



Cringleford Hub Report - 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

"Going deeper, living well and loving our community."

The Hub slowly began to emerge from the Covid-19 lockdowns with some online activities moving to in-person on-site gatherings, whilst some online activities came to an end. Overall, it has felt like a restart for the majority of our groups and events. Here's the highlights.

Hope Tree

This was a visual focus in the community, a place to reflect and participate in hope. After a difficult year it seemed right to get ready for hope as Easter is a time of new beginnings and the promise of new-life.

Therefore, before the Easter break, on the last week of term, we gave out wooden egg ornaments on the green opposite the school. People were encouraged to decorate these wooden eggs and reflect on these questions:

- What are you hopeful for coming out of lockdown?
- Who is it you're hoping to spend time with?
- How will you live out hope after Covid-19?



We asked people to write on the eggs their messages of hope, then hang them on the Hope Tree.



Hope Quotes

After Easter the Hope Tree continued to be a place of hope and reflection. In life there are lots of things we can't be sure about, but there is always hope. Hope is more than believing that good things will happen, it is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. So, we covered the Hope Tree in inspiring quotes about hope. Here's an example:

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." —Desmond Tutu.

I encouraged people to take a quote from the Hope Tree, which they found on Round House Park, Dragonfly Lane Green, opposite the school.

Bounce & Rhyme

Unfortunately, the toddler group didn't resume in-person Tuesday morning gatherings at the Willow Centre on the 13th April. After attending some training by Norfolk County Council's Children's Services, it became clear that it would be extremely problematic to run Bounce & Rhyme until further easing in post-lockdown legislation was in place. Therefore, Bounce & Rhyme Online continued on www.facebook.com/groups/toddlersincringleford



The last online session was the 13th July 2021 finishing a run of 65 sessions of bible stories, crafts and songs. Each week the crafts lined up my shelves and became part of telling the whole Bible big picture.

We finished the summer term with a session in the park and then started back on 21st Sept 2021 in the Willow Centre for 'Stay & Play' every Tuesday during term-time 9.00-11.00 am. Play, story and Songs for tiddlers and toddlers (must be accompanied by an adult). Help yourself tea & coffee available. Bring your own snacks for your kids. Recommended £2.50 donation



Easter Family Egg Decorating Competition

This saw local families getting creative making Easter egg scenes. Phil Whiting, the manager of Cringleford Tesco Express, ran the competition and provided the prizes. He said:

“Decorating eggs can be tricky and little ones will need help so we have decided to make this competition a family entry.”

There were some amazing entries and lots of fun had exploring the Easter themes of bunnies, chicks and eggs.

In Search of Easter

This followed on from something we ran at Christmas 2021. It was a treasure hunt situated on Dragonfly Lane Green, opposite the school, for children and families, using a series of videos to encourage conversation and help crack a code. Videos were accessed by scanning QR codes, as the groups explore the local area. It was a fun, interactive resource that engaged children in exploring, walking, and sharing their thoughts on the Easter story.

The trail also encouraged families to engage with their immediate surroundings looking for natural things that helped illustrate the Easter story.



Cringleford Thank You Picnic

The Hub celebrated 'Freedom Day' with our big 'Thank You Picnic' on Saturday the 24th of July. Sixty plus people gathered to celebrate and give thanks for all the ways Cringleford has survived the pandemic.



People brought their own picnics, although there was some generous sharing of homemade treats, as we enjoyed the summer sun. There were various oversized garden games played with and enjoyed: Giant Jenga, Snakes & Ladders, Connect Four, Tangrams, Puzzle Cube and an enormous football. There was also a graffiti wall where you could write up your thanks. However, the spaghetti and marshmallow tower building challenge went down (or should I say up) the best.

The highlight of the event was celebrating local heroes, we gave bunches of flowers to keyworkers and for participants to give out to neighbours who had done their all to support each other through the various lockdowns. A big thank you to Mel Spillman of Eaton Waitrose who provided the Hub with a voucher which allowed us to procure the blooms for the presentation.

Finally, there was a special presentation to Joanne Foulger, manager of Cringleford Store on Intwood Road. During the pandemic Jo went above-and-beyond the normal duties of a local shopkeeper by delivering food, running errands and checking up on people, so-much-so that she is going to be awarded a Medal of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Honours list for services to our community during Covid-19.



Cringleford Assembly

During the lockdown our monthly community gathering, which launched in January 2020, was moved onto Cringleford Hub's Youtube channel. What had intended to be a community gathering morphed into a thought for the week and ran for 33 sessions, which are still available to view online here: www.youtube.com/channel/UCSn8DRq6FtZ-K4IVRHxwG_g

From October 2021 we started back onsite and in person at Cringleford School Hall for refreshments, fun, play, music, songs, games, activities, thought-for-the-day. However, to try and catch more foot-fall we did it on the second Monday of the month straight after school.

The aim of Cringleford Assembly is to gather as a community to form deeper relationships: to explore the big questions in life and what it means to 'live well'; and to celebrate being pro-active neighbours.

Sadly, due to school hall bookings and a spike in Covid cases we had to cancel the December event and in March 2022 we moved it back to the third Sunday of the month at 9.30am.

Cringleford Halloween 2021

Over the Autumn half-term break the Hub promoted a Halloween Pumpkin Carving Competition, with prizes donated by Phil Whiting, the manager of Cringleford Tesco Express. In the end we had 40 entrants, with prizes for winners and runners-up for 0-7s, 8-11s, 12-17s and 18+.

Rev. Graham and Rev. Tim dressed as Halloween Street Angels: all treats and no tricks. They lit themselves up with lights to walk the streets being a 'light on a dark night'.



Kindness Klub Started back on Thursday lunchtimes at Cringleford School. With craft activities to explore kindness with the kids.

Cringleford Community Christmas Tree

The end of 2021 was a tricky time with the sudden rise in Omicron Covid-19 cases. So we moved our Christmas Star Workshop outside to Dragonfly Lane Green. The residents and kids of Round House Park brightened up the crooked fir tree some crafted festive sparkle. The wooden star decorations were decorated and individualised with messages of peace, hope and love at Christmas.



Cringlekidz Film Club & Christmas Crafts

We ran this on Tues. 21st Dec. 9.30am-Noon at the Willow Centre for 0-11-year-olds. Children were accompanied by an adults and we enjoyed watching the Polar Express.

Cringleford Community Carols on the Green was cancelled due to a Covid scare.

Cringleford Valentine's Week. We encouraged people to 'share the love' during February half-term by decorating the trees opposite the school with love hearts with love quotes written on them.

Cringleford Pancake Day Races 2022

This was our their third annual Cringleford Pancake Day Race it should have been our fourth year of racing but the Covid-19 pandemic meant we had to cancel last years. So, this year we'd been really looking forward to getting the community together for some neighbourly fun.

With renewed energy the hopeful racers gathered outside Cringleford Primary school on Dragonfly Lane Green straight after school hours for some pancake flipping fun. There were races for all the different age groups, with about 70 people joining in.



A crate of chocolate bunnies and a box of easter eggs were kindly donated by Cringleford's Tesco Express, the sponsor of the event. The store manager, Phil Whiting, commented, "Always happy to support the local community, especially the great work that Tim and the Cringleford Hub do. It was great fun today, so good to be able to celebrate pancake day properly again."

Rev. Tim Yau – April 2022

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