



Autumn 2020



Dear Meath Supporter

Thank you for taking a moment to catch up on all that we've achieved over the past, unprecedented and unpredictable months. I hope that like us, you have stayed safe during this worrying time and that you're adapting to a 'new normal'.

We remain positive and, despite events being cancelled including some key fundraisers, we have never been busier as we fight to secure essential income. UK charities have never been in such difficulty with 1:10 charities facing bankruptcy. Thankfully The Meath receives statutory funding from care packages, and unlike most charities we are not 100% reliant on fundraised income. However, we expect that the next two years will be extremely challenging for The Meath.

In the context of a bleaker funding landscape, we are working hard to sustain the life enriching opportunities and services that offer the people we support the fulfilled lives that they deserve. We have identified and approached many trusts and foundations in the last seven months, upped our social media campaigns, and run the 2.6 online fundraising campaign. I have personally been on various media including LBC Radio which allowed me to voice my concerns about the terrible effect COVID-19 is having on the sector, including The Meath. We, along with most charities, were not eligible for the Government package to charities of £750 million. Income streams are seriously curtailed with cancellation of events for the foreseeable future and Trusts over subscribed. **Please see overleaf for more detail about the impact of COVID-19 on our finances and planned projects.**

Many of you have been so very generous but if you can help support The Meath in any way with a donation at this difficult time, we would be extremely grateful. Please do not hesitate to call me or any of the team to discuss ways to do this or visit our website www.meath.org.uk



It is my pleasure to share with you in this newsletter some of the ways that The Meath has been supported over the last seven months and what future donations may fund. To everyone who has helped us in whatever way a huge thank you from all of us. We are so very grateful and lucky to have such amazing supporters who could not do enough to help us in a time of national emergency and need. We are extremely grateful for your on-going support. With very best wishes to you all and stay safe.

Tania



Tania Cantoni, Head of Fundraising & Communications

The Impact of COVID-19 on our Fundraising

Many Trusts have altered their traditional grant giving to support only COVID-19 related projects for this financial year, while others are only supporting those with whom they have an established relationship. Events which bring in vital income have been cancelled or postponed; the loss of income from trusts, events and other income streams for the past seven months has been in the region of £400k. This expected loss is further exacerbated by the £270k in unexpected and unbudgeted costs incurred due to COVID-19 and the reintegration of services costs.

Due to the unexpected costs of COVID-19 we have put all planned major projects on hold whilst we secure as much funding as possible for core costs and to cover the cost of the Skills Centre, so as to protect our ability to sustain the services that are so important to the people we support.

Planned projects on hold due to COVID-19 include:

- **The Horticulture Project (Walled Garden)**- Planning permission is secured but plans had to be postponed.
- **Music Therapist**- Having seen the positive effect that music and singing sessions have for the people we support, we wanted to provide them with the opportunity to benefit from access to a music therapist.
- **Animal Encounters**- We have also seen first hand how contact with animals can benefit the people we support. While we hope to expand these opportunities, sadly they are now on hold.

We hope that we may be able to complete these exciting projects in 2022.



But we did achieve this before COVID-19 struck...

On a positive note the funding for our new **Sensory Room** was raised in the last financial year pre COVID-19 and the work is nearing completion. We are thrilled that the people we support will soon be able to make use of this fabulous facility. Our bespoke sensory room will be a wonderfully relaxing and calming space. Residents and day clients will benefit from sessions with a sensory therapist as well as having the perfect setting for Occupational Therapy appointments, quiet time or for counselling sessions. The room includes tactile walls, mood lighting, star ceiling, projector and sound system. We look forward to showing you this new facility once visitors are allowed on site.

Helping our staff team through Lockdown



At The Meath we pride ourselves on supporting our staff. During a particularly challenging time for many staff, the Fundraising team set to work and thanks to generous funding and donations, we were able to fund emergency childcare for staff in need during lockdown; this enabled staff to come to work and provide continuity of care. In accordance with the wishes of a generous funder, we were also delighted to offer our hard working care staff a gift voucher as a token of our appreciation for their dedication and hard work.

“Thanks to the generous funding, I didn’t need to worry about paying for unexpected childcare in these difficult times whilst having to work. It is greatly appreciated.” Support Worker

Covering the Unexpected Costs of Covid-19

Keeping The Meath COVID-19 free has been a group effort but we couldn't have done it without funding and donations for the unexpected costs of remaining one step ahead of the virus. We are extremely grateful to the relatives, friends, trusts and organisations who have enabled us to cover essential, unexpected costs along with some things that made for a far more pleasant lockdown at The Meath:

9 Gazebos— Running sessions and activities outside helped reduce the risk of infection and a gazebo for each house kept the people we support shaded and covered.

