



**WELCOME** to our Spring Newsletter prepared for the Fleetville Community Centre. The Staff and Management hope you all had a Happy Easter.

Since our last edition a lot has happened. Nationally we went into a 2<sup>nd</sup> and Third Lockdown which affected our group user's activities. Whilst most of our regular groups stopped their services/activities the centre remained open and our Centre Manager Cathie Crowne has been working at the Centre keeping the Centre running as normal in a Covid 19 environment.



### **SPRING CHEER- Our Mental Wellbeing**

Whilst we are still are coming to terms with living through a pandemic, there is a glimmer of hope and spring cheer that Lockdown restrictions will be easing off, it gives such pleasure and joy to hear the twitter of birds in our gardens and on walks in the winter sun in the Albans Way to see the change of scenery with new buds and leaves emerging and tiny little flowers popping up between grasses. Here is little colour to uplift our spirits.

### **CORANVIRUS IN BANGLADESH**

Here in the UK, whilst we initially grappled with the sudden changes to our day to day lives and whilst we are still living in a complete lockdown to protect and save lives, people around the world particularly in countries where basic infrastructure and living standards remain the lowest in the world, they have had to adapt and cope in a Covid environment. Last March 2020 before countries went into Lockdown, I visited schools in tea gardens in Sylhet Bangladesh.



I support a charity called the Friends of Khasdobir (name of area), who have 14 schools and a sewing workshop, a Food Bank and IT classes for the poorest children and families in the local area of Sylhet. They are entirely dependent on donations raised in the UK by the dedicated trustees to manage the projects. Most of the fathers of the children are Rickshaw Pullers and Labourers so during Lockdown they have no income and no assistance from the state .The charity itself has had to adapt and find ways to fundraise throughout this pandemic. If you would like to find out more please go to <https://khasdobir.org.uk/>

### **THANK YOU AND ADIEU**



Mike Neighbour who chaired the New Build Project from its inception has stepped down from the Centre's Management Committee to move to new pastures. We are very sad to see him leave the Committee but we thank him for his massive contribution leading the New Build Project and we hope that he will pop in and see us in the future.

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN *SPRING SHORTBREAD*



For shortbread- 50g castor sugar,  
125g unsalted butter chopped  
fresh rosemary 175g self-raising  
flour

For decoration- 6 tbsp. icing  
sugar 1 lemon juice and zest and  
sprigs of fresh rosemary

Pre heat oven  
Combine in a bowl, the sugar and  
butter and beat to fluffy, add  
rosemary, pinch of salt and flour.  
Make dough and roll, cut into 12  
round circles. Press them into a  
muffin tin and bake 8-10 mins.  
Cool.

Mix icing sugar, lemon juice, and  
drizzle over shortbread, add  
lemon zest and sprigs of  
rosemary on icing. Leave to set  
for 20 mins and EAT !

### Contact Cathie Crowne



Cathie says: "I am here to  
help. If you would like to book  
the centre after lockdown,  
please contact me during  
office hours.

Tel: 01727 836843

Email: [info@fleetville.org.uk](mailto:info@fleetville.org.uk)

## UPDATE New Build Project- New Centre Emerging

In the last 5 years we have been extensively consulting with the local community to find out their vision of a new centre. All our group users and local residents have been asking for a centre that is more spacious, energy efficient and equipped to cater for a variety of service users. Our regular users are the Play Group, the Steiner Kindergarten and local community groups who have their own classes from Bollywood dance to prayer sessions.

We have been in consultation with the St Albans District Council and we are delighted that the Council's Cabinet approved and agreed to move on to the next stage of the project and to get involved in drawing up concept designs and costs.

Whilst this is at its early stage the Council will be consulting with the local community and the aim is to have a much-enhanced centre that can better meet the needs of local people and community activities.



Among the proposed features are a main hall, three or more meeting rooms, a children's suite, café, kitchen, toilets and an outdoor space.

Trevor Parsons, **Chair of the Fleetville Community Centre Trust**, said: **"We are delighted to partner the Council to replace the existing building which has done sterling service and is held in great affection by the community over nearly eighty years."**

More information can be found here: [www.fleetville.org.uk](http://www.fleetville.org.uk).

Also there is an Article on the Centre in the **Community News** Newsletter sent to residents in the District by St Albans Council.

## Living Through Coronavirus on Campfield Road

If you are familiar to Fleetville, Campfield Rd is behind Morrison's Supermarket. In the last year we have had several lovely neighbours move in with young children and you can imagine how hard it is to occupy children in the current environment. One of our neighbour's has started a Sunflower Growing competition and it's got all the youngsters with a little help from mums and dads planting sunflowers. I can't wait to see the sunflowers in a few months' time certainly uplifts everyone's spirit. Not only that my lovely neighbours are recycling household items between each other, and we even have Street Pizza Night, living in such restricted times, is something we will all talk about in years to come, and our children will be able to tell their stories of life through a coronavirus pandemic.

