

March 2021

# Kingsbury Good Neighbour Newsletter

## A Message from Kingsbury Good Neighbour

It has been a year since our group formed, and what a year it has been! As a local group of volunteers, our aim has always been to offer support and links to members of our community during the pandemic, in an endeavor to reduce social isolation and improve individual's mental health and well-being during this difficult time. During our first 12 months we have had a remarkable response from every member of our community, and the most amazing amount of support from our local business's, churches, schools, groups, Kingsbury Parish Council, Warwickshire Community Voluntary Action and North Warwickshire Borough Council. As a community take a look back at the first 12-months:

**March 2020**

S M T W T F S



Kingsbury Good Neighbour Group Formed

**April 2020**

S M T W T F S



First Kingsbury Good Neighbour Newsletter

**May 2020**


S M T W T F S



Spreading A Little Happiness

**June 2020**


S M T W T F S



Acknowledging National Volunteer's Week

**July 2020**

S M T W T F S



Donated New Chrome Books to Local Schools

**August 2020**

S M T W T F S



A Friendly Chat - Weekly Telephone Calls Continue

**September 2020**

S M T W T F S



Volunteers continue to collect and deliver food parcels, prescriptions, and medication

**October 2020**

S M T W T F S



Funding Applications Completed & Plan's Underway For Christmas Initiatives

**November 2020**

S M T W T F S



Community Christmas Tree Planted

**December 2020**

S M T W T F S



Donated Gifts Wrapped & Delivered

**January 2021**

S M T W T F S



Volunteers supporting At COVID-19 Testing Centres

**February 2021**

S M T W T F S



Mobility Aids Collected & Delivered To Coleshill Fire Station



We are excited to announce **WE ARE BACK IN APRIL**. Following the Government announcement, Your Community Centre will be available again from April 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 for juniors and fully open from May 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 (subject to any Government changes) for adult bookings, sport activities and events.

We are already contacting our customers, who are re-booking their clubs and groups. We are also continuing to make improvements to our facilities. We have upgraded lighting in several areas, and will soon have a fully working kitchen available again. We have strict Covid measures in place to protect all. If you require any information about the facilities we offer, or want to know about our availability, join any of the various activities being organised, or want to set-up your own group activity, please get in touch: Email: [enquiries@kcy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@kcy.org.uk), Phone: 07973 444975, Web site: <https://www.kcy.org.uk/> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ourkcy>

## An Update From Cllr Andy Jenns



Some jobs being funded through the local small works budget in Kingsbury have been delayed by the pandemic and I've recently been meeting (virtually), with County Council officers to get them back on track. Here is brief update on some of them:

**MILL ISLAND:** £15,000 has been budgeted for safety measures and new road markings to reduce the risk of vehicles leaving the road when entering the village from the island. Currently waiting for scree testing but it is hoped the work will be undertaken this summer.

**BROMAGE FOOTPATH:** Full resurfacing is needed, as well as work to deal with flooding. Previous suggestions for a solution couldn't be taken forward as drainage on to the school grounds would have been necessary. Alternative drainage plans are now being drawn up.

**PARKING:** Issues by Water Park visitors are on-going. Police are now more active in ticketing illegal parking and some residents have been reporting incidents using Operation Snap. There is now an agreement that such reports will be immediately directed to officers for action. An application has been submitted to the government for Civil Parking Enforcement in North Warwickshire. The legal process will take several months, but once in place the County Council can look at the additional parking restrictions.

**ELM TREE CLOSE TO TRINITY ROAD FOOTPATH:** Vegetation clearance has been carried out, but occasional flooding problems continue. Patching work to remove dips in the path surface will be carried out in due course.

**TREES:** There is outstanding tree maintenance work across Warwickshire. I have met the Forestry Team and am hopeful that much of the outstanding work in Kingsbury will be prioritised when carried out at the same time as a job in Hemlingford Road, for which it has now been possible to allocate local small works money.

