

## Community Fridge & Cupboard at Hale Community Centre

How many of us shopped just a little too much during lockdown and still have a kitchen that's bursting at the seams with food that will soon run out of date? How many keen gardeners every year end up with a glut of lovely fresh produce all coming up at the same time – typically apples and runner beans and soon those lovely cooking and eating apples and pears? How often do we wonder why there is so much food going to waste from local retailers? There's an excellent new way to share all this with all local people, particularly those who would appreciate a few little extras for their family during these difficult times.

The Community Fridge & Cupboard opened on  
4th August 2020 at Hale Community Centre



### **Food to share with your neighbours.**

#### **Take what you need – Donate what you can.**

The Centre has been busy preparing things to ensure that the donation and collection processes are virus safe for all, including safety of the volunteers that will be on hand to help visitors get the most out of the project. It will be a great way for the whole community to both contribute and share, as well as an opportunity for local people to meet up, make new friends and to explore all the other activities coming up at the Centre.

We are pleased to announce that **Tesco Express Hale, Waitrose Farnham, Asda Farnborough and Lidl Farnham** are supporting our project. They are donating their surplus stock including that which would have previously gone to landfill. They are delighted to have the opportunity to support and link with local people in this project. They and we are helping to be part of the solution of reducing food wastage with the help and assistance of Fareshare and Neighbourly organisations dedicated to reducing food waste.

The Community Cupboard and Fridge is available free to all regardless of their financial situation and the aim is to bring people together in the fight against waste while at the same time to enhance community relationships and wellbeing. Every year Hale Community Centre's gardening club produces its own lovely selection of fresh vegetables and fruit from its very own garden within the grounds. Some of their bounty has already been sampled, the strawberries and raspberries went down very well with regular visitors and children alike. The Gardening club is delighted that their hard work is not at all wasted and excess produce will be added to the Community Cupboard and Fridge. New members are always welcome to join the Gardening club. They're really pleased that they will be able to link with local people who will appreciate fresh produce provided by them.

Anyone can make contributions, it means that you no longer need to risk wasting your excess produce, just bring it all along to be added to the Cupboard and take something that you fancy in exchange. It may only be one apple in exchange for some beans or no exchange at all. This allows the whole community to both contribute and share any excess food that may be available. We can all get involved in 'donate share and swap'. People can take what they need and add what they have in excess. If you have nothing to donate, no problem, come and see if there is anything you need or want.

The project is running in conjunction with the existing Share Farnham Swap Shop, which has been successfully running in the Centre since May. We hope the community will embrace this further concept to ensure that produce will be used rather than wasted. It will be a great asset to the community and will also be a place to have contact with others and hopefully (post Covid 19) have a chat and a cup of tea from the excellent kitchen in the centre. You don't need to register with this service and there is no need for any vouchers or similar. Just turn up during the opening hours of the Cupboard (see below). It's all about saving waste and sharing with neighbours! If you would like to volunteer to help with the project, please contact us on the email or phone number below.

**Where:** Community Fridge & Cupboard, Hale Community Centre, Upper Hale Road, Upper Hale, Farnham, Surrey, Phone: 01252 722362

Website: <https://www.halecommunitycentre.org.uk/>

**When:** The Community Fridge & Cupboard will operate during the hours Monday to Friday 10am – 12pm

**How:** Just turn up during open hours or phone 01252 722362 in advance if you have a bulk donation for special delivery outside these hours

**Sponsors:** Our sincere thanks to our Sponsors Tesco Express, Waitrose, Lidl and Asda. We in Hale are so happy and appreciative of your support. We also extend our thanks to Fareshare for the help and guidance in helping us set up the Community Cupboard and Fridge project. Thank you also to Victoria Fielding our local graphic designer who has kindly donated her time and designed our logo.

Want to keep in touch? There are lots of busy groups and activities that have recommenced at the centre since lockdown. You don't have to register to participate in the Community Fridge & Cupboard but if you would like to be added to the Community Centre mailing list then we can keep you informed of news and future events at the Centre or the occasional notification of special food items being available. If you wish to be added Email us on [halecommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:halecommunitycentre@gmail.com) Or via our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/halecommunitycupboardandfridge/>