

# PPG HELPING YOU

## TRIBUTE TO THE VISOR TEAM



The PPG would like to acknowledge and congratulate the extraordinary effort of a local team who delivered 1,000 face visors, printed on their own home 3D printers, and delivered to 60 organisations in Bearsted and elsewhere in Kent. At the peak of production, there were 12 individuals working with many printers, including **Ian Jeffery**, (photo) who printed the first and the one thousandth headband for the visors, and three additional team members who secured raw materials and delivered completed visors. As the demand increased, printers were working all day and half of the night!



The Bearsted PPG, in supporting the Visor Project, contributed with many others, to the successful distribution of visors to the Bearsted Medical Practice, other medical practices, pharmacies, care homes, hospices, physios, trusts, coops, post offices, district nurses, hospitals, pathology teams, CSI teams, miscellaneous businesses and primary

schools.

As PPG Secretary, **Chris Dobson**, who played a major role on behalf of the PPG, said, 'Little did any of us think when we posted for volunteers to help the surgery on the last Friday in March that this could possibly be the outcome!' PPG Treasurer, **Goff Norrington**, also contributed significantly to this effort. (See his report below). **Jeannette Ward**, PPG Chair, took the initiative in responding to the request from the Bearsted surgery,

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### THAT

- The surgery is now using a **telephone triage system** in place of the Walk-in clinic. Please call the surgery to make an appointment before coming to the surgery as the main doors are closed. You can find all the information you need by going to [bearsted.gpsurgery.net](http://bearsted.gpsurgery.net)

#### THAT

- You can get your medicine without leaving home by contacting the pharmacy at the surgery to arrange delivery by volunteer drivers. You could also contact Pharmacy2U at [pharmacy2u.co.uk](http://pharmacy2u.co.uk) or by calling 0113 265 0222

#### THAT

- If you are self-isolating, you can arrange urgent supplies to be delivered by volunteers. Contact for the Covid19 Help Team: [covid19helpteam@bearstedparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:covid19helpteam@bearstedparishcouncil.gov.uk).
- The **Bearsted Parish Council** has donated funds to the PPG to cover the cost of printing our community leaflets. Thank you very much to the council.

#### THAT

- The PPG also sent out a poster to help the Covid19 Help Team, recruited volunteer drivers for the GPs, circulated information about the Maidstone Sewing Group for NHS and Support workers

soliciting help from the community and then following up with repeated updates on the project. The **Bearsted & Thurnham Society** contributed significant funds and circulation support, the latter also swiftly provided by the **Bearsted & District Local History Society**. As demand for the visors rose, massive support for the extended project was provided by the **Royal British Legion Industries**, with critical donation of screen material, and by the **Freemasons**, extending the project.

The community of Bearsted and beyond owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to all those who worked on this project and who contributed in various ways to its extraordinary success. The efficiency and speed with which the project team delivered visors to help fill the gap in PPE during the Covid-19 pandemic should surely serve as a model for effective, unheralded and unselfish community action. Who knows how many lives were saved?

## PPG TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE VISOR PROJECT

As you have just read, the response to the call for medical face visors not only for our own surgery but also for the wider Bearsted community, has been a fantastic feat of production and distribution. Whilst my job as PPG treasurer has been easy in comparison, during this time the PPG finances have never had so many entries of expenditure and income to keep up with!! Our expenditure of almost £1,800 has been significant but this by no means covers the cost of the 1,000 visors produced. Other organisations, including the RBLI and individuals producing these, have put much of their own money into the project.

On the income side we have received donations in excess of £1,500 and whilst thanks go to the Bearsted & Thurnham Society and the Freemason's for their very generous support, thanks must also go to a number of individual Bearsted residents who donated funds to the PPG. The net effect of all this activity is a current PPG net balance of £850 which, includes a PPG donation of £250 to the RBLI in recognition of their significant support to the Bearsted community throughout this project. The PPG accounts balance of £850 is available to further support the surgery and the wider community. As always, the PPG accounts are available for viewing online at [bearsted.gpsurgery.co.uk](http://bearsted.gpsurgery.co.uk). Just click on 'Patient Group' and go to the minutes.

## HEALTHY WALKING GROUP

Due to Covid 19, the PPG Healthy Walking Group is suspended until further notice. With the government's partial lifting of the lockdown, you can now walk in family groups in the Bearsted Woodland Trust, even have a family picnic. Healthy walking is still possible!

ENJOY THE WONDERFUL WEATHER AND THE JUNE BLOOM!

