



The place you live  
The people you know

**#ProudofBucks**

# A selection of stories and examples of people in Buckinghamshire helping their communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## 1 Wendover Youth Centre

- **Pen Pals:** Young people are writing letters and emails to elderly isolated people.
- **Food Parcels:** Young people are preparing food parcels for those who are in need.
- **Family Phone Calls:** Young people and their families are calling isolated individuals to help reduce loneliness.
- **Youth Work Sessions:** multiple times a week through group zoom chats.

## 2 Seerah Today - Wycombe

Delivering emergency same day food supplies, with the help of volunteers including the Exiled Bikers; a philanthropist local bike group and donations from the public, including Thara Store Castlefield and Mak Foods Totteridge.

## 3 Buckinghamshire Council IT department

Enabling not only the council services but the GPs and the NHS to function during lockdown, by moving everyone onto teams in record time.

## 4 Paul Kelly & Woodstocks Coffee house

In conjunction with Paul Kelly, Woodstocks Coffee House have been delivering a home-cooked, lunchtime meal, on a daily basis to local elderly residents currently in self-isolation, who have no family in the area that can support them. This service is free of charge to those in need and is being funded by Mr. Kelly, for a limited time.

## 5 Denham Community Support

James Foraye, a small business owner and graphic designer at Prontaprint used his resources and skills to design a website, leaflets, ID badges for volunteers, and coordinated a community response to support people self-isolating in Denham. He has had some great feedback from local residents.

## 6 The Risborough Basket

Supporting people to stay at home by setting up a free local grocery delivery service.

## 7 Bin collectors

Meeting the challenge and collecting kerbside waste despite staff shortages.

**8 Buckinghamshire Council Social Care teams, NHS staff and volunteers**

Repurposing The Olympic Lodge into a 240 bed care centre for the vulnerable, freeing up vital hospital beds.

**9 Meals from Marlow**

Local celeb chef Tom Kerridge alongside volunteers, business and Marlow Town Council are aiming to deliver 25K free meals to NHS staff and those most in need.

**10 Stoke Mandeville Community Support**

80+ volunteers, inc Bucks and Parish council staff, helping locals who are self-isolating. Getting their shopping, prescriptions and making friendly phonecalls.

**11 Buckinghamshire council staff**

Rising to the challenge of keeping the council running and helping communities during the COVID-19 crisis. (whilst also launching a brand new council!)

**12 Bledlow / Saunderton Parish Council**

Organising mass deliveries of grocery and medicines to all Parish residents.

**13 Stoke Poges Good Neighbourhood Scheme (SPGNS)**

Using their Good Neighbour Scheme to help support locals in need of extra help and telephone contact.

**14 Waddesdon Manor Aspire School**

Delivering free school meals to pupils and vulnerable people in the area.

**15 Daniel Austin**

Producing over 1000 3D printed 'ear savers' for face masks worn by health and care workers.

**16 Childminders and child carers**

For continuing to look after key workers' children so they can carry on doing their jobs

**17 Restore Hope, Chiltern Food bank, Bernwode Community Bus and local volunteers**

For providing and delivering hundreds of Easter eggs and toys to disadvantaged children across Bucks.



## 18 Local support group in Whitchurch

Set up by the local Church, now has 39 volunteers offering help in the village and supporting anyone who needs them.

## 19 Sophie Jugé and students

Creating an uplifting version of ABBA's 'Thank you for the music.' 'Heroes to me' thanks key workers, health and social care staff keeping us safe and supported.

## 20 Dial-a-Ride

Offering their services for food deliveries and taking vulnerable or elderly residents to health appointments.

## 21 The Ivers Community Kindness Outreach

Volunteers and residents pulling together and delivering 100's of weekly Kindness Kits to vulnerable locals.

## 22 Sir William Ramsay, Stowe, Beachborough and Westbury schools + the University of Buckingham

Producing personal protective equipment for health and social care workers.

## 23 Our Councillors

For their hard work supporting their communities during the Covid-19 crisis. Including organising a free curry delivery to emergency workers, litter picking/ grass cutting and collecting/ delivering donations.

## 24 Aylesbury Grammar School pupils

Setting up a food bank collection/ donation service. Created a website with a simple online form to collect items from doorsteps and deliver to a local food bank.

## 25 Aston Clinton Covid-19 Support Group

Local volunteers supporting their community and making sure everyone has what they need to stay safe and well.