Outside Furniture— Outside furniture made a huge difference to residents during lockdown and now also provides visiting relatives with seating whilst visits are unable to take place inside the houses.



Games & Activity Materials –

We purchased 9 sets of inside games and activity materials, along with outdoor games and a karaoke machine to help keep residents entertained, engaged and socialising.

ipads & Lap Tops –

These helped residents to keep in touch with loved ones over zoom. As well as being used to catch up with relatives and friends outside of

The Meath, they also proved useful for maintaining house to house contact.



Isolation Unit-

Thankfully, as we did not have any cases of COVID-19, we did not need to make use of the specially adapted isolation unit in Bradbury House but having it in place as part of our COVID-19 secure planning was a crucially important measure to us. In the midst of a second UK spike of the virus we still have all the equipment and resources to put this in place if required. We are extremely grateful to relatives, friends and funders for generously funding essential items such as new bedding, a new hospital bed, additional PPE and portaloos.



Socially Distanced Special Events*— not being allowed off site and being unable to mix with people from outside their households was very hard for residents and therefore a range of fun, outside, socially distanced special events provided them with some real highlights and many opportunities to get involved with preparations. *All events took place within separate household bubbles.

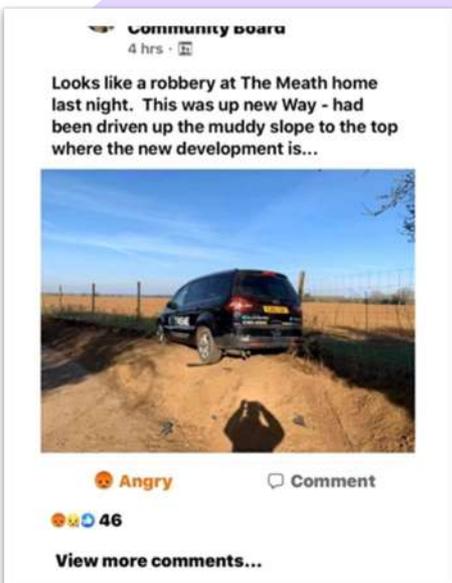


See pages 5& 6 for more about Meath Lockdown special events!

Supporting The Meath— During Lockdown

When the shocking news of the break in, theft and vandalism of our vehicles reached the community, we were extremely humbled by the wealth of support that we received from the many local residents who were outraged on our behalf. Thank you to the many people who kindly offered assistance with errand driving or the loan of vehicles.

Local resident Sebastian Cheek felt inspired to set up a crowd funder on social media. He commented that **“the mindless crime left extremely vulnerable residents stranded. In this time of national crisis, this has really added insult to injury”**. His online crowd funder raised an amazing **£5,169**. We would like to thank Sebastian and everyone who kindly donated to this appeal.



News of the break in and need for support reached our friends at our local pub, The Star, Godalming. During lockdown, staff and regular customers raised funds for The Meath with their **‘Crazy Hair for Crazy Times’** online fundraiser. This raised an incredible **£2,366** for which we are very grateful.



Meath supporter and online fashion influencer Lorna Luxe kindly held an

online fashion sale in support of The Meath. While her followers bagged a stylish bargain, Lorna raised an incredible **£10,000!** This phenomenal achievement has made a hugely positive impact on the people we support.



Meath Supporter Sam had trained to run the Brighton Marathon, in support of The Meath. Sadly, like many other sporting events the marathon was cancelled. However, undeterred by UK lockdown, Sam showed incredible dedication and ingenuity by completing the 26 mile run in his garden! Huge thanks to Sam and his supporters who raised an amazing **£3,788. Well done and thank you Sam!**

In addition to these key online fundraisers we were also very grateful to receive generous donations from individuals which helped to fund some of the additional costs of COVID-19. **Thank you to all who kindly donated.**



When the organisers of the London Marathon were faced with cancelling the iconic annual event they knew that the impact would cause much heart ache for runners and would have a devastating impact on the many struggling UK charities that would miss out on income as a result. Step forward the '2.6 Challenge'! This nationwide online fundraising campaign was created in response to the cancellation of the London Marathon to help UK charities, and naturally we jumped on board! Our online fundraising campaign saw many relatives, residents, staff, volunteers, and supporters taking part in a sponsored challenge which related to the numbers 2&6. Meath supporters ran, cycled, walked, rowed, read, zoom quizzed, painted, sang and cooked their way to a total of **£6,000!** Thank you to all who took part in the 2.6 Challenge, we loved seeing your wonderful and inventive challenges and we were extremely grateful to receive the hard fundraised income during a time of extreme need and difficulty.



