



Report to:	Community Engagement Committee
Tabled on:	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020
Agenda reference:	CE20/004 Update – Community Engagement Programme
Report by:	Liz Carroll-Wheat, Community Projects Officer

**Overview:**

This report outlines our project delivery from January - March. It includes information on special events and an update of ongoing activities and networking/planning with partner organisations.

**East Hunsbury Life Project Updates:**

**1.1 Schools Link Projects (includes School of Life Intergenerational Project)**

We are now successfully linking in to all three local schools and developing new projects. This is part of our focus on developing partnerships with young people in the parish. We are also starting to include other partners in this work, such as East Hunsbury WI and the Abbey Centre.

**East Hunsbury Primary School:**

- **School of Life:** - Their Parliament are our School of Life partner up to Easter, for three sessions of skill-swapping at the Library. For the first time, we have pupils from a school special unit being involved. A number of the SU pupils are non-verbal and communicate via iPad. Our seniors were excellent at interacting with the pupils. The school reported very positively, regarding the planning and delivery of the school of life sessions and the positive impact of bringing the children to attend outside sessions. The sessions are also attracting new senior volunteers from the community.
- **Gardening Club** – lead teacher has contacted us to invite senior community members to be involved in an RHS scheme around planting. Meeting to follow. This group will also be involved with East Hunsbury Wildflower Planting Scheme.
- **Litter Picks** – the school are coordinating their own litter picks, using equipment purchased by EHPC.
- **Summer Fete** – the school will come to help run the Village Games (collecting monies for school funds)

**Wootton Park School:**

We have been attending meetings with our community volunteers and the schools Community Projects and Eco Teams. The pupils have come back to us with a list of activities which they would like to be involved with: **Skill-swaps** – the groups want to learn how to bake, knit and sew. We have approached EH W.I. to ask them to partner the school for these sessions. We are looking to potentially use Abbey Centre as a venue. Planning meetings continuing. In return for these sessions, the pupils will **programme I.T. sessions** for seniors and W.I. members. They will design and run 2-hour workshops around how to use a computer etc.

- **Seniors Sessions** – The pupils want to attend some sessions, with the idea of playing bingo and board games. Planning meetings continuing.
- **The Eco Group** are using our litter picking kit for their own sessions and looking to help with the crisp packet recycling scheme.



### **Simon de Senlis Primary School:**

Simon de Senlis team have approached us, to ask us to coordinate volunteers for their Special Unit. This follows on from their involvement in School of Life project. They want to encourage more links with the wider community. Our first series of skill swaps in the school have been planned.

- **Baking Crew** - Following meetings with their SU pupils, we have engaged a team of 7 baking volunteers, led by our volunteer Sandra Pell. Two sessions have been arranged so far in March and April. All activities to take place in the school itself – managed by the school team.
- **School of life** – Simon de Senlis become our partner for Library School of Life sessions at the Library, for the Easter to Summer term.
- **Village Fete** – sadly the school fete once again clashes with our event, but timings are such that people can attend both activities. The school has outlined that it will try not to clash in future.

In addition to the projects outlined above, all three schools will be approached to take part in our Remembrance Project this year.

We are also looking at how this positive relationship with the school parliaments and community action groups, can link into future Parish Council activities and initiatives.

## **1.2 Crafty Sessions**

We continue to develop our public activity sessions, both in our activity room and main Library. The Library are keen to support this initiative where they can, viewing it as positive for engaging new people to the library space.

**Crafty Sessions** – these sessions are run by volunteers, mainly Pauline Boler and Linda Ferrier, whom we have recruited over the past year. Sessions are run in our activity room, or in the main Library, depending on numbers of participants. We fund materials for the sessions, particularly where the group creates a public display. We now regularly use the Library foyer for these displays. The participants are adults for these sessions.

Other groups who are linked into this programme currently include **East Hunsbury Rocks Group**, who host a monthly meeting. This has grown since November so that we now occupy both the activity room and main Library. Parents and children work in the main library area, with a quiet space for mindfulness crafting session in our activity space. We have provided an artist to work with this group on a special project during the Easter Holidays, to help to develop the groups work. Two days of activities are already fully booked. The participants are both adults and family groups.

**W.I. projects** – Our relationship with our local W.I. continues to flourish. In January and February, we jointly ran workshops, at their meetings and in our activity space, to create green hearts, for the national W.I. Show the Love campaign. This raises awareness around ecological projects. Wootton Park School also contributed to the scheme by making hearts. We are already in talks with Hunsbury Library & W.I. teams, to expand the project in 2021.



