

# PARISH NEWS FROM THE ASTWELL BENEFICE

*Helmdon, Radstone, Syresham, Whitfield, Lois Weedon & Weston, and Wappenham*

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**We would love to feature your news, stories and photos here (max 500 words).**

**Please send them to Sarah Rudkin at: [rectorastwellbenefice@aol.com](mailto:rectorastwellbenefice@aol.com).**

## ***Jenny O's Alternative Coffee Morning 6th - 11th July***

**F**or more than 20 years, Helmdon's Summer Events Calendar has included *Jenny O's Coffee Morning in aid of Cancer Research UK*. But it was obvious in March that we could not repeat the event this year, so I cancelled it. And that was that, I thought. However as the due date (July 8th) approached, people began to ask what I was doing about fund raising this year. And with a gentle push and good encouragement and support from friends *The Alternative Coffee Morning* was planned.

No coffee. No raffle. No happy mingling in the garden. No stalls to browse.

Instead we had a week-long Plant Sale with a one-day Cake Sale.

I put out a 'shout' for contributions, put up notices, put the details on the village web site and, for the first time, stretched that to the Facebook page too - I have no IT skills but I know those who have! And in no time, I had a river of plants across the drive and lots of promises for cakes.



All items arrived labelled and priced and with a cash tin and an official CRUK 'Donations' bucket, plenty of sanitizer and space for social distancing it could all take care of itself; no need for face to face sales or handling of cash. On cake day there was an early orderly queue down the drive and along the pavement!

I met so many new people all with their own interesting stories, kind encouragement and generous giving. And there was the delivery driver who asked what was going on and then, in remembrance of his mother, who'd had cancer, went to his car and returned with a donation. He didn't have to take that much time and trouble to help. It only goes to show what massive support there is for Cancer charities, all so much more urgently in need of support this year as they face huge losses to their regular income. And the result of all this?



The plants and cakes and donations raised £1050.

The associated Just Giving page, (still live at the time of writing, but closes July 31<sup>st</sup>) has attracted funding too, so the combined total will be well in line with our usual amount.

Wonderful! And many thanks to all those many donors and buyers who made this alternative event such a worthwhile effort. And I wasn't going to do anything this year!

***Jenny Overson, Helmdon***