Having seen our online 2.6 fundraising campaign, Charterhouse School kindly followed suit with their own challenge based fundraiser in support of The Meath. The many resultant sponsored challenges raised a wonderful **£5,000.**

Special thanks to the Community Foundation for Surrey for their generous funding and continued support.

Funded by



In addition to the generous, vital fundraised income that we received from Trusts, donations and fundraisers we are extremely grateful for the many goods in kind & offers of help that we have received, these have included:

- Donations of linen, the making of scrubs, scrub bags & masks— thanks to all who donated and particular thanks to Julie Ostle and 'I Made This' Crafts for the sewing of scrubs and masks. Surplus linen was donated to the NHS to help our local hospitals.
- Delivery of (lots of!) Easter eggs—particular thanks to Lindt, Eagle Radio and Cranleigh Lions.
- Donations of perspex visors- particular thanks to Surrey Freemasons.
- Volunteer drivers for medication delivery and errands.
- Donations of food from local businesses and Godalming Community Fridge.





The Meath in Lockdown

Lockdown saw many changes across our services in order to continue providing the very best care and support. From zoom physio sessions to medication deliveries, many 'behind the scenes' services continued in adapted form. Our usual daily activities were unable to run in the Skills Centre and Changing Perceptions. A silver lining for residents was our beautiful grounds, sunshine and our resourceful team who led a variety of socially distanced activities and special events. Some of the emergency funding we received went towards some fantastic and much needed lockdown events. Highlights were St George's Day, The Meath Flower Show which has secured a date in The Meath diary for next year, the impressive VE day celebrations and our very own 'Meath Fest'. Here's a round up of some of our most favourite special (socially distanced) activities and events...

St George's Day



Painting their way to patriotism, residents made bunting, flags, crowns and Phillipa and Amy even created a dragon and a fort! The homemade decorations provided the perfect backdrop for afternoon tea on The Meath lawn.

75th Anniversary of V.E Day



Residents from every house were busy for weeks making art work and decorations for this special celebration. At the height of UK lockdown the day provided a much needed focus and opportunity to socialise safely.



The Meath Flower Show



When Meath residents were unable to enjoy their annual visit to RHS Chelsea Flower Show, staff helped them to stage their very own Meath Flower Show! The donated flowers and plants, combined with the creative talents of the people we support led to some wonderful entries and an event that was enjoyed by all at The Meath. The event was such a success that we plan on holding it annually! Once C-19 is no longer a threat we also hope to invite some local community supporters to join us!

Meath Fest



Summer 2020 was the year of no Glastonbury but we were simply unprepared to let it be the year the music died. Staff worked hard to stage our very own, socially distanced Meath Fest for residents. With music, dancing, face paint, giant bubbles and ice cream; residents had a great time!



Dates For Your Diary– COVID-19 Permitting

Friday 26th March 2021: Alice in Wonderland Themed Tea Party, Tithe Barn, Loseley House

Sunday 11th April 2021: 'Bringing The House Down', a concert at Glyndebourne

Monday 31st May 2021: The Berkshire Captain's Golf Event, The Berkshire Golf Club

Wednesday 14th July 2021: The Meath Annual Charity Golf Day, Worplesdon Golf Club

Meath 100
What would you do if you won?
A great way to support us & you might get to treat yourself too!

Available to purchase soon....New Meath Christmas card & Meath preserve gift packs



Join The Meath 100 for **£5 per month** and you could just be a Meath 100 winner! Annual Membership costs £60 and sign up is quick and easy via the website! Each month 1 lucky member wins **£150**, 2 lucky members win **£50** and the people we support benefit from the remaining funds which equates to **£3,000** per year.



If you know someone who is keen to make a difference and is looking for a career in care please tell them to look no further than The Meath! We have a variety of highly rewarding roles available. Visit our website or contact the HR team on 01483 415095.

Please help us to grow our support by following us on social media and sharing our posts!



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