### 1.3 Joint Initiatives – Key Partners

- **East Hunsbury WI**- our joint initiatives continue to develop with planning meetings including:  
**Village Fete** – Pop Up Café and Bake-Off competition (to include youth competition)  
**Show the Love – Eco project** – outdoor activities for 2021 (potential yarn bombing green hearts and project in schools)  
**Joint Crafty Sessions** – utilising Library foyer display space  
**Skill-Swaps** – develop more sessions with schools for baking  
**East Hunsbury Remembers** – increased involvement in 2021 event and workshops – crosses with local organisations  
**Festive Fair 2021**
- **Abbey Centre** – continuing support from us including:  
Attendance & presentations at their **Network Lunches**  
Support for their Friday **Well Being Sessions** (see leaflet) – we are aiding with promotion of this scheme, including presentations to our Seniors Club  
**Regular meetings with Abbey Centre team** - around joint initiatives and anti-clash diary  
**Promotion of all their activities** via our Whats On info and our Social Media FB page
- **Hunsbury Library** – we continue to develop our successful partnership with our Library colleagues. We are working more closely in terms of joint events and involvement of their volunteers/Friends Group and our volunteers:  
**The Big Sing** - we hold monthly singing event, programme jointly between our team and the Library. Over 40 people regularly attending the sessions – adults of all different ages. The session is led by a musician, we print song sheets. We also run a Pop-Up Café for the event, which is staffed by Library Volunteers. A highly successful new activity. See poster.  
**The Library Quiz** – this is a new project, which the Library have instigated. These are evening events, which they are trialling, following on from the success of our Christmas evening workshops. First Quiz is sold out – 44 participants. It is being held on Thu 5<sup>th</sup> March 8pm -10pm. Participants invited to bring a bottle – nibble provided. See poster.  
Following this event, we meet with the Library Team to discuss other ideas for evening events. Ideas include film events, murder mystery evenings, cheese and wine event. N.B. all need to be evaluated and much depends on the capacity to deliver, within current staffing levels. The idea, however, is to broaden use of the venue and attract different clientele.  
**Jewellery Making with The Curator Educator** – we are working with the Library and a professional artist, to trial a workshop on jewellery making. This is with a view to attracting a different client base – people who want evening-based events. Session to be booked for May. Participants will pay to take part.  
**Christmas Wreath Workshop** – booked for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December (may increase to two sessions if it books up quickly).  
**Fun Palaces Training** - #FunPalaces weekend returns 3 & 4 October 2020. Sharing skills, connecting communities.  
The Library Service have asked Liz Carroll-Wheat to attend a training/network event as part of their wider team, to look at East Hunsbury developing a Fun Palace weekend.



#### 1.4 Social Prescribing – update

Our local Social Prescribing Officer is now in post, based at Danes Camp Surgery. The posts are being funded and coordinated by NCC and the local Health and Care Partnership.

Cass Pollock has had several meetings with us and attended several of our activities. Under social prescribing, the initiative aims to link community members with local activities or groups, which may be useful to their overall well-being.

The scheme, run from doctors surgeries, is an effective way of connecting with people who may not usually become involved in community life. This initiative is operating across Northamptonshire as part of its ground-breaking well-being programme.

Cass would be happy to update the Community Engagement Committee about her role if required.

#### 1.5 Seniors Group – Coffee Mornings, Get Active Sessions and Trips

Our seniors group continues to grow, attracting new members on a monthly basis. Up to 80 people attending the fortnightly coffee mornings, and many seniors engaging with Get Active activities, School of Life sessions and Crafty Sessions.

**Coffee Mornings** – Greens is our main venue for coffee mornings. Sessions in this quarter have included the ever-popular music quiz, Talk on Dads Army from Steve Dimmer.

**Community Information Session** – a new development for the coffee mornings, is the introduction of community info sessions. Our first one featured ourselves, with Cllr Claire White & Parish Clerk Caroline Holgate. They were joined by Rev David Warrington from Abbey Centre, and Ben Gray & volunteers from Hunsbury Library. The aim of this session, to inform seniors about activities and opportunities to become involved in more schemes. The session proved very successful and will be rolled out every 3-4 months.

If committee are interested, they could look at a similar event for the general public, hosted at Hunsbury Library.

**Planning sessions and Seniors Reps Role** – Planning for the rest of the year is well in hand, with speakers and trips being booked up to Christmas.

The Seniors Reps continue to play an important role in hosting the Coffee mornings, including providing lifts to venues for people without transport.

