

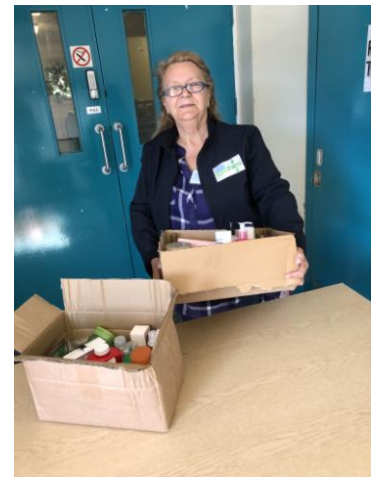
Supporting our Front line NHS staff – fabric face coverings



Soroptimists received a request from Fair Oak Ward at Cannock Hospital – did we make fabric masks? Staff need to wear them when not on duty to ensure the safety of others around them but working such long hours means they don't have the time to make them. So President Trish Smith and member Pat Stanley [who made all of the uniform bags] led the charge and, with help from Janis, Jackie, Trish M & Lynne enough masks for all staff were delivered: the staff have confirmed that the masks are extremely comfortable to wear. Alma Care Home heard about them and put in their request – they were made and delivered too!

Helping Cannock Food Bank

Whilst we were collecting creams for NHS and care workers we had many items such as soap, shampoo, shower gel donated which weren't needed by Hospitals and Care Homes. A phone call to Cannock Food Bank confirmed that they could definitely make use of them – and so two boxes full were delivered to the Food Bank. The member of staff who received them said how extremely grateful they were – it appears that they are desperately short of toiletries and cleaning materials.



Donated so far: 1,222 items!!!

Strolling for St Giles



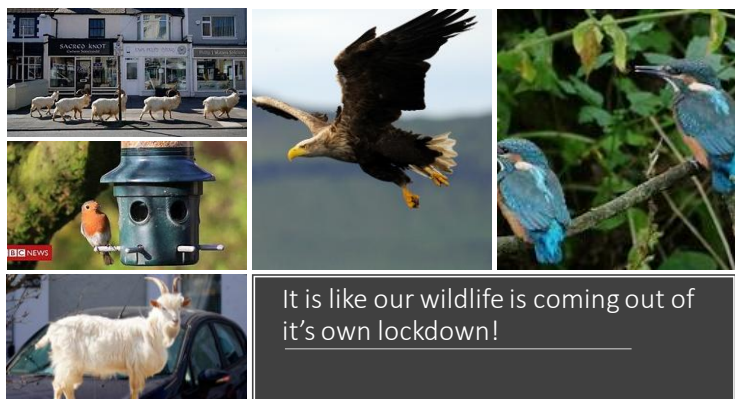
St Giles is close to the hearts of many of us – and Covid-19 has meant that they, like other charities, are not able to hold their usual fund raising events. Their annual Solstice Walk was cancelled – but their Solstice Stroll was born! From humble beginnings – well, in the end 20 met to walk around Mill Farm Pool and walked, keeping their social distance, from a short way along the first path up to some completing 10,000 steps. And then they had the walk home!! A fabulous morning with donations which amounted to a staggering £825.15! Thank you one and all!

Clothes from Newlife

Newlife, the Charity for Disabled Children, recently donated clothes for babies, toddlers and young children for us to sort and distribute. We set up our work station outdoors – remembering social distancing & sorted the clothes into ages for boys and girls. These were then distributed to Pathway, Staffordshire Women's Aid, Mother and Baby groups and Cannock Food Bank. All recipients were so, so grateful: their need is so much greater because of the hardships brought about by the pandemic.



Covid-19 affects our environment



During lockdown we have done many things differently – and many of these things have had a positive affect on our environment. This was the positive message given by 11 year old Katie Hodges in her presentation to us using the zoom platform. We have all wasted less food – there's been less opportunity to shop so we've reduced some things. There has been more re-using of things we already have. And we have all experienced observing nature – plants, trees, flowers, birds, animals -on our walks and in our gardens. As Katie put it: "It's like our wildlife is coming out of its ownlockdown".

And now members are pledging to either continue the things they have begun or add to them – having a meat and fish free day each week; joining a litter pick; not buying anything in a non-recyclable black food tray – and so much more. We were thrilled to be joined at the meeting by many guests – including SIGBI APD – Planet, Naina Shah from SI Chennai. Like everyone, she was so impressed by Katie and her presenations. She said she's going to be telling everyone she meets about it! This is a project that will develop as time goes on with members getting involved in the areas of particular interest to them.

Books4Home

We have begun a project to rescue children's books donated to charity shops which are ultimately sent to be pulped. Each month we will collect books – maybe 90 – 100 –check that they are in good condition, weigh them and deliver to Beverley Ricketts who runs Books4Home. The pulp cost is 5p per kilo – a current box of 90 books weighed in at 11kilo: 55p! We will add a £5 donation each time to cover administrative costs. The books are then distributed to schools and clubs – children take the books home and keep them. This project will help to educate children and will serve the environment by preventing books being pulped – a lot of ticks in boxes!

