

## A note from Maggie

Hello everyone,

As I write, the winter sky is already darkening and it's not even 4 o'clock yet. I was just looking through our photos and write-ups from this time last year – a very different time indeed!

Even though we cannot get together yet, we have still managed to do as much as possible to help keep the community spirit going, and that's what East Hunsbury is really good at.

Following on from the success of the Virtual Bake Off and the Virtual Fun Dog Show, Liz and the gang organised the production of a mountain of beautiful poppies, made by so many members of our great community, and the result was the most stunning outdoor display, including our 'Tommies', as well as a lovely showcase display in the library foyer.

We laid poppy wreaths on the commemorative bench in Grangewood Park, on behalf of the East Hunsbury community, the Parish Council, and the East Hunsbury Women's Institute, and posted a little video on our Facebook page because this year we couldn't invite people to join us.

We have created a community seating area in Grangewood Park, with 3 new benches set in a group, so local folk can sit and chat, or just relax and enjoy the park and the fresh air – and we have planted a walnut tree close by, so we can all watch it grow!

Last year's Christmas tree was so popular with everyone, we now have this year's tree in place, and already quite a few people have hung a bauble on it, making it more of a community tree, and we had a special visit from Santa, who switched the lights on for us. I do hope you can see it at some point – it looks so pretty when the lights are twinkling against the evening sky.

There are many things I personally miss just now, especially getting together with friends, and the one get-together I miss the most is our Seniors Club coffee mornings. From our humble beginnings in the pub (!) the Club has gone from strength to strength and it has always been such a pleasure and a privilege to be part of it. It will make me very happy when we are able to meet up again – cross fingers, that's not too far away.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and cosy Christmas, and better things for us all in the new year, from all the team, including Liz, Caroline, and your seniors reps.

With my warmest wishes,

Maggie Allen – Chair Community Engagement