

## Cittaslow Vaals during Corona

- between citizen and citizen
- between the Municipal Administration and the most needy in your community
- between Cittaslow and Cittaslow
- between different Cittaslow national networks

### **Helping the needy**

At the moment, municipality workers are not allowed to visit people at home. But especially these people are still in need of contact or help. Our employees make it their business to stay in regular contact with these people, in order to make them feel heard, and to offer their help where they can.

### **Project 'Working from home in Vaals'**

In this project, set up by local photographer Mireille Prange, citizens can be photographed whilst working at home. These pictures can be made into (digital) postcards, which then can be sent to family, friends or people who usually do not get a lot of mail.



### **Light a light**

As in Belgium, the idea of lighting a candle in your front window to thank and applause all carers was picked up in Vaals too and it spread like a light on Facebook. Now you can see lighted candles at 7pm every evening.

### **Stay at home, keep your distance and save lives**

Is a credo that is repeated by many people online. And it works!

### **Bells of hope**

The catholic and protestant church toll their bells at 7pm every Wednesday. Since the protestant church has closed their churches until June 1<sup>st</sup>, their Mass on Sundays is now being transferred through the radio via [www.kerkomroep.nl](http://www.kerkomroep.nl).

### **Bear Hunting**

The idea of putting a bear in your window for children to hunt was also picked up in the Netherlands. Of course families are reminded to keep their distance to other families. The reactions on Facebook are great! Children have something to do and you can still connect to your neighbours, albeit through a window.

[www.berenjachtkaart.nl](http://www.berenjachtkaart.nl)

**Activities at the local care centre**

People are not allowed to visit the residents of the local care centre. However, people draw messages on the square in front of the care centre, every resident received a bouquet of flowers, there was music in the square, they sang together, played bingo together and a fitness lesson took place. Blankets were dropped off and a whole supply of postcards that the residents could send their family. They also received postcards with lovely messages from the Childrens Day Care Centre. They are not forgotten!

**Houvols.nl**

A local website initiated by citizens of Vaals. It lists local restaurants that still deliver or hand out pick-up meals as well as local shops that are still open. People are called upon to still shop locally whilst keeping their distance to others.

**Other initiatives**

People offer their help, students offer their time to look after children, a piano teacher offers to give lessons through videochats.

Especially during this time we notice that people want to help each other.