

Looks like we're in for a bumpy winter – so anything cheerful is helpful. Here goes!

### Sunflower competition results

They were super and each winner received a certificate and a £10 Tesco voucher. One of the winners told us she has saved seeds for next year's competition. We'd better have one then!



**Lucy, St Thomas's Sq** – First prize tallest plant – girl 8 and under – 251 cms

**Jonathan, Birdwood Rd** – First prize tallest plant – boy 8 and under – 247 cms

**Erik, Tiverton Way** – First prize tallest plant – boy 9 and over – 270 cms

**Gabriele, Gray Rd** – First prize tallest plant – adult – 250 cms

**Mary, St Thomas's Sq** – Second prize tallest plant – adult – 196 cms

**Gay, St Thomas's Sq** – First prize biggest flower – adult – 34 cms

**Janet, Budleigh Close** – Second prize biggest flower – adult – 33 cms

**John and Janet, St Thomas's Rd** – Third prize biggest flower – adult – 19 cms

**Lee, Ward Rd** – First prize most heads on one plant – adult – 34 flowers

**Margaret, Birdwood Rd** – Second prize most heads on one plant – adult – 18 flowers

So many things may not be possible this year, but people have been sending us in ideas to be creative in bringing a bit of cheer to gloomy days.

### Advent Calendars in the road – an idea from a neighbour:

*'I have been thinking about Christmas and how so many things won't happen this year. Where we used to live, a street did a living advent calendar where houses were given a date in advent and decorated their window with that number and unveiled it on the day:*

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/nov/16/christmas-spirit-living-advent-calendar-community-unites>

Could each road organise one of these for themselves? It would only take one resident of that road to take on the job of co-ordination – asking each house to take part and getting them to display in order.

Or, if this isn't possible – could people put a beautiful Christmas scene in their window? There will be a box of craft bits on the wall outside 52 Birdwood Rd from 1<sup>st</sup> December. Do come and help yourself. Tissue paper meets creative genius in the Birdwood Area?

### Winter Competition – Saving the Planet – there will be prizes!

We couldn't have our mini-conference on Climate Change and our local environment – but climate change hasn't gone away, so we are holding a competition to share ideas about how, in small ways, each of us is helping our local environment. Could be your energy or water saving tips, ways you reduce, re-use, recycle, better food use, how Covid has made you more aware of waste, local groups you belong to that help with anything environmental. No matter how small, your idea could be just what someone else thinks is amazing. The added bonus is that most of these will be money saving!



This is our little 'meanness' to get you thinking – we take all the return envelopes out of the begging letters, cross out the return address and re-use them – with stamps, of course.

We'll publish all the responses to spread the word. Just send your ideas to [birdwoodara@gmail.com](mailto:birdwoodara@gmail.com) or post through 52 Birdwood Rd with an address and phone number – for your prize to be delivered!

## From the organisers of the Bird Box Gallery in St Thomas's Sq

They are planning a larger venture next year in the form of a **Birdbox festival**, which would involve more gallery boxes in front gardens being placed around the neighbourhood of the Birdwood area. They aim to exhibit both local and international artists for a month making our local streets a hub for visual art of all kinds. However, this will depend on whether a grant is available!  
[www.instagram.com/birdbox\\_gallery/](http://www.instagram.com/birdbox_gallery/)



## Community Library



As we no longer have the benefit of the phone box, some of the books are only available in dry weather. We are looking at ways of making it all weatherproof but haven't cracked it yet. The books are in front of 52 Birdwood Rd. Do come and browse.

## Covid

Remember how good we all were in the first lock-down – we talked to our neighbours, we had time to look out for them and we made sure they had our details in case they needed us. This time it may be that they (or you!) need to self-isolate. Have they still got your details so they can phone or email you?

## Coleridge Community Forum Food Hub

Reminder – St Thomas's Hall every Thursday (4-6 pm). Donations are gratefully accepted at St Thomas's Hall 3-4 pm Weds and Thurs. If you can't get to the Hall to donate – email [birdwoodara@gmail.com](mailto:birdwoodara@gmail.com) and we'll arrange to pick up your donation.

## Halloween

There will be no BARA Halloween gathering in St Thomas's Sq this year but we hope all the children have an enjoyable time.

## Come and join us

We have a committee of nine. In normal times, we meet three or four times a year and are informal and friendly. We need more people! We can co-opt more members so if you want to join us, do contact us! [birdwoodara@gmail.com](mailto:birdwoodara@gmail.com) or put a note or knock on 52 Birdwood Rd.

## Newsletter by email

If you can receive this by email, please do. It is so much easier for us! Just send an email to [birdwoodara@gmail.com](mailto:birdwoodara@gmail.com) with your postal address in the subject line.

## If you need to contact our local Councillors, here are their details:

County Council, Sandra Crawford Phone: 01223 503061 Email: <a href="mailto:sandra.crawford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">sandra.crawford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>	City Council, Grace Hadley Phone: 07940 074022 Email: <a href="mailto:grace4labour@gmail.com">grace4labour@gmail.com</a>
City council, Lewis Herbert Phone: 07748 536153 Email: <a href="mailto:lewis.herbert@cambridge.gov.uk">lewis.herbert@cambridge.gov.uk</a>	City Council, Rosy Moore Mobile: 07709 222026 Email: <a href="mailto:rosy.moore@cambridge.gov.uk">rosy.moore@cambridge.gov.uk</a>

If you think there is a general problem for the area, do contact us. And if you have ideas for future events or anything to increase neighbourliness, we'd love to hear from you.

Our aims:

to promote neighbourliness and a sense of community and to form a conduit to the City and County councils about issues relating to this area. We cover Birdwood Rd and all roads leading off it. **Email address [birdwoodara@gmail.com](mailto:birdwoodara@gmail.com) This is our preferred contact point but if you would rather you can put a note through the door at 52 Birdwood Rd.**