



Southern Wales
District 1150
Cymru Deheuol

DISTRICT GOVERNOR PETER HAMILTON PHF

Rt. Hon Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister of Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

25 June 2020

Dear First Minister,

On behalf of all Rotarians in Southern Wales we would like to wish you and your colleagues well as you work to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic in Wales. You can count on Rotarians in the Principality to provide support whenever we can.

We thought you would like to know that more than 1350 Rotarians across Southern Wales have also risen to the challenge faced by their communities during the pandemic.

Although as a result of age or health related conditions many have been in isolation themselves, I felt you should know about the excellent projects being carried out. We recently conducted a survey of our Clubs, although many don't like to "blow their own trumpet" and share with the outside world how much they have donated and the thousands of volunteering hours they have worked. To date we have calculated in excess of £115,000 has been donated to COVID-19 related projects in the past 12 weeks.

These include donations to:

Food Banks :: Salvation Army :: The Samaritans :: PPE for front line workers

We have also been working with community groups to ascertain their needs and as a result have been:

Purchasing iPads which have been donated to care homes and hospitals to allow residents to keep in touch with their families. Making up "Goodie Bags" which include puzzle books etc, and delivered to those who are isolated in the community.

Many of our members are involved in delivering groceries and prescriptions; delivering PPE; delivering toiletries, nightwear, snacks and drinks to local hospitals for patients and staff.

We have quite a few groups across Southern Wales supporting people who have memory challenges and Café and Cuppa groups supporting those who live alone. Our members have adapted to ensure that support continues by keeping in regular telephone contact and using the Zoom online platform which supports both our regular service users and their carers.

We have also been involved in a unique project to support the NHS initially in Cardiff but now throughout Wales and now nationally. Another first for Wales. We have funded the new Endoscopy Box which allows staff to be able to carry out procedures which had to be cancelled because of Covid-19. The British Medical Journal article can be found here:

<https://fg.bmj.com/content/early/2020/06/12/flgastro-2020-101542>

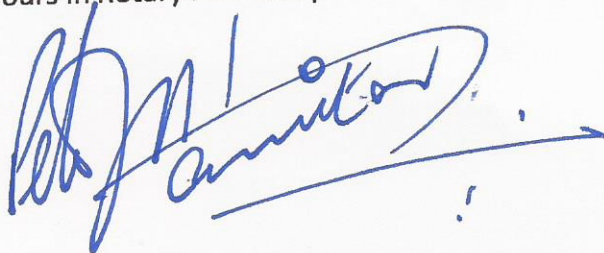
Our members who have been unable to leave their homes are certainly not being idle. They have made hundreds of bags for scrubs; mask extenders and those who have received the correct grade materials have been making scrubs for the NHS and other front-line workers.

Our Clubs have adapted very quickly and rather than the normal face to face meetings are now meeting online and discussing how we can continue our projects and fundraising initiatives virtually.

Many of our members work full time and I would like to pay tribute to all those who have been working tirelessly on the front line. Especially people who have continued to look after others even though they have had close colleagues and friends who have passed away.

Our Rotary motto is "Service above Self", I thought you would be interested to know that we are all continuing to support our communities at this difficult time. Please contact me should you require any further information.

Yours in Rotary Friendship



Peter JW Hamilton
District Governor

4 Parc Felindre Mynyddygarreg Carmarthenshire SA17 4LX
t: 01554 890 822/07733 368 172 pjwhamilton@gmail.com