

The Trust Fund of the Rotary Club of the Conwy Valley

Annual Report 2019/20

The past year has seen unprecedented changes in the way our charity operates. All was in order until the start of the Covid pandemic in early 2020. From March 2020, all traditional activities of our charity other than local donations had to cease. At this time, we learned from a local social enterprise organisation, Golygfa Gwydyr, that the local foodbank operated out of the town of Conwy was having to temporarily close down to a combination of unsuitable premises, ageing volunteers and a major shortfall in food donations at local supermarkets. Golygfa Gwydyr had been acting to support the Conwy Foodbank and had some experience in how such an entity needs to be organised. Following urgent discussions, we decided that we would set up a temporary foodbank to operate until the end of July when we anticipated that the Conwy Foodbank would resume operations. On the very first day of lockdown, we began operations donating food and utility vouchers and in certain cases direct Bacs payments to families in distress. We adopted the operating principles of the Conwy Foodbank in terms of ensuring that all referrals for food aid came from professional social carers, housing associations or the Church. Strict confidentiality was maintained throughout our programme. In May 2020, we managed to get access to suitable premises and began to operate a full foodbank service. At that point we ceased supplying any food vouchers or direct Bacs payments. To date, we have supported around eighty families in the Conwy Valley with food and utility aid.

In June 2020, we became aware of a local Women's Refuge in Blaenau Ffestiniog. This Refuge, part of the Gorwel Group looks after women and their children who have become victims of abuse by their husbands or partners. Following some initial, very confidential discussions, we realised that although women coming into refuge do get a "welcome pack" and advice with regard to benefits, they do not receive any food aid. A typical stay in refuge for a women or family is between three to six months. Since the initial lockdown, there has been a 70% increase in the cases of domestic abuse and the Refuge had a long waiting list. We decided that they needed urgent assistance and we commenced deliveries that month to the tune of about £1000 of food. This programme has expanded significantly since June and will be reported on in our next annual report.

To service this demand, we started urgent fundraising activities and by the end of June, we had received donations of over £28,000 in addition to our normal fundraising activities of just over £10,000. Of this, £24,664 came from large commercial sponsors or government grants and over £3,000 from private individuals. £11,000 of food and utility aid had been issued by the end of our financial year, June 2020 plus around £2,000 of inventory was in stock in the foodbank.

Despite originally planning to run the foodbank until the end of July 2020, continued successful fund raising will now enable us to run well into 2021.

Roger Thomas

Chairman of the Trustees

1st April 2021

3rd March 2021

Mr Roger Thomas
Gwel yr Afon
Llanddoged
Llanrwst
Conwy
LL26 0TY

Dear Roger,

Re: Llanrwst Rotary Accounts Review

Please find enclosed a copy of the accounts for the year ended 30/6/20.

I can confirm that the accounts have been completed and reviewed and that the records are kept in good order.

Yours sincerely,



Connie Sheridan