

HiARA June newsletter.

We eagerly awaited the Prime Minister's announcement on June 14 only to have our hopes dashed and the "Freedom Day" moved on until July 19. However, we are treating this new date with a great deal of caution. It means we will not be reopening on July 2 as we had planned. It would be ideal to start again on Friday, July 23rd but we will have to wait and see.

We will be holding a committee meeting soon to review what steps will be required and to sort out nomination papers for committee elections, which will be announced at the August 27th AGM meeting (fingers crossed). Payments at activity afternoons are likely to be "contactless" so start putting aside your £1. Coins, ready for our new machine. Nearer the confirmed opening date – whenever that may be- you will receive a telephone call from a committee member to give you the latest information. Don't forget, if you want to join the committee you are most welcome.

Barry, Iris's Buss's partner, has contacted us and offered to donate the craft items, made by Iris, which he has at home. We have thanked him for this very kind and thoughtful gesture and the items will be sold at our meetings and all proceeds will go to our nominated charity, the ADSS.

Next time you wait for the bus to go to Strood on the top road, have a look at the top of the bus shelter! The shelter is the first of its kind in Kent and has a roof which is bee friendly – no need to be afraid – it is quite safe. It is currently in bloom and is very pretty.

I had the privilege of meeting recently with the Mayor of Gravesham, Councillor Lyn Milner and members of Higham Parish Council for a photoshoot at the Charles Dickens sign on the main road. It had been replanted with red geraniums by Oakleigh Nurseries and looked splendid in the sunshine. Photographs below.

The village of Chalk is proudly unveiling a new village sign at the end of the month outside their Parish Hall, so look out for that when you are next in that area. Well known to us, local historian Christoph Bull and a team have been busy working on the design which incorporates many elements of the history of Chalk.

We hope you have been able to enjoy the recent spell of good weather, parks and gardens are looking bright and cheerful, it seems like a good year for roses, you may have been for a lunch out by now or a trip to the coast or to see friends and family., so things are looking up.