

## **Fairwarp Community Society Annual Parish Report 2019 –2020**

In these very difficult times of lockdown we are proud that the FCS has been at the forefront of communication with the village.

Our Membership stands at 177 with an additional 42 complimentary concessionary members, however, we send the Newsletter to 290 households and hope to encourage all those who receive it to sign up/renew for 2020/2021. In addition we have 142 followers on the FCS Facebook page. We have 21 businesses offering concessions to our members.

At the start of the lockdown a call for volunteers met with a great response from over 50 households in the community and was liaised by the FCS with help and guidance from Wealden and Parish councils. Our Good Neighbours Scheme is now registered as a Community Hub.

Our brilliant Newsletter written and co-ordinate by Tracy Atchison, has been a terrific mechanism for keeping the village in touch and informed during the present crisis. Normally, a fortnightly event, the Newsletter was produced daily at the outbreak of lockdown to keep villagers informed of the correct precautions and a wealth of information about delivery services, take away options and tips for streaming services and much, much more. Still produced every few days, the Newsletter has information about sewing teams producing scrubs and face masks, a virtual quiz, the third so far, recipes, gardening tips and exhibitions to visit online. This Newsletter has been a great way of keeping the villagers connected and not feeling too isolated.

Prior to the present crisis, FCS continued its usual business. The Church yard clean-up was carried out in October but sadly the Spring clean-up had to be postponed.

FCS held a very successful Quiz Night, this annual event is our only source of fund raising apart from membership subscriptions and this year we raised £761.29.

The FCS Christmas Quiz at the Foresters Arms raised over £300 for local charity The Chestnut Tree Hospice for Children.

FCS has continued to ensure the mowing of the village green and is now paying and organizing for the Back Lane Green to be mowed.

The Children's Christmas Party was introduced again this year and the Christmas Tree provided by FCS was erected on the Green with the annual lighting and Carol singing.

FCS sponsors the Pub Quiz and maintains the telephone box library.

FCS continues its commitment to identify any needs of the village and villagers that can be met with either funds or labour, keep the community informed and entertained through the Newsletter, the website, FCS Facebook page and Instagram.