

## **THANK YOU! Covid-19 Support Kenilworth Group (CSKG) One Year On**

On March 17th we mark the Anniversary of the first town meeting held to prepare for the looming Lockdown. We remember with sorrow those in our Community who lost their lives both from and during the Pandemic. The bereaved were deprived the opportunities for hospital visits and sharing their grief with their full circle of family and friends. The number of local and national fatalities continues to shock. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us.

This is also a time to celebrate the selfless heroism and dedication to duty of the NHS and all front-line workers over the past year. We also thank the good people of Kenilworth for their wonderful and amazing response to the demands of the emergency situation.

Many people and groups helped get the work started including Jen Jones, Simon Morris, Darren Rees, Alistair Rigby, Kenilworth Round Table, Lions Club, Rotary Club and the Kenilworth Centre which became our operations hub. A tentative assessment was made of what needed to be done to support our community. We Identified the need for a large team of volunteers, with diverse talents and funds to support their activities. You - the good people of Kenilworth responded magnificently; with generous offers of practical help and financial assistance. Quickly we enlisted some 330+ volunteers, processed them through DBS checks and since then they have been supporting the vulnerable and those sheltering.

### **Thanks to our Volunteers & the Kenilworth Community**

- 35,000 information phone calls to and from our Call Centre operating 7 days a week;
- 4500 “welfare” conversations by our listening team and Street Champions;
- 7000 prescriptions delivered by our “Pharmy Army”;
- 5,000 meals cooked in local commercial kitchens by qualified chefs & delivered to homes by volunteers – thanks to Mollie’s Meals in conjunction with some of our local pubs;
- 150 Christmas hampers with cards written by local school children;
- 300 Activity / Get Active Packs given to residents;
- Some £18,000 + donated & raised to fund these activities;
- Numerous acts of kindness & practical help by Kenilworth People.

**NEVER ALONE**

**TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH**

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**The Next Phase** - Over the course of the past year the landscape has changed. Many have adjusted to the lock-down situation and developed a life-style and resilience to cope. However, there are some 600+ elderly and vulnerable people who continue to shelter. Many suffering from loneliness, loss of confidence and poor emotional well-being. They have been housebound for a year, have lost mobility and confidence. Without help their condition will only deteriorate. We are working behind the scenes with local health and welfare services and community organisations to develop strategic partnerships in order to prepare for when restrictions are lifted - to provide specialist support to help people to regain some of their independence and to provide them with social activities/opportunities where they can reconnect.

**Compassionate Kenilworth** - In partnership with our GP Practices, local charities, organisations, churches and local businesses we will shortly launch this project. Our model is the “Frome Project” which has led to dramatic improvements in the health, welfare and wellbeing of their residents – Watch this space!

<https://www.compassionate-communitiesuk.co.uk/projects>

If you would like to be involved please contact [covid19@kc19.uk](mailto:covid19@kc19.uk) or phone 01926 919340. To donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/covid19supportkenilworthgroup>