**Reaching Capacity** – with the capacity for Greens being 100 people, we are getting to a point where we may need to look at how we manage larger numbers of seniors in the future. We will keep the committee updated with how this develops. The Engagement Committee may like to start to consider how this may be managed in the future.

**Get Active Sessions** – The bi-weekly Get Active Sessions continue at Danes Camp. Up to 25 people attend the sessions on alternate Tuesday mornings. These have recently expanded to including Tai Chi Taster Sessions, where 15 seniors are trialling the scheme, to see if they would like to have this on a more regular basis. The Get Active Sessions are proving to be very popular with many of the seniors group.



## 1.6 Litter Picks – The Great British Spring Clean



This year we have signed up groups across the parish, for the Great British Spring Clean. Dates as follows:

- **Fri 20<sup>th</sup> March – Youth Clubs** – Litter Pick – Blacky More CC and Open Space
- **Sat 4<sup>th</sup> April – Community Pick** – Meet at Hunsbury Library - led by volunteer Rich Mallinson  
11am – 12noon

Needs Councillor support on this day as Liz Carroll-Wheat is unavailable. Pop Up Café needed for refreshments at the Library after the event – to try to recruit more litter volunteers.

[ACTION POINT: Which Councillors can support this Saturday event?](#)

- **Wed 15<sup>th</sup> April – Community Pick** – Meeting point tbc – led by Liz Carroll-Wheat and volunteer Ollie Lyons 11am – 12noon.

Refreshments at Danes Camp afterwards.

- **School Litter Pick Sessions** – we have asked Wootton Park and East Hunsbury Primary, to organise picks during this time. These will be closed sessions – not open to the public, but link into our community litter project.
- **Veolia – Recycling Talk to Seniors** – to link this activity across all our groups, we have invited Veolia to run a Recycling Info Session with our Seniors (at Coffee Morning), to look at what and how we can recycle.

## 1.7 Get Active – Walking Group development

Last month, as part of our Get Active sessions, we trialled a community walk – joining in with the Health Walk at Hunsbury Hill. Working with Trilogy Walking Coach Will Heckford, we took a group of our seniors on a walk. The session proved very popular.

We have a local volunteer who is potentially interested in setting up a walking scheme in East Hunsbury. Liz Carroll-wheat is arranging meetings to this end. The first stage is to map potential walks, then to liaise with Northampton Leisure Trust, to look at how to have a walk adopted into their scheme.

Going forward this may help to create greater use of our outdoor spaces, and link into the aim to create Get Active schemes for the wider community.



### 1.8 Volunteers Week – Thank you Event - June

We have a growing army of volunteers, who are really driving our projects forward. Many of them are devoting a lot of their time to assist and lead on researching and planning activities, delivering sessions and attending training programmes.

As with all volunteers, they need to be recognised and celebrated.

We are proposing to host a celebration/thank you evening at Hunsbury Library in June. The Library are willing to make the venue available to us and to jointly host and fund the activity, which could also include their volunteers. With so many activities being jointly planned and presented, it seems to make sense to run the evening as a collaboration.

If the Engagement Committee agrees to the event, we will book the event to take place during Volunteers Week in June.

### 1.9 Media Coverage and Promotion

During the first part of the year, we have featured in a number of positive media stories.

**BBC Radio Northampton – Breakfast Show – Outside Broadcast** – on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan, we coordinated guests and interview opportunities for our local BBC breakfast show. This included interviews featuring Cllr Claire White, our WI, Wootton Park School pupils and both Liz Carroll-Wheat and Caroline Holgate.

The broadcast was organised to coincide with the launch of the 2020 ACRE Village Awards – obviously focussing on us as 2019 winners. ACRE were incredibly happy with the morning, which featured interviews throughout the morning, from locations including Hunsbury Library and Wootton Park School.

The broadcast ran again during weekend programming.

Since the broadcast, BBC Radio have been back in touch to ask to attend one of our Big Sing Sessions with another outside broadcast.

The event was reported very positively in **Wootton Park Schools newsletter** – where the Head Teacher talks very positively about the schools partnership with our Parish Council and local initiatives (see attachment).

**The Happy Hood** – following on from our BBC coverage, we were approached by the team behind The Happy Hood. This is a locally based magazine, which looks to promote good news stories about community projects. We will feature in the next edition of the magazine.

**Facebook Profile** – our Facebook profile continues to grow, with an excellent rate of interaction and sharing of posts and information. If Councillors wish to look at the Facebook feed, but do not engage on social media, we would be happy to arrange to show experts at future meetings.