



Our Community Response to Covid-19

Here are just some of the ways that we supported each other during the first Covid-19 lockdown;

- ✓ Our shops did home delivery
- ✓ Our Cafes dispensed hot meals and afternoon teas for VE Day
- ✓ Our pharmacies and chemists worked tirelessly, dispensing medication and getting it delivered
- ✓ We talked to our older neighbours, we did their shopping and helped them with little chores
- ✓ We stayed home and stayed safe and we saved the NHS

Over
500
people helped

Over
2500
deliveries of shopping and prescriptions

...and
still going strong!

WORKING TOGETHER, HELPING THE MOST VULNERABLE

HALESWORTH VOLUNTEER CENTRE

The Story So Far

Back in March community groups and charities, local businesses, our churches and our Town Council met together to work out how we could be ready for the Covid-19 Pandemic. We worked out what we thought we would need and set about trying to make it happen. HVC became the support hub for co-ordinating our response to Covid-19. One week later we were in lockdown.



A Genuine Community Response to Covid-19...

We all worked together to make sure that people who could not get out and about for themselves could get a shop from the Co-op, their medication and medical supplies and also have someone to speak to if they were feeling alone.

Over 150 people contacted us to see if they could volunteer. Nearly 100 people were actively involved in supporting our community at the height of the pandemic.

Thank you to everyone who contacted us to see if they could help. We could not use you all but we were so grateful to know that we could call on you to help.

Community Groups and charities like Hact and the Pear Tree Centre shared their volunteers. The Blyth Valley Team Ministry stepped in to run the Foodbank and

Annette Dunning drove the Rural Coffee Caravan Bus to deliver vital food supplies and co-ordinated the delivery of our information cards.

A snapshot of April/May

90 people a week shopped for.

100 Volunteers.

Over **100** prescriptions and medical goods delivered every week.

70 people given telephone help and support.

1000 km travelled by the HACT bus, delivering the shopping in Halesworth and beyond.

3446 visited our Facebook page.

Fun and Frolics at the Co-op

In April and May, our dedicated shoppers, led by Lindsey, were shopping for 90 people a week. Our skilled team could spot a tin of red salmon at 20 yards. Thank you to Chris and the Co-op Team for all their support. And thank you to all the people shopping, who patiently let us in and let us shop.



Supporting our pharmacies to get your medication to you

In April and May we were making deliveries of medication to nearly 100 people every week. Our volunteers picked up medication from Halesworth, Sole Bay and Southwold, delivering to some of our most isolated rural communities. And we are still delivering if you need us.

A friendly voice at the end of the phone

Our volunteers are still phoning people who isolated and are alone, bringing a bit of cheer and making sure that people have the food and medication that they need.

Helping people in the Thoroughfare

And in July and August our Stewards helped people on the Thoroughfare, making sure that people were socially distancing and helping people get back to shopping safely.

AND STILL GOING STRONG

We are still supporting people in our strange new world.

- ✓ 40 shops a week
- ✓ Prescriptions delivered as required
- ✓ Little gifts of chutney, crumbles and cakes coming soon
- ✓ Friendly voices at the end of the phone, dogs walked and socially distanced visits made

Little gifts that mean so much

Thanks to a gift of plants from Woottens of Wenhasston, we delivered 100 pot plants to people who live alone.

We supported the Cake Fairies by delivering afternoon teas.

And Zoe helped us create a choir to sing on VE Day and Hannah sang at Highfields too.



The Community Larder – a lasting legacy of Covid-19

Working in partnership with the Blyth Valley Team Ministry, we have established our Community Larder. Come to the Larder with your unwanted food and staples and swap them for something you need. Struggling to cope, financially? Come to the Larder for a chat and the chance to get fresh produce. Our larder is part of the Fairshare Scheme which means we get leftover food from supermarkets like our Co-op. Everyone is welcome at the Larder.



**HALESWORTH
COMMUNITY
LARDER PROJECT**
ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL
Church Farm Lane, Halesworth IP19 8SY
**Mondays, Wednesdays and
Saturdays 10.30-11.30am**

Come along and you can:

1. **BRING** Food
2. **BRING & TAKE** Food
3. **TAKE** food and donate ££
4. Or just **TAKE** food if you are in need

Run by: HVC with
St Mary's Church &
BVTM supported
by donations

PLENTY OF FOOD TO SHARE

THANK YOU

Huge thanks to all of you who stayed home and saved the NHS.

Thank you to those of you who donated so generously to keep us going. And huge thanks to the Lodge and Chapter of Prudence, East Suffolk Council, Suffolk Community Foundation and Hopkins Homes.

Thank you to those of you who sent cards and little gifts to cheer us up in the Office.

Thank you to the shops and pharmacies who kept us all supplied.

Thank you to Micropress Ltd for so generously printing our information cards and to Kel Creative for the brilliant design.