

Dear Langton Green Village Society (LGVS) members,

This is the first of what we plan to be quarterly updates sent on behalf of the LGVS committee.

2020 has been an extraordinary year, with COVID19 dominating our lives and greatly impacting our plans for the village. We have been unable to run our main fundraising event (the fete) but we did manage to squeeze in our village quiz in March which raised almost £700. Sadly, we have not been able to hold other events such as the annual picnic on the green, Pat's monthly coffee mornings or help with lunches at the Pavilion Café. However, we are optimistic for the future and have many ideas and much motivation to get the village back together when we are able. In September we ran a quick poll on social media to capture the thoughts of some of the village (a summary of which was published in the October edition of Langton Life). The overwhelming majority confirmed 'what we love most about Langton' as the countryside, wildlife, open spaces and scenery and 'what we would like to see most focus on', as 'bringing the village together' and road safety.

Despite the government restrictions, we are delighted to have launched our GreenLeaf campaign! We have already planted 105 wild harvest trees and will be planting a further 300 saplings most notably on the recreation ground before Christmas (adhering to lockdown rules!) The next phase of the project will be launched hopefully in Spring, when we will give all households the opportunity to get involved in planting trees, shrubs and hedges and helping to further enhance our village. We are delighted to say the Friends of the Earth are collaborating with us to make this even more impactful.

We continue to formulate plans to address road safety on the A264 which bisects the village. Great efforts have been made over the years and we feel more needs to be done to slow fast moving traffic and create safe crossing points for our most vulnerable residents. To make a strong case for further investment we have been pushing to get more support for our 'Speedwatch' campaign – collecting data by recording vehicle speeds at key sites to produce the evidence required to strengthen the case for intervention. Thanks to your support we have more than doubled the volunteer list on the back of a call for help, thank you so much for all involved.

We continue to support local residents in their initiatives for the village and good causes and were thrilled to support villagers to produce personal protective equipment for the NHS in the Spring. We have continued with litter picks, the most recent in August. We have made a £6,000 donation to the village school to enable the purchase of a new multi-purpose classroom (this has been delayed but we hope to see it installed in 2021). We have just run a campaign to collect shoeboxes full of essentials and a few toys for deprived families in Eastern Europe at Christmas – and we are delighted to say we collected 30 boxes as a village community, which are now winging their way across Europe. Thank you so much to all of you who got involved with this.

We continue to plant hanging baskets and bulbs around the village and will be erecting the village Christmas tree (again adhering to lockdown rules). It is unfortunate that this year we will not be able to facilitate the annual blessing of the Christmas tree followed by carols and some mulled wine at The Hare.

Our final hurrah of the year is a bit of fun in the build up to Christmas – ‘Light Up Langton’ – encouraging all households to make our homes look as festive as possible, with prizes on offer (not just for the brightest but also for the most creative and for the use of sustainable materials). Prizes include a £100 voucher for The Hare and family afternoon tea at the Pavilion Café (kindly donated by Emma Howden).

There is no better time like this to bring our village even closer together. We may not be able to hold our usual big events, but we can look out for each other, be kind and not stand by waiting for things to happen, have a voice, make a difference – this is our Langton Green.

Stay Safe everyone!

Dave, James, Lynn, Helen, Jeremy, Josie, Lyn, Mark, Neil, Nicci, Pam, David, Nick

Your Langton Green Village Society committee

If you would like to get in touch about any of the information above or to update your contact details, please do make contact in the following ways:

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