**Seaford Volunteer Emergency Team Update**

**New phone line Hours 01323 899054**

**Mon -Fri 8.30 am – 5.30pm Sat 8.30 am to 1.30pm**

Little did we know in the middle of March when a call came out to reactivate what was essentially an old flood defence emergency group what was about to happen in our town as the country had to face the spread of Covid 19.

We hope you are all doing well and coping with the continuing lockdown. As we see a few changes we know that many of you are abiding by the governments advice to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. Thank you to all who are volunteering so magnificently to make that even possible. Lewes District Council is astounded by what we and the other Covid 19 Support groups have been able to achieve so rapidly in just 8 weeks.

After being inundated with worried residents at the launch of our phone line (some to check we are really here) the calls in evenings and weekends have now reduced substantially. **Owing to this from Friday 15th May we have decided to reduce the Phone line hours to match the times most of you have been ringing for shopping and prescriptions (which are the main requests**) There have been well over 1000 of these dealt with as I write and by the time you read this it will be many more.

You can also contact us on our website <https://svet.proffer.org.uk> and fill in the **Request form** at any time.

In addition **Listening Ear** is now up and running via **SeaFriends**, working in partnership with SVET to provide a check in and chat service for isolated and lonely Seaford residents during this time. **SeaFriends** is a partnership of established local charity organisations who have been working together for the last 18 months to address social isolation and loneliness, to establish a befriending service and support people back into community activities. When we became aware of the fantastic work that SVET were doing during the Covid crisis we offered our help to set up and run the Listening Ear arm of the support they are offering. We have now matched all the requests we have received for regular calls with a trained volunteer befriender. Moving forward we will continue to train and support volunteers and match them with requests from members of the Seaford community ensuring they have regular contact through this challenging time. Social isolation and loneliness are cross generational and have a negative impact on physical and mental health; a weekly call for a chat can make all the difference to someone who would not normally talk to anyone.

If you, a family member or neighbour would be interested in regular friendship calls or volunteering please contact us via SVET or call us on 07927640807 or 07927640821. Please ask the person you are recommending before sending their details to us. We are a voluntary service of friendly local residents, so we cannot provide professional advice or mental health support but we can offer a friendly chat and time to talk.

SVET is so grateful for the individuals and organisations that have stepped forward to support this project financially. Their support meant that we could purchase more PPE equipment, launch the ability to take card payments at the doorstep and also to provide gift vouchers for volunteers to use to do the shopping and enabling repayment to be made directly to SVET (removing financial risk from volunteers),

So, in addition to our immense gratitude to the many volunteers involved with this project, our sincere thanks also goes to the following organisations for their financial support, listed alphabetically:

* Churches Together Seaford
* [Diocese of Chichester](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofChichester/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARAS_pnsAJP7G1xMDOew2MYINK_GTYTulg7WWBgMM845md_34o4Y8OTXyj_Jp2eljxQ2s_1eyaI9qkzJ&fref=gs&dti=1061258840553377&hc_location=group_dialog)
* [Lewes District Council](https://www.facebook.com/lewesdistrictcouncil/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARBSsl3k6Ifp05pTpHI8MBrbfW4fNkD8mHDMVz9UL_RxwPmsDL8ErUuv509NLJbjjZUpp2j7oy0vnMkm&fref=gs&dti=1061258840553377&hc_location=group_dialog)
* [Martello Rotary Seaford](https://www.facebook.com/groups/732031940506685/?ref=gs&fref=gs&dti=1061258840553377&hc_location=group_dialog)
* [Rotary Club of Seaford](https://www.facebook.com/SeafordRotarySA/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARC98rYVAaLHKsdaTzRvCDn42UiCPgP-n9XbkKnkRzWm1o5CXd8GMzdkPPOJK2YywDSyTkHCUgNeqefR&fref=gs&dti=1061258840553377&hc_location=group_dialog)
* Royal Society of St George
* [St Peter’s, East Blatchington](https://www.facebook.com/StPetersEB/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARDgtsZ1hs6J1qW5ESzg74vSIAbJik76QRe4PoOHMtLiLNKCNQLzY6iL2bkKsAJHS315ED1VU8Nvf-u9&fref=gs&dti=1061258840553377&hc_location=group_dialog)
* [Seaford Baptist Church](https://www.facebook.com/SeafordBaptistChurch/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARDgiH3qXU8z78ijtbtSLuU1EQAapldboioNvSL3pvDzazCkga3SMLN1aagIIZSASobRXjzKA2KIcwNZ&fref=gs&dti=1061258840553377&hc_location=group_dialog)
* [Seaford Town Council](https://www.facebook.com/seaford.town.council/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARC91f-p-i4wldLyjBbThOLqNrFrAQ4ZI83M3wKlw5yo-W0nzAI4GZVnoUSKInkFCcNMP-kc1P6PZBTN&fref=gs&dti=1061258840553377&hc_location=group_dialog)
* [The Parish Of Sutton With Seaford](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Parish-Of-Sutton-With-Seaford/136129913726986?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARBypgHU957us9SiQ4oVH4ufOX5J2ngABb3y1pG596NSFVioaiCrFlCYTX5CVE4WA6lpG6kUD27Yndvo&fref=gs&dti=1061258840553377&hc_location=group_dialog) (St Leonard's & St Luke's)

Hot Horse Limited have provided the website and data management system, while Seaford Baptist Church, St Peter’s, and St Leonard’s have provided administrative resources to manage the phone line, financial management, and the roll out of the transactional side of the shopping. Plusnet and CircleLoop have been generous with their phone technology provision as well.

We would also like to say a huge Thank you to the individuals who have donated directly to the [Seahaven Storehouse](https://www.facebook.com/groups/482969415071958/?ref=gs&fref=gs&dti=1061258840553377&hc_location=group_dialog). The foodbank will be the recipient of any monies left over at the end of the SVET Covid-19 project. Their own scaling up to meet an increased demand should also be noted. We understand that this has tripled in the last few weeks and is still growing.

There are many other individuals and groups who have helped us as well.

This community and town have developed an amazing project which we are confident now has the goodwill, structure, and resources to last the distance of this pandemic and part of it potentially beyond. Thank you to everyone who has pulled together and are making this possible.

**If we cannot help you, we know some people who can so here are some useful numbers**

Lewes Community Hub 01273 099956

East Sussex Adult Care (including emergency duty service) 0345 60 80 191

East Sussex Children and Families 0345 6080192 out of hours 01273 335905/6

National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247

Samaritans 116123

Shout (text service for those in Crisis ) text 85258

Silverline (listening service for older people 24/7 24/7 0800 4708090

Sussex Mental Health Helpline for those in Crisis freephone 0300 5000 101 runs 24/7

Switchboard LGBT support 10am -10pm 0300 330 0630

Please stay safe and stay home as much as possible.

The SVET Team