

Burgess Hill Town Council

PRESS RELEASE

26 January 2021

MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Mayor's Christmas Appeal has successfully raised £640 to support those in our community who are socially isolated and lonely because of Covid-19. The funds raised have been split equally between St Peter and St James Hospice, Neighbourly Care and Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove (WSBH), three local charities which provide befriending services to residents in Burgess Hill. Thank you to all of those who donated to the Appeal, your generosity will let those who are isolated know they are not forgotten.

Roger Cartwright, Mayor of Burgess Hill said: 'We have now closed the Christmas Appeal, and the money raised is being passed on to the three local charities we supported. The money has been put towards befriending services in Burgess Hill that provide support and companionship for people who are homebound during these very difficult times. Many thanks if you have contributed to this cause.'

Richard Cherry, representative of Neighbourly Care, said: 'Neighbourly Care is a small local charity dedicated to helping the old, the lonely and anyone in need with help like collecting prescriptions, getting the shopping or just providing a listening ear. We are extremely grateful for the donation from the Mayor's Christmas appeal which will help us increase awareness of what we can do for those who need our help.'

Helen Rice, Chief Executive at Age UK WSBH said: 'The pandemic has meant many older people need us

more than ever. We've extended existing services and developed new ones, like befriending and doorstep deliveries. We want to be there for people, no matter what they're facing, so donations like these are invaluable. We're so grateful for the support.'

A representative of St Peter and St James said 'The donation from the Mayor's Christmas Appeal will contribute to the provision of the 'Community Reach' service to provide support to those isolated during the Covid-19 pandemic.'

Neighbourly Care is a local charity whose DBS checked volunteers can help people of all ages in need of assistance with shopping, collecting prescriptions and befriending phone calls. They can be contacted on 07876 066368 or by email at neighbourlycare@outlook.com.

Age UK WSBH provides befriending phone calls for those who are feeling lonely or isolated and a range of other support services. Their helpline is 01903 731 800 or they can be contacted by email at info@ageukwsbh.org.uk.

St Peter and St James Hospice has recently launched 'Community Reach', a free emotional support service to tackle isolation and loneliness in Mid Sussex. It provides access to free counselling or caller companion support from qualified and expertly trained hospice volunteers. The service is open to anyone who feels they are struggling with increased isolation, or who has been directly affected by Covid-19 through family illness, bereavement and loss. To find out more, contact the team at St Peter & St James Hospice by emailing crs@stpjhospice.org or calling 01444 471598.

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