

# A personal message from the Herts Lord-Lieutenant during ongoing pandemic

**There is no doubt that we are in unprecedented times. No one has ever experienced the extreme measures that have been taken by the UK and other governments around the**

world in an effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Here in Hertfordshire we are of course as much in the firing line as anywhere else in the country and sadly the number of deaths in the county continues to rise.

However, I want to look at the positive things that are happening around the county and I must start with the amazing response to the call for volunteers. I have always been immensely proud of the fantastic number of Hertfordshire residents volunteering on a regular basis - far above the national average.

And at this time - when the county and the country need people to step up to the plate - the people of Hertfordshire have been at the forefront of coming forward and supporting the most vulnerable in the community.

Our two NHS trusts are flat out coping with the influx of patients suffering from COVID-19 (as well as their usual workload) and are being supported by many others including amazing numbers returning to the NHS from retirement as well as student nurses jumping onto the front line to offer support in the hospitals. Talk about a baptism of fire...!

However both NHS trusts covering Hertfordshire, together with the PAH Trust in Harlow which covers many areas of East Hertfordshire, are short of a number of items which I believe can be sourced or manufactured in the county and I am holding a "wishlist" of items and services urgently needed which I am happy to share with companies who believe they can help. Others are delivering food and medical and other supplies to those self-isolating including the large number who are part of the 1.5 million on the Government's list most



**HM LORD-LIEUTENANT OF HERTFORDSHIRE- ROBERT VOSS CBE**

vulnerable people.

It was inspiring to join the millions of people around the country applauding the NHS and also care workers on the last two Thursday evenings.

However I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to the many thousands of others working on the front line during this critical time: to police officers and fire and rescue personnel keeping us safe, to postal workers and courier drivers delivering our mail and packages, to bus and train drivers transporting those able to travel to work, to the farmers and those working in the food supply chain keeping us fed, to those in food shop and pharmacies keeping us supplied, to those in education keeping schools open for children of those in critical employment, to those in the courts and the prisons, to those carrying out emergency repairs, and of course to the thousands of volunteers carrying out so many vital roles.

As Her Majesty said in

her recent broadcast to the nation "I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge." In Hertfordshire there will be so many who will look back and be able to say "I was one of those that helped the county and the country get through this terrible crisis".

And come through it we will and I am not sure we will be living in an Aldous Huxley style brave new world but definitely a world of greater compassion for our neighbours and our communities.

There will many people that I and my Deputy Lieutenants will wish to thank and shake by the hand - without wearing gloves. And the Hertfordshire which is now known as "The county of opportunity" will be known as "the county of opportunity and community" for what the people of Hertfordshire are showing is great community spirit. For that and all you are doing and continue to do at this time-I thank you and again to quote Her Majesty (and the great Vera Lynn): "We WILL meet again."

## news

### PPE for carers

**Businesses are being urged to give personal protective equipment (PPE) to Hertfordshire County Council care workers.**

There has been a shortage of PPE since the COVID-19 crisis hit, with some hospitals not having enough protective equipment for staff.

HCC is also asking for spare PPE, such as goggles, masks etc, for their care workers. They have said PPE will help them care and protect older and disabled

residents in Hertfordshire from coronavirus.

The University of Hertfordshire has already donated their PPE equipment to the NHS and carers working with HCC.

Director of public health at HCC Jim McManus said: "This donation will not only help treat our patients, but it will help keep our NHS staff safe and will save lives. This deserves the highest praise."

If you want to donate please contact [BusinessVolunteers@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:BusinessVolunteers@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

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