**LOCAL ELECTIONS:** This year's local elections will go ahead as scheduled on 6th May. Kingsbury residents will be able to vote to elect both a County Councillor and the Warwickshire Police & Crime Commissioner. There will be precautions in place to make polling stations Covid safe. Voters will be asked to take their own pens/pencils, and staff will wear masks and sit behind screens. Hand sanitiser will be provided with separate entrances and exits. Some polling stations will move to different buildings to accommodate safety measures, but Kingsbury are not affected. Despite the measures, if anyone is reluctant to visit the polling station they can apply for a postal vote. To request a postal vote contact the Borough Council: 01827 715341 or email [postalvoting@vnorthwarks.gov.uk](mailto:postalvoting@vnorthwarks.gov.uk)

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS:** The County Council is leading on a project to install electric vehicle charging points across Warwickshire in areas where residents would otherwise struggle to access charging locations. National funding has been obtained so there is no cost to the Council. In Kingsbury, 8 charging points are being located at the Pear Tree Avenue car park, intended to future-proof the site ahead of the 2030 ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars. For now there will be no restrictions on non-electric vehicles parking in the spaces.

### Pear Tree Surgery – Covid-19 Vaccination

Here at Pear Tree surgery we are making excellent progress vaccinating patients in JCVI priority groups. Vaccination clinics are taking place at Polesworth Health Centre (accessed from Bridge Street car park, Polesworth) most weekends and the occasional week day. We are now asking all registered patients aged over 60 years of age who have not received their first dose to contact the surgery to make an appointment. Over the coming weeks second dose clinics for those who were vaccinated in December and January will take place. Practice staff will be contacting patients to book their second dose appointments when we get confirmation of vaccine delivery. Bookings for these clinics can also be made by emailing the surgery at [peartree.reception@nhs.net](mailto:peartree.reception@nhs.net)

**Online Services:** In efforts to reduce telephone calls and footfall in surgery we are inviting patients with access to email and the internet to register for online service. Whilst our online appointment booking system is suspended because of Covid-19 restrictions, repeat prescriptions can be ordered via the service. This service can be accessed either by the NHS app or by visiting the surgery with two forms of identification (one photographic). You will then receive an emailing detailing how to access the service and offering a choice of online platforms to use.



## CEV Funding

With financial support from North Warwickshire Borough Council, and the wonderful and very generous donations from local members of our community, we were able to support our community during Christmas. The feedback and response to these initiatives was amazing - **WELL DONE EVERYONE AND THANK YOU**



*"Thank you for my dinner there was so much and it was lovely and very kind, thank you"*

*"Thank you so much, I'm lost for words, I can't believe what you have all done for us, this has made our Christmas, thank you. Hope you all have an amazing Christmas"*

## Kingsbury and Cliff Residents' Group

Unfortunately, just like many other volunteers and community groups the Kingsbury and Cliff Residents' Group were unable to continue with their usual activities during 2020. Whilst we hoped we may be able to hold our May Day Fun Day during 2021, this is also looking unlikely; however, we hope that conditions will improve and restrictions will be lifted later in the year when some events will be more likely.

Whilst it has not been possible to carry out events involving you all, during autumn 2019 and again in 2020, our group has continued to plant bulbs and shrubs around the village. The group also purchased the commemorative bin, on the corner of Trinity Road, to accompany the new bench – we hope you like it. During April 2020 we were also able to purchase material and worked with ladies from the WI and the Kingsbury Krafters, to contribute to making scrubs bags for nurses. In a bid to help in other

areas of the village, we have made donations to support maintenance of the church yard and, also made donations to the schools to help them purchase necessary equipment in these difficult times. We do hope that you will come and join in our activities in the future, in order to further improve the area in which we live.

## Competition Time

We all need a little something to look forward to, to be in with a chance to win this fabulous prize answer the question....



## Kingsbury Primary School Get Involved in The Warwickshire County Council Show You Care Campaign

We decided to create something for our fence that could show we care, so KS2 children have been attaching red bits of plastics to a giant heart which we are going to fix outside our school gate.



We have also been reflecting on our thoughts about the pandemic, and children have been creating poems to share with Tamworth Word Up Project. We are all about the children's mental health and that of their families, as well as our staff.

In school we follow the NHS five areas of wellbeing, but have them under the acronym SMILE (Socialise, Move, Interest (mindfulness), Learn and Engage), and do lots of different things

to encourage everyone to ensure all five aspects are well developed.



