

## Celebrating Covid-19 Neighbourhood Support in Teignbridge

To celebrate National Cream Tea Day 2020 Teignbridge CVS wanted to celebrate the neighbours who had come together to support smaller parishes in the District during the Covid-19 crisis.



**Below are just a few of the schemes telling their story.**



**Connect Exminster** In Exminster a small group of people coming together as 'Connect Exminster', have been voluntarily supporting the Community for a long time, wherever the need is.

"As soon as lockdown was announced and we all began to realise the effect it would have on vulnerable people, Connect Exminster approached the Council and also Westbank Community Centre to offer their support."

They have been in touch with residents who are shielding, shopped for people, socially distanced to provide some form of social contact for the lonely. They have also supported parents who are home schooling and have been desperate for some respite, dog walking etc.

**Starcross Volunteers** was very quick off the mark in March, recruiting many volunteers in Starcross, setting up a facebook page to ease communication, and organising volunteers to undertake a range of tasks. The primary focus has been on delivering prescriptions and shopping. Dog walking and pet food collection has also been done. The group has also evolved into a very effective mutual support system for young families, with exchange of games, books and toys (all scrupulously cleaned) and children's clothes; they thoroughly deserve a little treat.



## Broadhempston Volunteers



The shop, which relies on voluntary support, quickly responded to the pandemic by offering an order and delivery service to shielding and vulnerable residents. They ensured that this service was well promoted and easy to use and worked hard to ensure opening times weren't affected too badly and that any changes were well communicated. They quickly ensured social distancing was implemented and a screen was placed in store and quickly stocked up on hand gel and locally hand-made face masks.

They ensured their information was positive and responsive on Facebook to ensure everyone was up to date.

The delivery radius was widened to ensure surrounding parishes could benefit from the shops offering and they took on the role of information hub on social media for businesses and organisations offering support, takeaways, deliveries etc.



## Friends of Ide Lane Surgery Volunteers

Came together during Covid 19 to support local residents with food deliveries, telephone conversations and much more. They have supported shielded residents and will continue to do so.

## Hennock

The Covid-19 Community Support Plan was started at the beginning of lockdown: arrangements were made for those who were self-isolating to order and pay for food over the phone at Knighton Stores in Chudleigh Knighton for the period of the health crisis - this included Chudleigh Knighton, Hennock & Teign Village.

Volunteers came forward to deliver the groceries ordered from Knighton Stores and also to collect & deliver prescriptions (from Chudleigh and Bovey Tracey Pharmacies). The local shop is now making the deliveries but the volunteers are continuing to collect/deliver prescriptions.

The Parish Council initially had 20 volunteers but for various reasons, including volunteers returning to work, there is now a core of 15 volunteers who are still called upon to assist. The volunteers are individuals rather than a group but their combined efforts have been fantastic and very much appreciated by the most vulnerable residents in the Parish.



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**Thanks also go** to Shaldon Bakery who provided the Scones and Cream and Shute Fruit who provided strawberry jam, from strawberries grown in Bishopsteignton, at no charge.

