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SURREY LIFE

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Surrey cares

People across Surrey have been going above and beyond to support the community during these unprecedented times. Here we salute some remarkable acts of care and kindness across the county

COMBATTING LONELINESS

Residents of Huntington & Langham Estate, a care home in Hindhead, recently put out a call to the local community for children to send in drawings, stories and poems to help combat the effects of isolation imposed by the spread of coronavirus. And Surrey's children did not fail to deliver, with dozens of youngsters sending messages of support along with artwork to boost the morale of residents. Send yours via email to ***huntington@picpr.com.***

TASTY TREATS

Cobham's Woodlands Park Hotel recently delivered some tasty treats to a local care home. Head chef John Stephens and his team cooked up and hand delivered scones, clotted cream, jam, pastries and fresh produce to the 50 residents at the Hartfield House care home in Leatherhead. ***handpickedhotels.co.uk/woodlandspark.***

A BAG FULL OF THANKS

Having delivered bags of daffodils to say thank you to a few local NHS staff at the start of the pandemic, East Horsley interiors company Stephenson-Wright has teamed up with other Surrey business (including *Surrey Life*) to deliver 100 Bags Full of Thanks to nominated NHS staff. To nominate a Surrey NHS worker or to make a donation to the Association of NHS Charities, visit ***stephensonwright.com/events.***

LEFT: Bags Full of Thanks will be delivered to NHS workers throughout May

RIGHT: Children's artwork has been helping to lift spirits

ADOPT A GRANDPARENT

Surrey based care home group CHD Living, has digitised its 'Adopt a Grandparent' campaign and is calling for virtual volunteers to keep its residents company during the ongoing Coronavirus crisis. As virtual volunteers, participants in the scheme will be encouraged to provide remote companionship via regular video calls. Sign up at: ***chdliving.co.uk***

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Waltham on Thames-based food entrepreneur Julianne Ponan has donated hundreds of snack bars to a local foodbank. Julianne runs Creative Nature, which manufacturers free-from snacks in the UK. These products include bars, baking mixes and her latest 'sweet' product Gnawbles. To follow her lead, visit***: waltonhersham.foodbank.org.uk***

CROWDFUNDING

Holly Turner, a nurse at Queen Elizabeth's Foundation (QEF), has launched a crowdfunding appeal to raise vital funds for the disability charity she works for, so they can continue to provide care for vulnerable residents with complex disabilities during this exceptionally challenging time. ***gofundme.com/f/NotAllHeroesWearCapes***

CLEANING UP

After shop shelves were cleared of soap and hand sanitiser, The Mandolay Hotel in Guildford offered to donate its supply of soap to carers and people in need. They also handed out free hot drinks to carers and NHS staff before closing. ***Guildford.com***

SUPPORT CENTRE

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council has repurposed its Harlequin Theatre in Redhill as a community support centre to co-ordinate essential assistance for its vulnerable residents. The venue will be used to distribute food, medicines and essential supplies. ***Visit varb.org.uk to register as a volunteer.***

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Brockham Emergency Response Team has launched a Community Immunity scheme to encourage people to help their elderly neighbours. The organisation is also looking for donations and volunteers to help in the local community. ***Email bert.brockham@gmail.com***

KEEP MOVING

Chessington-based e-bike brand Gocycle is providing a fleet e-bikes for frontline London NHS staff to help ease their daily commute. The business is partnering with e-bike retailer Fully Charged to provide free-of-charge three month loans of its Gocycle GS model. ***promo.fullycharged.com/nhs-support***

PERSONAL PROTECTION

The University of Surrey is producing personal protective equipment to help in the battle against Covid-19. In March a team from Surrey's Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences responded to a call to build 25 prototype visors for the Royal Surrey County Hospital. The university is now producing and delivering 400 each week.

HELPING HAND

The community of Surrey Heath has joined forces to help the elderly and vulnerable by launching a dedicated website to connect those who need help with volunteers. ***surreyheath-prepared.uk***

FORTY WINKS

Royal Surrey County Hospital, nurse Aga Kehinde, has created a space for exhausted staff to rest. She has also worked with Lara Doherty from The Motivation Clinic on a social media campaign, encouraging people to post notes of thanks using *#thankyounhs*, which she prints and displays around the hospital. ◆

BELOW: Nurse Holly Turner has launched a crowdfunding campaign