

KIRKY NEWS

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PANDEMIC? WHAT PANDEMIC?

For the benefit of readers in the distant future, we record that since at least March 2020, much of the world has been in varying degrees of "lockdown" because of a new infectious disease known as COVID-19. Most shops have been shut, most activities cancelled, most people required to stay in their homes most of the time. From early June, the first small relaxation of lockdown started in UK, Scotland and Kirkliston.

All readers in June 2020 will have their own experiences of COVID-19 - some hurtful and upsetting, others uplifting and heartwarming. In this issue we would like to emphasise the good things that have been happening in our village.

Many villagers have gone above and beyond to help us through this traumatic time. They have stepped up to the plate and rendered services to housebound and those who needed a helping hand to shop, deliver and phone to keep everyone in touch so that they do not feel as if they have been forgotten about. Their efforts have been a positive outcome for these times.

Kirky News has only learnt about some of these. But as this issue will be online only, we can happily add more examples if you tell us about them (our contact details are in the header).

Thank you to all, whether publicised or not, who have helped us in these times.

GALA IN YOUR GARDEN

The Kirkliston Children's Gala, normally held in June, cannot be held as normal because of COVID-19. Undeterred, the Gala Committee is inviting Kirkliston community to celebrate a special 'lockdown' Gala Day by bringing the Gala to your Garden on **Saturday 13 June**.

They want the whole community to get involved. There are free virtual events lined up for everyone including a scavenger hunt, Family Bootcamp and a Gala Night Quiz as well as some P1 and P7 specific events. Details are on their website: www.kirklistongala.co.uk/events.

They would also love to see people still put their bunting out, decorate their gardens or windows and share their photos with them.

Keep an eye on their Facebook page www.facebook.com/kirklistongala/ as they will share ideas and post gala challenges to help you bring traditional Gala fun to your Garden.

LOCAL HELP VIA FACEBOOK

Early in the UK lockdown, Megs Braithwaite set up a Facebook group to identify and help people in the community, at street level. She ensured that at least one person in each street was able to coordinate helpers and those needing help in that street.

www.facebook.com/groups/211918693222004

GATESIDE FOOD BANK

Paul Vaughan started a local food bank, based in the hub in Gateside, for Kirkliston, Ratho, Ratho Station, Newbridge and South Queensferry. The small team there, fully equipped to avoid spread of infection, have filled hundreds of bags with scones, hot meals, pasta meals, soups etc for people in need. Their helpers around the village have made and distributed all this. Local organisations and individuals have contributed well over £2000 to allow the team to buy food and supplies for those who need help.

POST OFFICE UNDER PRESSURE

A special mention should be made to our Kirkliston Post Office and shop. At lockdown they only had Raz and Jane manning it 7 days a week. Their day starts at 5.30 am when papers are delivered. Raz has made a stalwart effort to stock many of those items we all wanted - toilet rolls, flour and anti-bacterial wipes.

Les, who is blind and unable to leave his house as he cannot manage social distancing, really missed his regular treat of a doughnut from Raz's shop. One day Raz actually brought one to his house - going above and beyond the call of duty!

ANXIOUS?

Susan Watson, Kirkliston based coach and therapist, is a finalist for an award for inspiration in the "Holistic Scotland" magazine's wellness awards. Specialising in working with anxiety and emotions, Susan has launched two new books to help all aged with anxiety, available at www.amazon.co.uk/-/e/B088G1G4F8

SCOTMID

Scotmid are providing a Community Support Service with help from CHSS Kindness Volunteers to deliver groceries to the housebound. Those who are in a vulnerable group or shielding can place a weekly order by phoning the store between 9am and 12 noon, Monday to Friday, and making a card payment. The groceries will then be delivered by a local volunteer to the doorstep, free of charge. **0131 333 3208**

CHURCHES HELP

Both local churches have helped local people and other organisations. For their members they have moved to phone and online, even to Zoom for Communion. The Community Church is online at **www.kirklistoncc.com** for services and help.

ARTICLE REMOVED

The article originally here was removed after comments on Facebook. We assure readers that we meant no harm or disrespect to anyone, and apologise for any upset caused.

COPY DATE - FRIDAY 28 AUGUST

It is not clear when we can return to delivering paper copies of Kirky News, which we know are easier for many people than online. However, paper or online, please let us know what you think other people would be interested in reading, and send it to us by the date above.