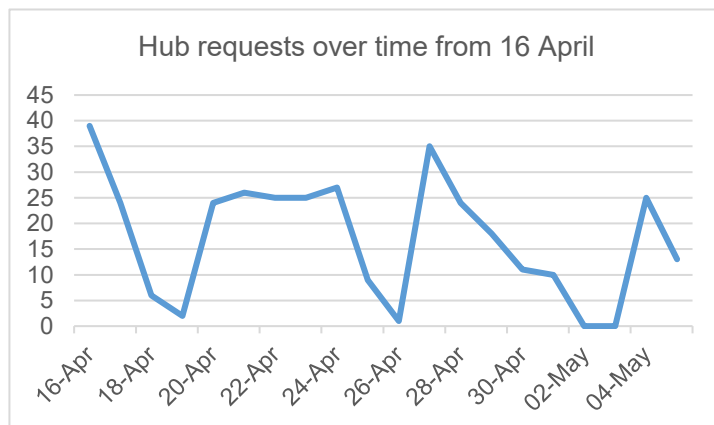




## Weekly News Bulletin for Community and Voluntary Groups, Town and Parish Councils, Partners and Hub Update Subscribers

### Facts and figures

- **2,447** shielded\* residents of West Berkshire registered on the government's website out of a total of **4,093** identified by the NHS
- **1,452** contacted by council officers to check they have everything they need
- **10 welfare visits** carried out by the police where calls or emails were not answered
- **795** Government food parcels delivered directly to shielded residents in West Berkshire
- **Over 70%** of requests for assistance coming through the Hub are from shielded residents



*\*shielded people are those who have received a letter from the NHS telling them they must stay at home for 12 weeks because their health condition makes them extremely vulnerable to Covid-19*

### National Shielding Helpline

We now have two contacts at the National Shielding Helpline, with whom we are liaising on the provision of Government food parcels. We are pleased to report that there appears to be more consistency now on priority supermarket shopping slots for the shielded group. The National team were very complimentary about the activities of the Hub and the many ways in which community and voluntary groups, parish and town councils in West Berkshire are working together to support vulnerable people in their local communities.

The DEFRA [Government website providing advice accessing food and essential](#) supplies went live on 29 April. This page reflects in a single place the range of support available to vulnerable people and points those who have no other options and are in need of emergency support to their council. We understand that retailers have fed into the content and will be using the page reactively to respond to customer enquiries.

In the meantime, the Public Health England [Government advice on shielding](#) was updated on 5 May. This guidance is for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable and for their family, friends and carers.



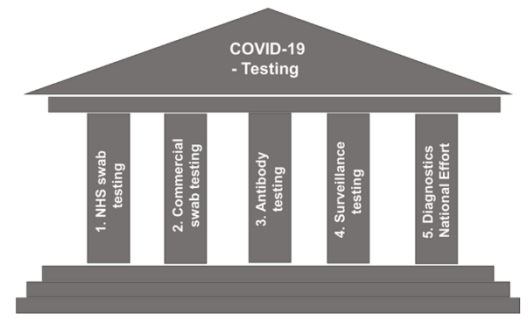
### Community Connections

Community Connections was launched earlier this year to offer advice and signposting to the black, Asian, minority, ethnic, refugee (BAMER) community and other marginalised, vulnerable and socially isolated people in the district. Their new Virtual Support Programme for Covid-19 includes a [newsletter](#) in different languages and the recruitment of volunteers to take on the roles of interpreter, translator and 'befriender'. Community Connections is keen to raise awareness of their activities, especially in parishes with large numbers of ethnic minorities. You can find out more on their [facebook](#) page or by emailing [info.cc.cic@gmail.com](mailto:info.cc.cic@gmail.com)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is entitled to be tested for Covid-19?

The Government has published [guidance on Covid-19 testing](#), including who is eligible for a test, how to get tested and the different types of test available. Tests can be booked through an online self-referral portal or through an employee referral portal. Testing is most effective within 3 days of symptoms appearing. There are various ways to get tested including drive-through regional testing sites and home testing kits.



The list of those eligible for testing if they have symptoms of Covid-19 includes [essential workers](#), anyone over 65 and those whose work cannot be done from home plus anyone living with someone in those groups. In addition, social care workers and residents in care homes are being tested as part of a rolling programme to test all care homes, while NHS workers and patients are being tested in line with NHS guidelines.

In addition to the guidance, the Department of Health and Social Care recently announced a [major home testing programme](#) for coronavirus which will track levels of infection in the community. In the first part of the programme (REACT-1), 100,000 randomly selected people from 315 local authorities across England will be tested for antigens indicating the presence of the virus. The test looks for evidence that someone is currently infected. In the second part of the programme (REACT-2), a number of different antibody tests will be assessed for their accuracy and ease of use at home. If antibody self-testing is found to work with a high degree of accuracy, acceptability and usability, it will be rolled out to 100,000 people later this year.



