



2020 SPRING NEWSLETTER

What a very challenging and fearful world we are presently living in. I am sure it took you as much by surprise as it did Ian and I. As the clock struck its chimes at midnight on December 31st 2019 to welcome in the New Year 2020 how little we knew that just a couple of months later we would all be overcome by a silent destroyer that would



eventually infiltrate the whole world. It is astonishing how quickly life can change and it certainly makes you realise utterly how very fragile life is. It is as if the world has been

brought to a halt. Reflecting on it, as I am sure many of you have done, it has made us reflect upon how things were before this dreadful pandemic. The world was so busy, people were so busy, life was so busy. Too busy many times to think of others, to support and care for others. Too busy to think about our wonderful world and all its creations.



Too busy to think of how the devastating effect our busy lives had affected this wonderful world. Too busy to care. The world was groaning and the people were groaning, but people were not listening. They were too busy. And now.....it is as if this silent destroyer has forced the people to listen – to one another and to Creation. All of a sudden, we can see and hear others showing care and support to one another in an astonishing way, a pleasing

way, and all of a sudden, we are hearing about the earth and it's creation making a recovery and beginning to heal and repair. It is humbling. It is heart searching and it is halting us in our tracks to rethink and to reach out. The words of that wonderful Hymn Great is Thy faithfulness ring out – "Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth, Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.....Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness, morning by morning new mercies I see, All I have needed Thy Hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me".



May our amazing and awesome Heavenly Father protect you and comfort you during these very unpredictable weeks and months ahead, and may He bring you peace to your hearts

and minds as you place your faith and trust in Him who holds us and His amazing Creation in His Hands.

This Spring newsletter unfortunately doesn't have too much news to tell you because as you are aware, due to this pandemic, all our events had to be cancelled and our weekly stalls stopped so it has had a fair impact on our progression to raise our much-needed funds.

The regular Friday Market Book Stall in Bicester (now closed), has become very popular amongst our local community, and through it we have gained a lot more friends and supporters for the Charity which is thrilling.



Our incredibly devoted volunteers Carol, Matthew and Rita continue to collect, set up, run and put away the stall

every week, and we are indebted to them for their extremely generous support and commitment. Since the stall began back in June 2019, in just nine months, it has raised the amazing total of £2,944.51. We are very grateful to our volunteers, the kind people who donate the books and the people who purchase them.

Our Volunteers are priceless.



We are absolutely indebted to them for so much help and support that they willingly give – so I would like to take this opportunity to thank – Amy Smith (for the brilliant support with Social Media), Carol and Matthew Malone and Rita Taylor (for the Friday Book stall and other events), Jane and Lisa Rushby (for the soon to be Banbury Stall and other events), and our incredible members of the AHOJ Cottage Industry group – Sylvia Kelly (crochet), Carol Nunn (sewing/crochet),

Corinne Cunningham (sewing), Trudi Lee (sewing/crochet/knitting), Katie Willis (jewellery), Rosemary Boon (knitting), Lin Oldfield Black (crochet), and there are other wonderful ladies too who are busy knitting lovely things for us in their homes to sell.



We are very very grateful to each one of them. Thank you.

January 7th 2020 we had our first Board Meeting of the New Year. It was a well-attended meeting and good to welcome everyone once again. Stuart Pendred is still on Sabbatical but we hope to see him again mid-year when he returns. At the moment we are of course 'on hold' until we are allowed to carry on the Charity programme as before. I am extremely indebted to Harriet Boon who so willingly and wonderfully takes the minutes

at our meetings and then produces them in time for our next one.



We are so grateful for her time and skill at doing this for us. Thank you.

The AHOJ Cottage Industry meets every first Wednesday of each month, and the ladies continue to make beautiful items for us to sell on our stalls which is hugely appreciated and admired.

Social Media (AHOJ Facebook posts, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and our Website), is a very demanding part of our publicity and advertising, both for events and also to encourage new followers and supporters of the Charity.



It takes up a considerable amount of time and I am now delighted to announce that

Amy Smith has wonderfully volunteered to support the running of it, so it is a marvellous help to me and has halved the time I have been needing to spend on it. We are now a joint effort.

