



NEWSLETTER No. 31 SPRING 2021



We have exciting news even in lockdown ... our new Telephone Befriending Service is now up and running. We have volunteers trained and ready to start, so if you are aware of any older (65+) family members, friends or neighbours who would appreciate a regular, friendly telephone call please let us know. Please look at <https://themeetingplace.org.uk/befriending/> for more details and a contact form, or please contact Jane Bellingham (Team Leader) on 07596 837063 if you would like to train as a Befriender. We are grateful to have been awarded a grant from Surrey County Council through the Members' Community Allocation for this project. We are currently in the process of compiling a job description to enable us to recruit an Anna Chaplain to coordinate this work in our local community. Please continue to pray as we seek to move this forward.

The Meeting Place AGM will take place on Saturday 13 March at 2.00pm via Zoom this year as we are unable to meet together in person. If you would like to join us please contact us on info@themeetingplace.org.uk and we will send you the Agenda and Reports plus the link to get onto Zoom.

The Coffee Shop is looking forward to re-opening on Saturday mornings when it is safe to do so. We will obviously let you all know as soon as this is possible. It was our 10th anniversary of opening this January and we hope to have belated celebrations later this year.

Wellers Solicitors would like to continue offering free legal advice as they did at monthly Coffee Shop sessions, but over Zoom for now. Full details will be announced at a future date but if you would like to use this service before then please contact TMP using the links below.

Lip-reading classes are running via Zoom and have been attended by 5 people on a regular basis. We are looking at vowel sounds and the different ways they look on the lips using very interesting stories. We are all aiming to improve our lip-reading as we can suffer from degrees of isolation according to our level of deafness.

The Language Hub is continuing to teach on Zoom every Tuesday during term time. We have a Pre-Intermediate level group on a Tuesday morning, with a group of approximately 4 students, and an Elementary level group on Tuesday afternoons. Students are joining us from London and France, one of the advantages of being on Zoom! The classes are run by a team of four qualified teachers, and we focus on speaking skills and on having fun!

The Community Fridge team of volunteers grows as we handle more food and requests for support. In addition to our deliveries, we now have a "Help Yourself" Table at the front of the Youth Centre on Saturday mornings from 11.00 - 12.00. Please come along and see what's there, some of the items are not suitable for our bag deliveries as they are too big or specialist. The Community Fridge is about reducing food waste - so if you can use it, it's there for everyone - drop by and see for yourself.

Please look after yourselves and take care. Thank you for your support - we look forward to seeing you and your friends soon.

For more information or to get in touch with us, please go to our website <http://themeetingplace.org.uk>, or email us at info@themeetingplace.org.uk. If you would like to contact us on the TMP mobile ring 07425 133431 to leave a message. You can follow and like us on Facebook too - look for these pages: The Meeting Place <https://www.facebook.com/The-Meeting-Place-Bookham-373334882842124/>, Bookham Community Fridge <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mscfmeetingbookham>, and The Language Hub <https://www.facebook.com/The-Meeting-Place-Language-Hub-860048310731606/>.