

FROM THE LIONS' DEN



Undeterred by the Covid-19 restrictions, and who would argue that this wasn't an essential journey, Santa still managed to visit Stowmarket in the weeks before Christmas to spread a little much needed seasonal cheer. Much to the disappointment of children who missed coming out to see him at their front doors, he wasn't able to visit homes as he has always done in previous years.

With his helpers from Stowmarket Lions Club, he had to be content with greeting everybody from his sleigh parked in the car park at Tesco's and outside Kelly's Taxi

office in the town centre. He also visited Stowmarket Community Centre on Hillside for the launch of the Foodbank's Christmas hamper distribution.

Lions Club President, Kevin Parker, said: "The children loved seeing Santa and we are very grateful, particularly in these difficult times, to all those who generously donated a fantastic total of £2,500 to support our charity work."

Santa is pictured arriving at Tesco's and at the community centre with the Mayor of Stowmarket, Keith Scarff and Lion Dave Thomas.

Lions Still Here to Help

Covid restrictions look set to be with us for some months yet and the Lions stand ready to offer whatever assistance they can in cases of need. Anybody requiring help with collecting medication or essential supplies, with assistance that has become unavailable due to the restrictions or the sort of support that the Lions have always provided, can contact the Lions through normal support services channels or our website.

www.stowlions.org.uk/contactus

FINBOROUGH LADIES NETBALL CLUB

Just before Christmas, Finborough Ladies NC attached bells to their trainers and jingled all the way through their netball matches for charity.

We donned the noisiest bells we could find, popped tinsel in our hair and even a few of our enthusiastically festive players lit up the courts with battery-powered fairy lights. After a particularly challenging year for the sport, our club all agreed that a night of silliness, whilst raising money for some great causes, would be a great way to end the year.

With umpires' fees and subs included, £315 went towards donations to three charities: The Lullaby Trust, Lighthouse Women's Aid and Stowmarket Foodbank.

THE GATEWAY 14 RESIDENTS CAMPAIGN GROUP

Gateway 14 is a new development site on the outskirts of Stowmarket, close to Cedars Park. Owned solely by Mid Suffolk District Council, it was originally envisaged that this site would be home to a wide range of innovative businesses, providing a wide range of employment opportunities to local residents. However, due to the large investment made by the local authority (£37 million) and the desire for a speedy financial return, the full potential of this development may be undermined.

The Gateway 14 Residents Campaign Group was created by several concerned locals in response to potential issues surrounding this upcoming development. So far, it has been suggested that this site is to be used mainly as a logistics centre. If this is the case, issues such as noise and light pollution, traffic and anti-social behaviour could become daily realities for residents. Is this what we really want for the future of Stowmarket?

A potentially great opportunity for Stowmarket may be missed but it is not too late. With greater cooperation from Mid Suffolk District Council, this site could still become home to a broader variety of businesses and Stowmarket's true potential could be reached. This campaign group is simply seeking assurances from Mid Suffolk District Council that this site remains both sympathetic to residents and in keeping with the area's future investment and employment needs.

If you would like more information on how to help secure Stowmarket's future, visit our Facebook page or get in contact with us via email.

www.facebook.com/g14residentsgroup

E: G14ResidentsGroup@mail.com

We are also collecting donations for professional consultation on our GoFundMe page: <https://bit.ly/38EwL0f>



STOWMARKET & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We continue for the foreseeable future to hold virtual networking meetings via Zoom so you'll have to provide your own refreshments when meet from 10am-noon on Friday 5 February and for breakfast on Friday 19 February from 8am.

We would love to see you!

We are also sending out weekly newsletters with tips, advice and the latest information for businesses.

Visit the website for details and to book: www.stowmarketchamber.co.uk

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