

From Lion Roger Stratton, Zone A Chair

Back in October 2020, when I realised that Zone did not have a chair and that most Zone A Clubs were not going to be able to fundraise over Christmas as they would normally have done, I volunteered to take the chair for the remainder of the year to see if I could help organise a virtual fundraising event where all the clubs got together online and on Social Media.

Thanks to some hard work by some clubs who had a webmaster/social media leader in post, including, most helpfully Lion Peter Blockley, of my own club, Devizes, 6 clubs eventually got together, but, to be honest, the results were patchy. During the course of the Appeal, which lasted from early December right into January, we had hoped to be able to publish income as weekly updates, to encourage more donations by text or BACs, etc., but some clubs had difficulties with the online procedures and we weren't able to garner the impetus required to make more of a success of this initiative. However, BBC Wiltshire did publicise it with an interview, and Chippenham Club got a good photograph and write up in their edition of the local paper, and some clubs raised some reasonable sums over the period.

We also took up the challenge of collecting laptops, tablets and other IT hardware, which we collected from most clubs in the Zone, amounting to over 30 items. These were delivered to a company who wiped their memories and repackaged them, and distributed them, via the schools, to those families where children were disadvantaged by not having their own device to study at home.

Since early October, we have had two Zone Meetings on Zoom, on the 28th October and 27th January, with another due on 28th April, after which I shall be standing down as Chair to concentrate on being our Welfare Treasurer, a post I've managed to avoid in more than 30 years as a Lion.