

West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership

Group Updates 13th January 2021

St. Mary's Church: Church can remain open for services despite the new restrictions so we will continue to do so on a Sunday morning.

Our attempt at some 'virtual' fundraising before Christmas worked really well, raising us £1,300 through a raffle and sales of cakes, handmade items and festive treat boxes. We are very grateful to our community for their support and no doubt will be looking at doing something similar in the Spring!

WRFC: All sport cancelled until further notice so nothing to report.

**Dementia Steering Group:
1st Rainton Gate Brownies:**

I am so very proud of our Brownies, they have been caring and supportive of one another and have really come together during difficult times.

We continue to enjoy Virtual Brownies, and recently we had a great time watching a Pantomime together over Zoom, thanks to funding from our Parish Council.

Brownies really wanted to help local families in need, so in November we teamed up with the Storehouse Pharmacy, who agreed to be a collection point for donations of food and essential items, to be distributed to families in the village and Durham Foodbank, we were overwhelmed by the support of our wonderful community and were able to help many families this Christmas.



Year 3 Impact January — December 2020

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR 19-20

Early 2020 the Coronavirus Pandemic hit the UK and forced us all into a period of unprecedented disruption. It resulted in us having to stop all face to face activities for the whole year. But it didn't stop us supporting our community.

THIS YEAR WE HAVE ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING:

- Supported distribution of over 3000 FREE meals for older adults in the community including those living with dementia
- Provided regular communication and doorstep/phone check ins
- Distributed flower pots to doorsteps and flowers to care home to replicate what would have been a Doors Open, Kettles On Activity
- Handed out tapas from around the world taster boxes
- Children created bright posters for older adults' windows
- Entered a Care Worker Coronavirus Hero into the Village Show
- 170 Elf Cards and 40 Knitted Elves raised £300 for the Alzheimer's Society
- Gifted 3 Precious Petz to the Care Home Residents missing pet visits
- Funded 10 Christmas Day Dinner's for those alone on Christmas Day



Thank you Emily for your multiple trips to pick up our donations.

Our Virtual Christmas Market on Facebook, was very well supported too, it helped our local crafters and small businesses, Buyers enjoyed buying the many fabulous items on offer, while staying safe at home, plus we collected donations to continue to run Brownies. In fact the Sellers enjoyed it so much we've been asked if we'll run a Virtual Easter Fair next, so please keep an eye out.

We wish everyone well, and hope 2021 brings better times for us all.
Sally (Brown Owl)

Durham Area Youth:

Over the

past few months DAY has carried on supporting young people via Zoom, these sessions consist of activities, games, cooking and discussions. During this lockdown we will be carrying on with these sessions. The games sessions are for all ages and run on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 5pm-7pm. Cooking sessions are Tuesday and Thursdays, all ingredients for cooking sessions are delivered to the young people wanting to participate and will feed their household a wholesome meal that day.

On the build up to the Christmas break, the staff worked tirelessly to put together Christmas activity packs for 400 young people, one of our youth workers dressed up as Santa to deliver these packs, which spread a little cheer to our young people and their families.

We obtained Christmas Hamper boxes from Feeding Families and along with food donations from the Brownies and also our service users we supported 13 families in West Rainton alone, this support has continued into this new year and staff are still giving food hampers to families in need.

We will be launching our virtual boxing project within the next few weeks, the equipment needed to participate will be loaned to young people and we have Tommy Ward supporting these sessions.

Staff are still carrying out detached youth work which is allowed under the National Youth Agency guidelines, this is done in a COVID safe way and is to support young people who have been identified by staff as needing a little extra support and a listening ear.

We are working closely with our Youth Forum members to obtain the views of the young people around different ideas of what they would like to do going forward during lockdown and how we can support them further.

Jubilee Hall

Karate were able to use the Hall during December for children's classes but that has now had to stop due to the new lockdown rules.

The Hall will remain closed until the end of the current lockdown.

One boiler is on to create a little background heat, and I visit regularly to check all is well, collect the post, run the taps etc.

Volunteers Ellen and James still collect donated food from Lidl and distribute it around the village, mainly to those who used to attend Chit Chat and Wednesday lunch.

I applied for Tier 3 (Open) COVID19 -Local Restrictions Support Grant from DCC and Have received payments of £467, and £238-21. I believe these payments will continue.

I have also applied to the Parish Council for support, and our DCC Councillors have promised £2200.

These payments enable me to meet the running costs of the Hall e.g. energy and insurance and the majority of the debt repayments.

Feedback from verbal discussions at meeting

Free meals from Julies deli to isolated residents continues as more grant funding obtained. The service offer is being promoted in the pharmacy to help identify others who may benefit from the service.

Local businesses who offered delivery service in the March lockdown to be approached again.

School – under immense pressure – many more children in school than first lockdown
Each pupil not in school has access to learning device. Donations from residents greatly appreciated as is the support from volunteers who have helped deliver them. School will provide own lunch boxes until voucher scheme in place.

Congratulations given to HT who in the midst of the stress and pressures of the last 10 months was successful in being awarded “ Centre of Excellence Status” from IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark)

Big Lunch / Village Show - planning on hold due to current restrictions. Potential to organise just a simple picnic get together in the churchyard as and when allowed which could be organised a very short notice without a great deal of planning

Miners Banner - complete and now delivered. Next stage wooden frame and carrying poles but it is to be kept under wraps until such time it can be launched as part of a community celebration event with brass band and parade through the village etc.

Deadline for next edition of village news - next edition will be electronic only – deadline 27 January 5 pm