February 15th 2020, because the winter weather is always unpredictable, we decided to hold an indoor car boot sale which was really successful. Others came to join us and we had a very good atmosphere in the Community Centre.



Very kind people had donated homemade cakes for the coffee room and our own AHOJ goods sold really well.

On March 1st we had a marvellous time! A lovely lady, Kathy Liddell, and her family and friends, put on a right Royal event! It drew in the crowds and the capacity of 75 tickets sold out very quickly indeed! The Freeland Hall in Church Hanborough had been beautifully and professionally

decorated for a splendid Vintage Afternoon tea with delicious scones, jam and cream, followed by amazing homemade cakes.



Ian was the guest speaker talking about his Memoirs as a Royal Footman, and during tea there was a 'Royal Quiz' and a Raffle to follow. Lovely words of 'enjoyment' and 'superb' were in abundance afterwards. It was so good. Thank you so much Kathy and all your fellow workers and supporters!

We recently were given two wonderful donations to AHOJ which was a lovely boost to receive. Becky Fletcher, the Founder of Greenfields Care and Support Charity, made a difficult decision to close the Charity to work on other projects she was involved in, so she divided the Greenfields Funds between four local Charities, and we were one of

the chosen. We received a marvellous gift of £2,000. Thank you so much Becky. Then back in December 2019, the annual Andy Reading 10k Run took place and we have recently been gifted £750 from the runner's sponsors. Again, it is wonderful to receive this money, especially at a time like this. Thank you to everyone concerned for your amazing commitment and care towards AHOJ.

So now we have to be patient and wait on the Lord for His timing and His guidance. Please pray for us during this time of stillness and waiting that we won't get anxious and drop our sight on Him who can do all things possible. Please also pray for the 'stalemate' we have encountered with the OCC archaeology department, that, in God's time, they will endeavour to move on with their proceedings and come to a good and workable conclusion. We lean on our God who knows, and is fully aware of, our difficulties and hurdles, and leave it with Him.

SPRING FUNDRAISING PROGRAMME

JAN 9TH 2020...AHoj Board Meeting at 7pm

JAN 10TH 2020 ...Bicester Market Stall - raised £70

JAN 17TH 2020...Bicester Market Stall – raised £61

JAN 15TH 2020...AHoj Cottage industry Ladies Meeting (ladies knitting/sewing/crocheting for selling)

JAN 24TH 2020...Bicester Market Stall – raised £80

JAN 31ST 2020...Bicester Market Stall – raised £65

FEB 5TH 2020...AHoj Cottage Industry Meeting

FEB 7TH 2020... Bicester Market Stall – raised £55

FEB 14TH 2020...Bicester Market Stall – raised £95

FEB 15TH 2020...Indoor car Boot Sale and Bric a Brac Stalls at Chesterton Community Centre, Chesterton – raised £301

FEB 21ST 2020... Bicester Market Stall – raised £85

MAR 1ST 2020...Vintage Afternoon Tea with Guest Speaker Ian Scott-Hunter on 'Memoirs of a Royal Footman' at the Freeland Hall, Church Hanborough, Oxfordshire, run by Kathy Liddell, her family and friends – raised £1,261.30

MAR 13TH 2020...Bicester Market Stall – raised £100

MAR 14TH 2020...Southwold School Bicester Craft Fair – raised £123.30

MAY 5TH 2020...Chesterton Bear Day for children of Chesterton Village donations given - £100

**During this difficult period of lockdown we are working hard to raise funds by other fundraising means which involves –

Local site online selling

Ebay

Give as You Live Scheme

Amazon Smile

Collection Boxes

Online Giving using Virgin Giving

THE TOTAL BANKED AT PRESENT IS –

£95,575.70

THANK YOU AGAIN, EVERYONE, SO VERY MUCH, FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS, SUPPORT AND DONATIONS. WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU ALL DO FOR US. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.

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DONATE:

https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donateonweb/charity?charityId=1017955&stop_mobi=yes

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