The National Lottery Community Fund



### How can community groups access funding from the National Lottery Community Fund?

[National Lottery Awards for All](#) offer funding from £300 to £10,000 to support what matters to people and communities. They are looking to fund projects for up to six months - among the priorities are organisations which connect communities and support communities to work together to respond to Covid-19. Lottery grants for between £10,000 and £100,000 are also available from the [Reaching Communities Fund](#).

### Newbury Soup Kitchen

Newbury Soup Kitchen is appealing for donations of fresh produce. They usually rely on donations from supermarkets but at the moment nothing is usual! Fresh produce goes into 250 meals a week, cooked every day for the vulnerable and rough sleepers who have been housed during COVID 19. You can find donation bins at the Co-op stores in Wash Common Newbury and Brummel Rd, Speen or you can donate via their [Facebook](#) page.



### Alzheimer's Society and Dementia Toolkit for Volunteers



In recognition that people affected by dementia will be among those being supported by local communities during coronavirus, the Alzheimer's Society have created a toolkit for volunteers. Working with people affected by dementia, they've created a 'top tips' guide with simple things a volunteer can do, like learning a little more about the condition, tips on communicating effectively and where to signpost for specialist support. You can download the volunteer toolkit [HERE](#).

Some volunteers may not have experience of supporting people living with dementia and their families. Becoming a Dementia Friend helps us learn more about what it is like to live with dementia and turn that understanding into action. From the end of May we are able to support community groups in becoming Dementia Friends by delivering a Virtual Dementia Friends Information Session. Please contact Sue Butterworth for further information at [sue.butterworth@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:sue.butterworth@westberks.gov.uk). Alternatively, volunteers can complete online training individually via the Dementia Friends website [www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk).

## Message from Inspector Mark Tucker of Thames Valley Police



*“The main focus of the Neighbourhood policing team has been to engage, explain, encourage and to ultimately enforce the new COVID-19 restrictions. In West Berkshire, 24 penalty notices have been issued for breaching the restrictions and we have a dedicated unit on duty every day to deal with concerns from members of the public. We have also obtained a closure order for an address where a number of breaches and other anti-social behaviour was occurring which we hope will be a welcome respite for the local community.”*

*I would like to stress that we are aware that some people may not be contacting the police because they are concerned that we are too busy. Please do continue to report incidents of concern or crime because even if we cannot respond immediately it is important that we can identify new patterns or trends. **You can report crime online via our website [here](#) or by calling 101. In an emergency, always call 999.”***

## Marvin the Maple Tree

The Reverend Richard Littledale of Newbury Baptist Church, who created ‘Albert the Mouse and Social Distancing’ (see Bulletin Issue 4) has another beautifully illustrated children’s book available online, this time dealing with bereavement.

‘*Marvin the Maple Tree*’ is now available to any parents or carers who might need it in order to have that hardest of conversations with a child. It can be downloaded for free [here](#). If people would prefer, they can buy it on Kindle [here](#). The cost is £1, and all royalties go to NHS Charities Together.

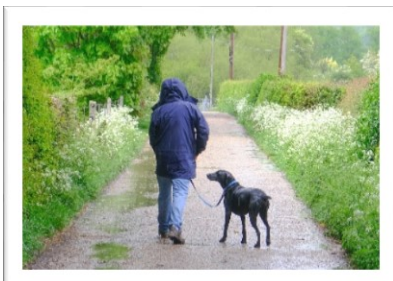


## Celebrating all your good work!



Thank-you so much to Shelley, Jane and the **Compton COVID-19 Voluntary Group** for sharing with us all the amazing work they are doing to support their ‘At Homer’ households, including setting up a dedicated buddy system, holding a sunflower growing competition and encouraging people to create rainbows using paint, crochet, knitting and collage! We loved these beautiful ‘tinsects’....

We also heard from Anne celebrating the wonderful communities of Hamstead Marshall, Marsh Benham and beyond, where **Team Scrubbers** have made an incredible 80 sets of scrubs for Swindon’s Great Western Hospital and **Team Bakers** have delivered 40 delicious cakes to nursing homes in the local area.



Last week, we sent photographer Phil Cannings out on location to snap more of you in action and we are delighted with the results from Compton, East Ilsley, Inkpen, Thatcham, Theale and Purley-on-Thames (see left). We will be uploading these stories and photographs in the coming days and weeks to our [Local Heroes](#) webpage and our [Facebook](#) page. Please do continue to share your stories - and your social media posts on **#WestBerksCommunity** and **#WBCommunityLove**.

## Individual cases

Please ensure that all queries about individual cases are directed to the Hub via the general email [westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk) or by calling **01635 503579**. This is to ensure they are dealt with promptly, effectively and in line with guidelines on dealing with vulnerable adults.

With very best wishes,  
The Hub Team