



DONS Local **Action Group**

NEWSLETTER

15th Edition | 30 August 2020

TO ALL: THANK YOU!

As we continue to settle back to the new normal, we're seeing more people having to return to work. That's okay, we still have an amazing volunteer base that is continuing to grow and we're so thankful to each and every one of you who has and does put time into Dons Local Action Group.

However, this week we see a secret legend going back to his Endeavour Youth Club. Many of you have met DJ Nick Skilton on his rounds of the supermarket collections—his daily commitment to DLAG has been astonishing. Not only would he do 2-3 pick ups a day from the Merton supermarkets, but he has also been dedicated to his daily hospital runs every single evening since the beginning of lockdown. He's touched many hearts within and around DLAG.

Nick, although we're very sad to see you pull back, we're excited you can go back to the Endeavour and DJ game. Here are a few words from someone you have formed a lasting friendship with, Cormac van der Hoeven (one of our three co-founders). Thank you for all your hard work, we couldn't have succeeded without you. You rock!



DJ Nick Skilton

By Cormac van der Hoeven, 1 of our 3 DLAG co-founders

There were Day One Heroes in this project who I hold in the same esteem as the new volunteers that still keep rocking up now to do a first shift on a stall. Perhaps Endeavour Nick is one such character and legend. He's is the embodiment of irrationally mad loyalty to Craig (one of three cofounders of DLAG) that every Old Rutlishian was seduced to at the beginning of lockdown. Whilst his hours at the Youth Club and the DJing house circuit was diluted, he sustained his hours throughout. Nick is VIP at all hospitals in South West London as a result of his dedication. As someone who lives off his photogenic looks, I've learnt an important quality in this unique project that's evolving into perhaps a more challenging phase. It's been, and continues to be, held together by the silent, daily, tireless warriors from all communities vof South West London. Nick, a character many of you will have encountered, is one of them.

As the project evolves, we have both agreed we will make sure to simply contribute a three-hour shift per week together to keep in touch with each other and DLAG.



From our Fundraising Team

Since the beginning of DLAG, we've been busy reaching out and applying for funding. We have received generous charitable donations and grants to support our work in both food poverty and Keep Kids Connected. We're beyond thankful, as everything donated helps to keep us going.

We're in complete support of our volunteers if they decide to organise sponsored challenges through Just Giving. Morgen Brits recently completed a 25-mile bike ride and hit his target, raising over £2,500. Well done Morgen!

We are currently taking part in the Aviva Community Fund to raise £10,000 so that we're able to buy our very own van! This will help us in our work more than you can imagine, especially since losing our loyal Nick Skilton and the Endeavour mini bus. The amount of food donations we receive is beyond generous, we can't fit it all into cars. A van is essential.

Please share the link (avivacommunityfund.co.uk/dons-local-action-group) with your networks and spread the word to help us achieve our goal and see a DLAG van driving around.

We are constantly on the lookout for funding opportunities. With a huge network of volunteers ready to continue working with our local community, fundraising is vital to help support this. If you have any ideas for fundraising activities, or potential sources of funding such as local companies who may be interested in helping, please let us know. Every penny counts to keep the work going.

Can you help our Fundraising Team grow?

We are looking for a Donor Cultivation Manager with a passion to support the community who can look after our existing donors. If you think you can help and have 5-6 hours of spare time per week, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you!

“It was great cycling from the hub to the Sikh Temple in Slough! Felt a little tired and sore towards the end, but it's for such a good cause that I carried on.”

—Morgen Brits
