham Assist. We have been careful with the precious funds available to us and so have not gone ahead with replacing staff vacancies and we have also taken up the offer of furlough leave for Alison which secures her position as Lunch Co-ordinator when we are back to normal. There are grants that we have applied for and are waiting for the outcome of our applications.

If you want to make a donation to Farnham Assist, there is a link on our website www.farnham-assist.org.uk to our donations page. You can send a cheque to the address at the top of this letter. Cheques made payable to **"Farnham Assist"** or via bank transfer. The Farnham Assist account number is **00022424** sort-code **40-52-40**. You can continue to contact me through the office number **01252-717710** or via email june.trantom@farnham-assist.org.uk . But do bear with me if I am not able to get back to you as quickly as usual.

I do wish you all a Happy Easter this weekend, albeit a rather strange celebration this year, but the message of hope and good news is so relevant to us as we consider Jesus' personal journey and His sacrifice on behalf of us all.

Thank you and may you know God's blessing at this time. Take care and stay safe.

With much appreciation

June Trantom -Manager Farnham ASSIST