



Rotary

Ivybridge & Saltram
Online Learning Project

End of Project Report

A collaborative project between the Rotary Clubs of Ivybridge and Saltram

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Introduction

March 2020 saw the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic, throwing the whole world into a hugely disruptive state. The rapid spread of the disease and the resulting first lockdown saw disruption to the education of all children on a significant scale. Remote learning, thanks to online technology, quickly became the only option to enable children's education to continue. Members at Ivybridge Rotary Club were quick to recognise the 'digital divide', whereby not all children had access to the technology to support online learning. Hence the project was created.

Realising the scale of this problem locally, Ivybridge invited Saltram Rotary Club to join them for this collaborative project. Early stages saw requests for unwanted devices posted in the local press and on social media. Donations began to arrive from individuals and businesses in the local community and so the support of Dan's Computer Services were sought. Throughout the project, Dan has ensured that the devices have been refurbished to the best possible standard for use by children.

Linking with Schools - Phase 1

The initial phase of the project required the Rotary Clubs to make links with local schools. The schools were asked to identify their most disadvantaged children, whose access to online learning was inhibited by the lack of a laptop or tablet. Requests for devices quickly began to flood in from both primary and secondary schools within each club's catchment area. Members of the clubs were thrilled to be able to hand-over 'cleaned' devices that were ready-to-go, packaged and delivered to schools with a Rotary branded case. Delivery of devices saw several wonderful photo opportunities that were shared with the community via the local press and social media.

News of the success of the project spread with donated devices continuing to arrive in and additional schools asking to be part of the scheme.

Phase 2

Once we were able to meet the needs of the schools from Phase 1, we began Phase 2 of the project. Secondary schools in the wider Plymouth area were invited to request devices for their disadvantaged children. We have been able to meet 95% of these requests. This has been due to the decrease in donations of devices, likely due to the gradual easing of lockdowns and the re-opening of schools, and insufficient remaining funds. We can only hope that the ongoing need

for devices has been met by the government, which provided schools with support during Lockdowns 2 & 3.

Funding

It was recognised early on in the project that funding would be essential to the successful delivery of the devices. Grants and donations were from organisations (including Rotary District), individuals, Devon County Council, Parish Councils and local councillors. These generous 'gifts' were essential to cover costs and enable delivery of the devices to children. As funding continued to increase, and with a significant donation from the Berrington-Jones Charitable Trust, the project was able to purchase brand new devices to help meet the growing number of requests from the schools.

Reflecting on Our Progress

Donated devices received	80% of donated devices met the required standard and have been issued to schools	148 (46 scrapped)
Refurbished devices donated	Devices which met the required standard and were distributed to schools once refurbished	102
Purchased devices	Schools have requested a mix of laptops, chrome books and tablets	244
Donated to schools	Total donated for use by local school children	346
Funding	Funding from various streams.	£48,000

We are thrilled to report several positive outcomes from this project.

- * **Fundraising achieved £48,000 which enabled the refurbishment of donated devices and the purchase of new devices.**
 - * **Links with 23 local primary and 12 secondary schools have seen 346 laptops and tablets being provided, further strengthening Rotary's relationships with schools and paving the way for future projects.**
 - * **Awareness of Rotary Clubs and their contribution to the local community has increased.**
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