## 26 Shaun Marshall and 3D Print World

Producing over 300 protective visors in his spare time with the kind support of 3D Print World.

## 27 Chesham & Amersham Sewing for Carers

Creating headbands to make wearing masks and visors much more comfortable and brightening up the place for care staff.

## 28 Gerrards Cross Support Group

Helping people in the community with food, loo rolls & groceries as well as leafleting half GX to see if people need help.

**29** **Charlie Clare and Paul Fealey**

Working hard to ensure local schools in the north of the county benefit from the Community Fund ready for the new term.

**30** **Buckingham Young Carers**

Providing children's activity packs to the most vulnerable children in homes with adults who need care.

**31** **Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service**

Worked closely with our GPs and Primary Care Networks, Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust, Oxford Health, Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Buckinghamshire Council to help to set up a range of COVID-19 vaccination centres across Buckinghamshire. We now have 20 vaccination centres across the County.

**32** **Rev. Doug Zimmerman**

For becoming the new paper round person for many of the Old Town residents during lockdown.

**33** **BuDs**

After receiving a @HeartofBucks coronavirus UK grant they launched a professional new BuDDies befriending service for disabled people and carers.

**34** **Schools in Bucks**

Sir William Borlase, Holmer Green Senior, Akeley Wood, The Beaconsfield and Sir Henry Floyd Grammar schools for donating or using their 3D printers/ laser cutters to make headbands and visors for health and social care staff.

**35** **Downley Covid-19 Group**

Getting Street Reps on all roads in the Parish, setting up a home delivery service from local shops and running a pharmacy collection/ delivery scheme.

**36** **Berryfields Parish Council**

Helping vulnerable people in their local area to stay safe and well.

**37** **Covid-19 Support Group High Wycombe**

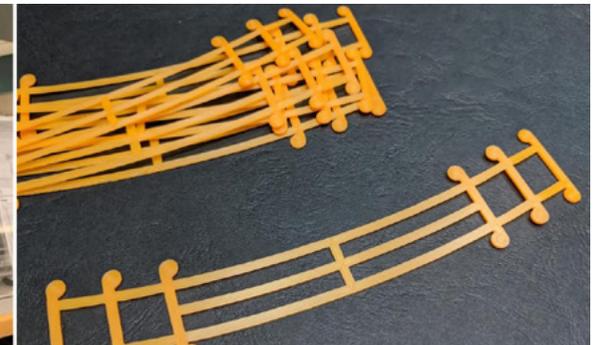
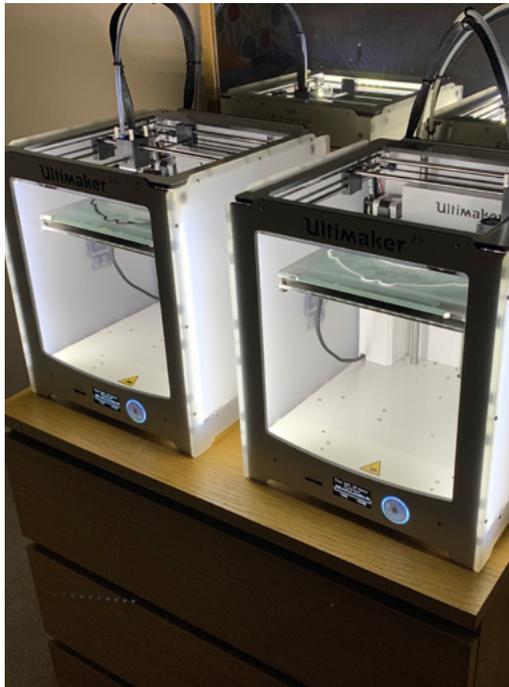
Creating a community group to assist people self-isolating and help them gain access to support.

**38** **Local MP, our councillors and volunteers**

Greg Smith, Rob Butler, Angela Macpherson, Ashley Waite & Paul Irwin plus all the volunteers, supporting Bernie the Bus on his trips collecting donations for Aylesbury Vineyard foodbank.

**39** **The Buckingham Food Bank**

Supported by Buckingham Athletic Club and the Rotary Club of Buckingham - local volunteers collecting and delivering donations.



## 40 Old Town Street Association

A group of 12 volunteers are shopping for anyone at risk who does not have support from family, friends, or carers. Running their operations from a vintage caravan, parked in the Rectory, they are taking care of 30 households, they have completed 49 shopping lists in less than two weeks.

