

Covid Update

Hi everyone—and welcome to issue 50 of Hextol *happenings*! We started this newsletter at the beginning of the first lockdown in March 2020 and from everything you've told us you've really enjoyed it. We are planning to keep it going every 2 weeks or so.

So we lost the football, but I hope you've all enjoyed how well England did. The way the team worked together to get as far as they did is an inspiration to us all.

The other big news of the week is the easing of lockdown restrictions.

It is clear the pandemic is far from over and because of this we think it is right to take a cautious approach, so you won't see many changes when you come to Hextol. We've listed below some of the precautions which will stay in place, along with a couple of minor changes.

The safety of our volunteers, staff and customers has always been, and remains, our first priority. For this reason we will: continue to wear face coverings; still take temperatures of people as they arrive; limit the size of the groups; and continue with handwashing and the use of sanitisers.

I realise that some of you may be worried about the changes to the rules and may find coming out of lockdown as difficult as going into it. I hope that the structure Hextol can provide, the chance to reconnect with people and the precautions we are taking will make the process easier, but if you have any concerns at all let me know. Thanks Bruce

Gilesgate HQ

- We will still wear face coverings
- We will gradually reintroduce some cleaning and admin shifts
- Start and finish times remain as they are now
- Group sizes may increase slightly

Tans Café

- Cleaning remains the same
- The tables will still be spaced out
- Face coverings are still to be worn and customers will be asked to do the same
- Customers will still be asked to scan in or give us their details

Lunch Club

- We aim to restart LunchClub as soon as we can
- People will sit so there is space between them
- We may have more than one sitting
- Everyone welcome—whether working that day or not
- Initially 2 days/week
- More details to follow

Gardening

- One more volunteer can be carried in the crew van
- Face coverings will still be needed in the vans and the offices

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The Hextol Foundation
The Hextol Tans



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Upcoming Social Events

'Welcome back party': 9 September, 6-9pm, Hexham Cricket Club

This is a "Welcome Back to Hextol" event and is being funded by a grant kindly awarded to us by 'The Thornton Family Grassroots Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland', Thank you!

We hope it will help ease our volunteers back into Hextol and to allow them to rekindle some of their old friendships which may have suffered during the lockdowns. It is a part of our charitable mission to minimise the social isolation our volunteers may feel on a day to day basis, and in some cases to make them feel more confident about coming back to us.

We will have a BBQ and organised games provided by 'Smile through Sport', a disability sport development charity founded by Paralympian Stephen Miller MBE to create increased awareness, opportunity and ultimately enjoyment in disability sport throughout the North East of England.

We will be in touch soon to sign people up



**Community
Foundation**



'Christmas Party': 17th December, time and place to be confirmed.

Save the date! We will be in touch nearer the time to sign people up, so start practising those dance moves!

We've been busy recruiting new staff members....



Kath Miller
*Business
Development
Manager*



Stefanie Newton
*Catering
Supervisor*