One of the fun things children have been doing is creating sock puppets, here are a couple of examples...



## USEFUL CONTACT'S

Pear Tree Surgery: 01827 872 755

Lloyds Pharmacy: 01827 874 927

Family Support Helpline: 01926 412 412

Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme:  
0800 408 1448 / 01926 414 124

Warwickshire's Dedicated Hotline 0800  
408 1447

Samaritans: 116 123

Mind: 0300 123 3393 or text 6463

Mental Health Matters: 0800 616 171

## Volunteering to Vaccinate!

In December, I read about the appeal by St John Ambulance for Volunteer Vaccinators and decided to respond. I had the spare time and I wanted to help the COVID-19 vaccination programme in any way I could. I also have medical experience, as an army paramedic some years ago, so felt confident about undertaking this role.

After my interview, I was allocated a space on the training programme; a number of online e-learning modules, designed and assessed both by St John Ambulance and by the NHS, followed by a full day of face-to-face training, where we practised the procedures for injecting (using plastic 'arms'!) and all the other processes required before and after administering the vaccines.

St John Ambulance support a number of the large vaccination hubs around the country. As well as administering the vaccine, we undertake other important roles such as Vaccination Carer, It's not all about just sticking needles into people! Although it's quite hard work at times, it's very rewarding and satisfying. And great to know that I'm playing a part in this marathon programme to help us all get back to 'normal' again.

*Steve Edwards, Kingsbury*



### A POEM FOR MY GRANDSON.

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, will be remembered as  
lock down day,  
We all watched the news in silence – not  
sure what to do or say,  
But the same day a little baby decided  
he'd like to be born,  
Seven weeks early, not a good time,  
when he could have stayed safe and  
warm.

We all held our breath as we waited for  
news, the minutes then hours crept by,  
Trying to smile, to not fear the worst, to  
explain to his sister – why?  
And then the best news ever, he was  
here, he was tiny, so small,  
But no reason at all that he wouldn't be  
fine – that was the best news of all!

No visitors allowed in to see him, the  
hospital locked down too,  
Couldn't even hug Mummy and Daddy,  
which is all we wanted to do,  
Phone calls, messages, virtual love, a  
family doing it's best,  
While oblivious our new little baby,  
snuggled on Mummy's chest.

Incubators, monitors, tubes and tests –  
but everything looking okay,  
All going well, almost daring to plan as  
we ticked off another day,  
26<sup>th</sup> March – Mummy discharged, but  
baby was staying there,  
Trying hard to be strong, knowing full  
well he was getting the very best care.

Left the hospital doors at 8pm full of  
emotion and fear,  
But the clapping and cheering for the  
NHS brought a smile amongst the tears.  
Days passed, restrictions were raised,  
now only one person allowed,  
Mummy then Daddy, sharing his care  
making us all so proud.

The virtual love, the virtual hugs, the  
calls texts and news each day,  
Would it be days, a week or a month? –  
no-one could really say,

## Competition Winners

Congratulations to our December winners, Sue Smith and Steve Edwards, here are their Poem entries:

But April 2<sup>nd</sup> came the call we all  
craved – so many happy tears down  
the phone,  
The doctor had checked him and  
signed his discharge – GEORGE WAS  
COMING HOME!!

**Written by Sue Smith**

### We Three Kings(bury)

It's Christmas time in Kingsbury,  
It's been a nasty year.  
But take a look at what we've got,  
To bring on Christmas cheer...

Now, if we want to take a walk,  
When light - or even dark.  
We've got a place where we can go -  
Our lovely Water Park.

And if we need to get some bits,  
We've got a super shop.  
With everything we'll ever need,  
We love our dear Co-op!

We have our churches, pubs and  
schools,  
And Pear Tree Surgery.  
With lots of very handy shops,  
Lined up on Jubilee.

We really do have such a lot.  
And now we know that soon,  
We'll get our jabs and from then on,  
We'll know we'll be immune.

**Written by Steve Edwards**

## Community Equipment



A huge thank you to everyone who dropped off their medical equipment in aid of supporting Warwickshire County Council. A special thank you to Kingsbury Methodist Church, who let us use the Welcome Hall, and to our volunteers, all equipment was taken to Coleshill Fire Station so that it can be reused.