## 41 Chesham Citizen Advice Bureau

For supporting local residents and continuing to provide help and advice by telephone about food, benefits and local support.

## 42 Katie Galvin from Buckinghamshire Council

Katie was made aware of some toys and toiletries leftover from the Christmas toy appeal. Each Community Hub was allocated a bag, Katie arranged for hers to go to the Restore Hope Latimer - Storehouse in Chesham, to be delivered to families in need over the Easter holidays.

## 43 Hyundai

Hyundai offered the use of a fleet of brand new, fully insured cars for members of the BORG 4x4 volunteers group.

## 44 Chartridge Parish Council

Set up a Covid-19 support group to help vulnerable people in the village.

## 45 Raj Khan, Niknam Hussain and Waheed Raja

Delivering 100 individual portions of Chicken Biryani to Stoke Manderville hospital, NHS staff said that "It was all very tasty, gratefully received and enjoyed".

## 46 Shires Scrubs

In just 4 weeks they have made and delivered to various hospitals: 170 sets of scrubs, 5,035 headbands and 16,035 scrub wash bags.

## 47 CSP Community

A volunteer group in Chalfont St Peter which helps support the local residents and businesses during a difficult time.

## 48 The White Hart

in Preston Bissett has produced hundreds of food boxes for local residents.

## 49 Buckingham Support Network

The Facebook group was started by a resident and is dealing with all sorts of adhoc calls for shopping, medications and advice.

## 50 "Stay at Home" Food & Supplies directory

Warren Whyte has created the "Stay at Home Food & Supplies Directory" to help promote businesses in and around Buckingham that have adapted their business to offer special takeaway services, delivery options and even mail order.

## 51 Royal Mail

Mr Kashifr, a manager at Royal Mail realised hand sanitiser was in very short supply. So he took the hand rub formula from the WHO website and made 6000ml of it to give out to the local community. He's intends to make a further 6000ml as soon as he gets more 100ml bottles.

## 52 Aylesbury & Winslow Markets

Winslow and Aylesbury Markets are trialling a 'click & collect' service in Winslow to help local villages buy and receive fresh fruit & veg, meat, fish and some canned goods without needing to visit a local supermarket.

## 53 Chris Adams

has been doing maintenance in his local area while there are reduced services such as litter picking, strimming and grass cutting.

## 54 For the Love of Scrubs

25+ seamstresses in Holmer Green are making Making new scrubs and recycling old duvet covers into wash bags for local hospitals.

## 55 Winslow Big Society

Winslow's Big Society Telephone Contact Service, has become a lifeline for Winslow's vulnerable residents. Sue Keane matched over 100 people, to a regular caller to support them at home whether it was to do their shopping, dog walking or running errands. Each person who needs it is matched to a shopper is guaranteed a weekly shop.

## 56 Sharon Coutanche and George Stokes

Co-wrote a song titled 'Rainbows' which was recorded on the 14th April 2020. A song of hope during these hard and uncertain times. The song has raised over £9000 for NHS Charities Together.

## 57 Jim McKellar, Orchard View Farm

When Jim heard about a local man who was a priority food customer, couldn't get hold of basics. Jim decided he wanted to help these people and in turn support local food producers who were facing a tough time. Within 36 hours he had adapted his website to process payments and sorted out a delivery service from his shop to the community.

## 58 The Ludgershall Friends support group

has been helping with shopping, prescriptions, organising bulk deliveries of meat, fruit/vegetables, gardening supplies, dog walking and telephone/ social media chatting. Every resident who is over 70 years, or vulnerable, has been allocated a shopping buddy so that there is a named person they can go to for help with basic provisions and errands. To address some aspects of low morale, loneliness and depression in the elderly, the 'Friends' were successful in applying for a £2,000 community grant to supply a weekly roast dinner.

## 59 One Can Trust

A huge Thank You to #onecanstreet hero Adam who collected foodbank donations with his sister Ayaat in High Wycombe.

## 60 The people of Denham

Thank you so very much for all your donations for DENHAM FOOD BANK

## 61 High Wycombe's Coronavirus Mutual Aid group

300+ volunteers signed up to High Wycombe's Coronavirus Mutual Aid group. Volunteers have been delivering shopping, fetching prescriptions and reaching out with friendly phone calls. It's been great to see so many people from all walks of life working together through social media and looking out for each other!

## 62 Fulmer Parish Council

A walking group which carries out litter picking at the same time has been organised. All necessary tools are provided also to support the local farm shop, plants were bought by the Parish Council and planted in the village.

