

Minutes of East Budleigh Collaboration Virtual Meeting held on 13th January 2021 at 7.30pm

Attendees:- Maria Malinowska & John Neligan (All Saints Church), Chris Dearsley & Stuart Laws (Village Hall), Melanie Ferrers and Liz Dearsley (Community Shop), Derek Wensley, Mike Walters & Judith Venning (Parish Council) and Jola Kawalek and Sarah Cox (Drakes School PTFA)

Agenda item: To review experiences over Christmas, to report on what worked and to discuss continuing challenges.

All Saint's Church: Maria reported that over 40 pastoral calls were made, and letters sent out. Many people benefitted from the opportunity to chat and to phone back .

Four volunteers joined the initiative to deliver Christmas puddings and check on the well-being of those living alone or vulnerable.

Five sessions of Yoga, plus Badminton, Art and Drake's School Gymnastics took place every week. providing an opportunity for exercise and mental stimulation.

Attendances are considerably lower currently with the majority attending services online.

The Churchyard is being maintained according to the usual schedule (Open Space). Details of older graves are being logged.

Wednesday morning prayers are now linked to Zoom. The Christmas Carol service was livestreamed once the technology had been mastered and was a great success. Astonishingly the Christmas Carol Service had "111 hits on YouTube and 6 individuals phoning in to listen – an historic first! A limited number of people were able to attend the service. The collection raised £159.00 for "Families for Children". A Christmas tree was donated by Clinton Devon Estates. The Church is exempt from the current Lockdown, but still needs to adhere to safety measures to keep their Parishioners safe. Attendances are considerably lower currently.

Roof repairs of £15,000.00 will be done whilst juggling the work against the regulations for sanitising the Church interior during the pandemic.

The Friends of All Saints met twice to look at long term plans, including the Scarecrow Festival and a new "Valentine's Day Gift" delivery event.

The Parish Magazine continues to be used as an important way of informing people of local initiatives. John Nelligan said they will promote the scheme of Parish Giving Scheme. The current donations have been vital to keeping the Church open, but they need more.

East Budleigh with Bicton Parish

Mike Walters co-ordinated the Christmas pudding event. 32 puddings were delivered across all groups of volunteers and they took the opportunity to engage with the individuals in order to check on their well-being. Three elves visited the village and threw chocolate coins to waiting children (donations by Waitrose).

The clerk continues to place information about all forms of assistance on the Village Notice-board and on the website.

Mike Walters reported that they have access to funds for Covid-related projects but still hold £400.00. There was a discussion about the difficulties of identifying and helping others. Jola and Sarah highlighted the difficulty of using their "East Budleigh in Need" funds. Some people who need

help for the first time are often reluctant to ask for or accept help. Maria mentioned that they were able to discretely help people with Food Vouchers from time to time. She was willing to top up shortages identified by other groups.

Judith Venning reported that Village services were continuing as usual and the opportunity has been taken to refurbish the Public Toilets during this quiet time.

Community Shop

Mel said they now restrict the number of shoppers to just one at a time. This has enabled shoppers to feel more comfortable and helps to protect the mostly elderly Volunteers. It gives easier opportunities for the regular sanitising throughout the shop. The three core staff members try to ensure the safety and well-being of their Volunteers and shoppers. Liz said they chat to the Volunteers or make them a cup of coffee. For some, this is the only social contact that they have.

Stuart Laws has now taken over IT support from Judith Venning and has been welcomed onto the Management Committee.

Village Hall

Chris Dearsley said they had succeeded in keeping the Village Green open under the current lockdown. They had enabled some groups to meet before the latest Lockdown, in order to help the mental health of individuals. They continue to maintain the Village Hall with appropriate sanitising, so that it is ready for any future or urgent use.

Drake's School PTFA

Jola and Sarah said the School issued regular newsletters to parents. The children of keyworkers are attending school in Otterton and the Drake's School teachers teach there and online. This has been a huge challenge. Fortunately, nurseries in the area are still open for very young children.

Any Other Business

Mike Walters is planning a "Sandbag Day", whereby the Community groups might assist in the filling and delivery of sandbags to residents at risk of future flooding. He would rather be pro-active, in advance of any flood warnings. All groups offered to assist.

It was agreed that Judith Venning would draft an article about the **East Budleigh Collaboration** for the next issue of the Parish News and would circulate it to all members for comment before submission.

The next meeting will be held when it seems appropriate, in a few weeks, as we monitor developments during and after the Lockdown. Chris Dearsley will host it.

The meeting finished at 8.30 pm