**The Lions IT Refurbishment Programme**

**Based in Fleet, supporting Fleet, Hart, Farnborough & Aldershot, Yateley, Farnham, Hook & Odiham Lions clubs.**

On 14th January 2019, on behalf of the local Lions Clubs based in north-east Hampshire we supplied our first computers to the Footprint Preschool in Yateley.

It is with pride that 6 years later, the IT Team can announce the delivery of our 3,000th computer to members of our local community. Each of which has been checked, wiped clean, reloaded with new software, tested and approved for new use.

Who, back in 2019, could have envisaged the vital role the project was able to fulfil with the near total collapse of society brought about by the Covid Pandemic. Rather than retreating into insularity, the IT Team became proactive in supplying hundreds of school children with the means of continuing their education from home and giving Care Groups the ability to link with their clients and co-workers. We then played a vital role in giving displaced Ukrainian families the ability to communicate with loved ones back home and to help their children with UK schooling and integration. This by offering laptops with joint UK / Cyrillic keyboards.

With the end of Covid there has been a fresh challenge. This time to assist people back into work and to help with retraining. Through all these challenges, the dynamics of the IT Team have adapted to continue to fill this vital role of ‘Help and Learning in the Community’.

The need continues. We will continue to carry out this work which demands such a high level of commitment from a small band of Lions and selected volunteers? Not for the ‘fun of it’, certainly not for any personal gain, we do it because we believe in the spirit of Lionism – ‘ To help those who lack the opportunity or experience to help themselves in times of hardship’. What we do get is to see the smiles on the faces of children and of adults who we pass the computers to, knowing that through our Service as Lions we are able to give them the chance to build a brighter future. That is what it’s all about. That is why 6 years later, the Members of the Lions IT Refurbishment Team continue to ask for your support with the supply of discarded/surplus computers and with financial support.

Without the hundreds of items donated to us by individuals and from businesses none of the above would have been possible. Please contact it@fleetlions.org.uk