## 63 Feed Bucks

Feed Bucks - Gerrads Cross is local not-for-profit food delivery service that works with local restaurants to keep their kitchens open and provide contact-free food delivery to residents.

## 64 Nissan Group

The Nissan group provided 100 face shields for use at Olympic Lodge, Stoke Manderville.

## 65 Haddenham Parish Council

Haddenham Parish Council volunteers are helping to sew scrubs for the NHS.

## 66 The Pointer Butchers, Bernwode Lunch Club, Brill School Meals and Brill Memorial Hall

Fifty ready meals delivered to vulnerable residents in Brill.

## 67 WISE Charity

WISE charity was nominated for the Covid 19 - Councillor Crisis Fund. We are receiving more and more requests for free food parcels as people have started running out of savings and have difficulty buying even essential food items.

## 68 Heart of Bucks

Heart of Bucks has awarded The Fremantle Trust a grant of £4,940 to purchase 41 tablets, enabling residents to stay in touch with their loved ones.



## 69 Austin and Jenson

Five year old twins, Austin and Jenson (with the help of mum and dad) have been putting together face visors for the NHS and other frontline workers.

## 70 Bucks WI

Have made and delivered nearly 1000 scrub bags for hospitals and surgeries.

## 71 Media Ace - Thame

Have donated face shields to Aylesbury Vale Police response officers. Ensuring they are able to go about their daily duties safely and effectively.

## 72 Marie Biswell

A British Sign Language interpreter, is posting signed stories on her youtube channel, ensuring they are accessible for all.

## 73 Medical Detection Dogs

Six super noses could soon be trained to detect if someone has COVID-19 and play a vital role in preventing further spread of the pandemic in future. The charity Medical Detection Dogs will intensively train six dogs to help provide a rapid, non-invasive diagnosis for the virus. Working closely with the government, and in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Durham University. A crowdfunder has been launched to start raising funds for preliminary stage of research.

## 74 Dean Jones at Buckingham University

40 PPE Face Shields to Hamilton House Care Home in Buckingham.

## 75 Chesham Muslim Community Foundation

Donated a Sainsbury's gift card to a family in need, so they could purchase fresh fruit and vegetables.

## 76 Better Connected Beaconsfield

BCB sprang into action recruiting 350+ volunteers known as 'Buddies' to help with shopping: collecting prescriptions, running errands and making check-in phone calls to the most vulnerable residents. Recognising that not everyone is online, BCB published and distributed a one-off 'Community Together' magazine to 15,000 residents in and around Beaconsfield. The excellent work done by BCB has not gone unnoticed, BCB received £2k from the Cllr crisis fund to help them support vulnerable people locally.

## 77 Apetito - Meals on Wheels

Apetito drivers have been going out to deliver meals on a daily basis at this crucial time ensuring that those that need it are getting a hot and healthy meal daily.

**78****Kelvin Wong -  
Watermead Inn and Miya  
restaurant in Aylesbury**

Immediately after lockdown was announced he used the remaining food he had in the restaurant to make meals for vulnerable residents and frontline workers, his team of volunteers were dropping them off outside peoples' homes. Kelvin is also a huge part of the volunteer group that collect food items from residents who can donate and then make up food boxes for vulnerable or desperate residents and families to help them if they run out.

**80****The Chesham  
Support Hub**

The Chesham Support Hub (TCSH) supports nearly 200 shielded residents with food parcels, help with getting medicines and getting to medical appointments and a multitude of other errands, for example, requesting financial support so that a resident could attend multiple Chemotherapy treatments at hospital. A black taxi cab provided the best local transport option as the screen in the cab observed the social distancing rules for all parties.

**82****Five Pillars High  
Wycombe and One YMCA**

Volunteers at Five Pillars High Wycombe have been supporting the community in more ways than one with their endless acts of kindness and generosity. From supporting local residents and vulnerable people by sourcing fresh fruit, vegetables, bread and other produce for ONE YMCA, to Arif Hussain and his family raising funds to bulk purchase food essentials and delivering them to local elderly people in need (with thanks to Aldi London Road, High Wycombe and WISE group).

**79****The Oasis Partnership**

Outreach workers for drug and alcohol harm reduction, have been going to supermarkets to help to feed homelessness people in temporary accommodation.

