

SI Medway and Maidstone

Programme Action Report 2022

The shape of our Programme Action for the past year was set in our Day of Reflection in February 2021 where we decided to continue with our 17 main projects.

A year ago we were hoping that Covid would have abated and our activity returned to normal, but many projects were still affected by the pandemic over the past year. These included Talking News (led by Angela Howe) which has now restarted remotely, the Byron Partnership (Jane Barnes) and Toilet Twinning (Angela Howe).

Education in Ethiopia (Jenny Jones) continues to be on hold due to the troubles in that country and we look forward to a time when a calmer situation means the Lalibela Library project can begin again.

Newer members have brought energy and enthusiasm to our projects, notably the very successful tree planting project led by Sharon Forghani which secured great PR for the club, and the Mary's Meals Back Pack Project co-ordinated by Annette Davies, a Mary's Meals Ambassador, and led by Janet Hughes, which was familiar to those from Maidstone but new to Medway members.

Other projects may have had even more impact on their beneficiaries than in previous years. For example, Lillian Gould's calling out service with Carers First must have been hugely appreciated over the past year. Our gifts, donations and time must also have been particularly appreciated by beneficiaries of the Shoebox Appeal (Sue Daykin), the Foodbanks (Angela Howe), the Women's Refuge (Angela Howe) and Project Hope (Janet Garnons-Williams).

Other projects have continued to progress over the year by raising and/or donating funds, such as Kente Sashes (Nellie Adjaye), Itarsi (Sue Hunt), Dementia and Wellbeing (Carol McKeough) and Zisize (Julia Search), or by keeping us informed such as Amnesty International (Wanda Wright and Carol McKeough) and Human Trafficking (Wanda Wright).

My thanks to all the Project Leads for their consistent progress over the year on behalf of the club. We have discussed succession planning as a club and my aim is to be able to job share the Programme Action Officer role going forward. Similarly, I would be keen to see some of the Project Leads having someone to share the task with them.

When I collate the Programme Action update I am always amazed at how much club members have achieved. The drawback of this is that it takes longer to produce the update each time, so it may become a bi-monthly report in the future.

All these projects need recording and I am extremely grateful to Jane for unfailingly completing Programme Focus Forms for all our activities throughout the year.

Liz Duckworth, Programme Action Officer
March 2022