

It's Thursday so, time for the weekly update from me. ☺

First of all, I am pleased to announce that Age UK Horsham District is now part of Age UK West Sussex, Brighton and Hove. The merger allows us to share our expertise, resources and local knowledge, ensuring services are sustainable and able to help more people than ever before. Additionally, the impact of Coronavirus on income across the charity sector emphasises how important it is for charities to work together to reduce overheads. One larger charity can be run more efficiently and the money-saving move will mean more of each donation can be directly invested in frontline services. We are now bigger and better!

Some of our services are currently unavailable due to Coronavirus. Once restrictions are lifted existing services will continue to be delivered by dedicated staff and volunteers in Horsham. We anticipate that the merger will also allow the development of new activities and support options for people aged 50+. With this in mind, I mentioned last week that we are currently carrying out a survey of clients to try and gauge current demand for restarting services again. **If you have 10 minutes and are happy to help with this then please call 01403 260560 and leave your name and preferred contact number and one of the survey team will call you back. Your feedback is much appreciated.** ☺

I have attached the press release about the merger and if you go to the Age UK Horsham District website <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/horshamdistrict>, the information is also on there.

As usual, a few additional bits from me below.

Stay safe and well- you know where we are should you, or anyone you know, need our support- **01403 260560**

Nicky x

- 1) Please see the link below from the government which was published on Tuesday. It might be useful guidance for some of you.

COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities?utm_source=2b2520c6-5f06-42f3-b7f9-067c4b570a5a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

2) Message re the Libraries-

Libraries in West Sussex will be starting a phased reintroduction of services from Monday 6 July with a Select and Collect option from the front doors of all 36 library buildings.

They sent the following message-

We have reopened our library [catalogue](#) for reservations of specific titles but we realise that not everyone knows exactly what they want to borrow and so we are offering two different free services:

Customer Select – using the library [catalogue](#) for customers to reserve specific titles in the usual way online or by phoning their nearest [large library](#). This includes existing reservations made before Monday 23 March.

Staff Select – allowing customers who may not know exactly what they want to borrow to ask for a more general selection of books, chosen by one of our expert staff. Customers can complete a simple [online form](#), or phone their nearest [large library](#).

Whichever option you have chosen, when your items are available we will let you know, by phone or email, and arrange for you to collect them during our more limited library opening hours.

Browsing in the library is not yet available; however restoring customer access to IT is a high priority, whilst still enabling staff to have time to complete their jobs in safety.

West Sussex Libraries has also been delivering books to customers over the last three months via our [Essential Delivery Service](#). This service is still available for anyone who cannot visit the library and would like to borrow a selection of stock or request specific items.

There are currently no overdue charges for outstanding items, so please do not worry if you are unable to return your books at this stage.

More chances to return your books

We have received piles of books, audiobooks and Project Loans at our special library returns sessions and, just in case you couldn't make one of them, we have arranged some more dates.

At the following times you will be able to return any borrowed items (books, audiobooks or school Project Loan boxes) to the door of your local West Sussex library:

- Tuesday 30 June, 2.00pm-4.00pm
- Thursday 2 July, 10.00am-12.00pm
- Saturday 4 July, 10.00am-12.00pm

There will continue to be no charges on any items that have not been returned during this time. It also doesn't matter if your books were borrowed from a different library to the one you return them to, or if someone else drops them off on your behalf.

If you have items that you're keen to return outside of the times listed, we have large letter boxes available at [Billingshurst](#), [Bognor Regis](#), [Crawley](#), [East Grinstead](#), [Goring](#), [Haywards Heath](#), [Horsham](#), [Petworth](#), [Southwick](#), [Steyping](#) and [Witterings](#).

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Call 01403 260560



We are still here for you during self isolation with information and advice, telephone befriending, doorstep deliveries, welfare and safety support and well-being advice.

Find out more at www.ageukhorshamdistrict.org.uk or call us on 01403 260560.