**81****Wooburn / Bourne End  
SOS and Wye Valley  
Volunteers**

Heard from an elderly lady who was unable to fix her broken glasses, which she needs to see properly. Through their network of volunteers they found someone locally who had a glasses repair kit who's relative was an optician. Within half an hour of the call, the volunteer arrived and was able to safely mend the glasses.

**83****Seer Green singing group**

The community of Seer Green in South Bucks has been getting together via Zoom every Saturday morning to sing. This song was written by two members of that community, Jane Smith and Fliss Coombs. Over 70 people of all ages, including some very young children, took part in the video recording and have been singing the song every week to lift their spirits.

## 84 Iver South Bucks

The Ivers Parish Council set up a Community Food parcel scheme which collects donations of non-perishable foods and delivers to nearly 200 people a week. The recipients of the food parcels are not the only ones to feel the benefit.

"I felt powerless to help in the fight against the virus, I wanted to do something to help my community and all the people who need to self-isolate. The Parish Council initiative has given me the opportunity to help and be part of a team of like-minded people who pull together to ensure the most vulnerable are supported and have access to food and basic necessities. It's about helping people, everybody has needed a hand at some time so it is satisfying when you can give back. I find it very rewarding. I'd tell anybody to volunteer if they can."

"It is a good feeling and makes you realise that not only are you blessed but that community spirit is still very much part of village life."

## 85 NHS as an administrator in the Mental Health Team based at Wexham Park Hospital.

Karen Woods is a learner in one of Buckinghamshire Adult Learning's dressmaking classes. When not dressmaking, she works for the NHS as an administrator for the Mental Health Team based at Wexham Park Hospital.

As the Covid19 emergency worsened Karen saw that her team were in dire need of PPE. So, armed with her newly acquired dressmaking skills Karen offered to make some much needed scrubs. Karen set up the Scrub Hub, mobilising a team of six dressmakers including fellow learners and her tutor.

To date 70 sets of scrubs have been made and gratefully received by the NHS and so long the fabric keeps coming they have no plans to stop.

## 86 Chiltern Rangers

The Chiltern Rangers, were given funding through the Wexham & Ivers Local Area Forum to deliver a conservation project for schools in Iver. With the aim to improve the local environment and also to educate and help young people learn conservation skills. This project was on hold due to Covid-19 but is now starting to get back up and running at Iver Village Infant school, with the activities amended to adhere to social distancing guidelines etc.

## 87 High Wycombe Food Response group

The Food Response Group in High Wycombe is made up of a number of partner organisations, led by Hannah Fenton from Sustain and funded by The Rothschild Foundation.

It's purpose is to improve the food system and ensure that the provision of fresh food is accessible to all.

## 88 The Sticky Bun Run

Downley's Sticky Bun Run was featured on Ross Kemp's new TV show - Britains Volunteer Army on BBC1.

The Sticky Bun Run is a joint initiative by the Disraeli – Coronavirus Community Support Group and Pastures Church Foodbank. Volunteers go out every night to collect residual food and Sticky Buns from local supermarkets. The Food is then distributed to those in need across High Wycombe.

## 90 Chesham Help for Coronavirus group

Chesham Help for Coronavirus group organised the local community to celebrate the 75th Wedding Anniversary of a Chesham couple – which took place on the 18th May. There was a fabulous cake and hundreds of cards and included a concert from a 14 piece orchestra and opera singer, all from a safe distance!

Age UK take the lady to medical appointments, a volunteer learnt of the celebration and asked Chesham Help For Coronavirus to ramp up a surprise. The happy couple were interviewed on Three Counties radio.

## 92 Hilltop Villages Volunteers

Hilltop Villages Volunteers surprise one resident with a 90th birthday celebration.

Volunteers learnt one of their resident's Geoff was due to turn 90 on the 16th May, so they secretly organised a surprise birthday party. Friends and neighbours to 'gathered' to sing Happy Birthday, he was presented with a hand-painted birthday card, a cake and an Acer tree to plant in his well-kept garden. Geoff was taken completely by surprise and was clearly very touched by all the fuss being made of him.

## 89 Buckingham Primary school

Buckingham Primary School created a video to cheer up their pupils and school community using 'Take That's - Let It Shine' and posted it on facebook. The were delighted when Take That's very own Gary Barlow responded via video to say he thought it was great!

## 91 Wendover Youth Centre

Wendover Youth Centre have been running a pen pal scheme where young people and elderly people have been writing letters to each other during this time where people are feeling isolated, bored, cut-off and lonely.

