

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

New City Girls keep WI flag flying for members during lockdown

CHELMSFORD'S New City Girls WI has been working hard to virtually reach out and give members something to look forward to during lockdown.

Main meetings are still going ahead using Zoom and in April members completed a scavenger hunt around their homes, looking for WI-related items including both jam and Jerusalem.

In May they were joined by Sophie Ede, from Hearing Help Essex, and at June's meeting there will be a mindfulness session.

On top of that many their additional subgroups are also still very active.

Let's Get Quizzical have a daily

quiz, Snappy Girls have a weekly photo theme, baking groups and book groups are still sharing their findings, the choir are having social get-togethers and there are twice weekly yoga sessions.

Rebecca Cameron-McIntosh, New City WI president, said: "With so much uncertainty it is nice to have something certain still taking place. It's good to know that on the second Monday of the month you can log on to the computer and see some familiar faces.

"I am so proud of the way our members have come together to support each other and keep each other company.

On top of that, they have sup-

ported the key workers in our community by making scrubs, face masks and ear protectors."

Members have also been offering some comfort to those with loved ones in hospital by making pairs of hearts - one stays with the patient and one stays at home with the family.

Rebecca said: "It's been such a special initiative to take part in."

New City Girls WI is keen to encourage new members even during lockdown. There is plenty to look forward to in June, including a virtual biscuit bake-off and a charity take-away night.

For more information, email membership.ncgwi@gmail.com.



Members of the New City WI have been offering some comfort to those with loved ones in hospital by making pairs of hearts



Rebecca Cameron-McIntosh, president of New City Girls WI

Online careers day gives students a glimpse into the future

AS the lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic continues, schools are operating their traditional lessons and events in new ways.

At Maltings Academy, in Witham, Year 9 students were able to attend the school's first ever virtual careers day.

They completed a series of activities focused on careers and were given information, advice and guidance, including a virtual assembly by the head of academy and head of careers; using online platform Kudos to evaluate students' skills and interests; researching career pathways of interest to them personally; and exploring the Maltings careers library and national careers website.

Head of academy James Forbes said: "While the national schools closure means students cannot be on site, Maltings Academy believes passionately that students should not be disadvantaged during this period.

"Our careers curriculum is an essential part of our students' personal development and we wanted to ensure this continued despite the current barriers.

"The bespoke virtual programme we developed for our students has built on some of the most exciting and innovating virtual teaching practice we have seen as we work closely with our Trust, the Academies Enterprise Trust.

"At Maltings, staff have continually evolved and innovated

during a hugely challenging time and it is projects such as this that ensure we continue to provide the very best for our students."

Student Noah Eardley said: "The first ever virtual careers day was very interesting and beneficial as it made me see how many different careers are out there.

"I was also able to see what some of these jobs were like with the many videos sent to us. This has given me an idea of what I want to do when I leave school."

Classmate Emily Pettit said: "In Year 9, we are at the stage where we need to consider our potential career paths for the future. The online careers day event was very helpful and beneficial for my decision making."



Noah Eardley attended Maltings Academy's virtual careers day