## 93 Seed 1

Seed 1 is Marlow's first zero-waste shop and also a registered Community Interest Company with all profits going towards providing accommodation and support for the homeless in Bucks. Seed 1 posted a BIG THANK YOU on social media to Buckinghamshire Council for supporting 93 families facing homelessness during the current Covid-19 crisis.

## 94 Good Neighbours Scheme

Sue Lynch from the Good Neighbours Scheme has been shortlisted to the last four of the Daily Telegraph Lockdown Awards.

Sue Lynch chairs the local Good Neighbours scheme in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire. Normally the group, which has around 20 volunteers covering the village, provides lifts to hospital appointments, helps with DIY, gardening or simply offers a friendly chat.

The lockdown meant an even greater effort was required, existing volunteers were over 70, so new recruits were needed. Lynch recruited 60 new volunteers to help the elderly or those self-isolating.

"The community spirit has very much come to the fore," Lynch explains. "People are pulling together, looking out for their neighbours. I was very moved to be nominated for this award, but I would say it's the volunteers doing a great job; everyone is doing their bit."

## 95 YC2 Buckingham & Winslow Young Carers

From the outset of Lockdown Young Carers 2 (YC2) implemented a 'Contact & Support Plan' for children and young people in Buckinghamshire aged 6-18 years old who have a caring role.

With the usual number of YC2 volunteers greatly reduced YC2 still manage to contact each family/YC every week, finding out if they have any needs, offering a friendly impartial ear, helping with practical needs, new clothing, benefit advice, medication supplies, whilst keeping our volunteers safe.

## 96 Buckinghamshire Council Registrars

who have continued to work and process deaths providing much support to bereaved people during the lockdown.

## 97 Savay Close - VE Day Celebrations and Isolation Bingo

Savay Close's community spirit not just surviving but thriving !!

Every Wednesday and Saturday residents of Savay Close in Denham stand on their doorstep or sit by an open window to join in with a game of isolation bingo or take part in a quiz. The cost of taking part is a donation to the local foodbank.

Savay Close went to town with it's VE Day celebrations, they decorated the street, had a BBQ and a DJ play music from 11am-10pm, fantastic, socially-distanced fun.

## 98 Aylesbury Vineyard

Working in partnership with Council teams, Bernwode Bus and Street Association providing groceries to people in need throughout lockdown.

99

## Global Infusion Group (GIG)

are experts in delivering global catering and were booked to provide catering for high-profile events worldwide throughout 2020 including the Olympics in Japan, the UK Pavilion at Expo 2020 in Dubai and Glastonbury. However, the global events industry was one of the first industries to be impacted by COVID-19 and GIG effectively lost £9.4 million of business in three days due to cancelled events.

The Global Infusion Group sprang into action to pivot their activity into supporting the NHS and are now catering for 15 NHS sites across Buckinghamshire, providing over 1,000 meals per day.

100

## All Saints Church in High Wycombe

For helping their community through virtual coffee mornings and virtual services. The congregation has also delivered free ready meals to residents and made masks and scrub bags.

101

## Hello Prestwood

The Hello Prestwood Volunteer Group, are very proud of the difference they are making within their local community. With an amazing network of approx. 150 volunteers, who have completed more than 1,000 shopping trips and prescription collections and made over 200 phone calls, dog walks, hospital trips etc.

Equally important, the volunteers offer vulnerable and isolated residents human interaction and engagement, the volunteer maybe the only person they see that day or even that week.

102

## Unbound theatre group

Unbound theatre group, who are based @queensparkarts centre, have not let the lockdown slow them down. Check out the great work they've been doing over the last few months.

103

## McAuley's Pizzas for Carers

Every #Clapforcarers Thursday evening, the McAuley family have been firing up their own Pizza oven, making delicious wood fired pizzas to raise funds for carers. Offering a variety of tasty toppings on the Pizzas with no fixed prices just asking for a donation to The Care Workers Charity.

Their initial fundraising target was £500 they have reached over £760!

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## Our Library Staff

We applaud our council library staff for adapting and changing roles to help people in need: arranging food deliveries, helping organise medicines and simply being there for a chat on the end of a phone when people feel alone.

"Thank you and your team for looking after us so well, we do not feel alone with you alongside us"

For more #ProudofBucks stories have a look at our  
new blog at [medium.com/proud-of-bucks](https://medium.com/proud-of-bucks)