

Covent Garden Covid-19 Response

April 2020 - October 2020

Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust, Covent Garden Community Centre,
7 Dials Club & Phoenix Garden working together

I Challenges & Solutions I



As we went into lockdown we had to adapt to survive. To support users and residents we focused on strategy and practicalities. How to coordinate our response and give the most effective and timely support?

All the organisations in south Camden pooled expertise, knowledge and resources to identify gaps and anticipate the needs of local people. Firstly food. In partnership with LB Camden & The Felix Project it took a week to get the Food Bank up & running. A registration process, a phone support line & volunteers to deliver food, medicines, advice & support to those shielding or in need. Next came digital - shift activities online, learn how to use Zoom & Instagram Live, establish daily newsletters and phone support for those not online. Get laptops, tablets & dongles to young people and those over 55 without. Then, how to pay for a doubling of demand but all external generated commercial income gone? The importance of fundraising efforts to ensure sustainability was never more essential. This is still an ongoing situation with no end or relief in sight, with Brexit on the horizon. Stay one step ahead...

Young People

After School Club activities went online immediately. We sent out laptops and tablets to help young people who were struggling to do homework on smart phones. We had one to one sessions to support those with anxiety and fear of the pandemic. We contacted young people and their parents on a daily basis and delivered yoga sessions, arts & crafts, homework support, mental health workshops and social activities via Zoom.

The Young Foundation funded a summer project called 'Holiday Hunger' - 13 young people, 4 hours a day, 4 days per week for 5 weeks. The majority were those eligible for free school meals. A further 10 young people came and picked up ready meals to take away. The project was a partnership with CGCC - who supplied meals, Phoenix Garden - who supplied the outdoor venue and Dragon Hall who supplied the staff team, created the activity programme and monitored the results to report back.

Over 55s

The Dragon Hall staff team opened a phone support line contacting those shielding and in need daily or weekly. Volunteer teams were mobilised to deliver food parcels, ready meals & medicines. The team helped coordinate the administration of the Food Bank at CGCC and published daily newsletters. Referrals were taken from Age UK, LB Camden and local housing providers.

The Phoenix Garden fit the bill as a socially distanced outside meeting space once shielding was lifted with CGCC providing cream teas and other treats when activities were taking place. The south Camden organisations & community centres had a coordinated response to the pandemic, meeting virtually weekly to design a shared strategy to avoid duplication, share resources and respond swiftly to any gaps in provision, changes in guidelines & messaging, or need developing.

Going Forward

The Food Bank has proven to be an essential service. Surplus food supply is now more difficult to source. Funding & donations are tapering off.

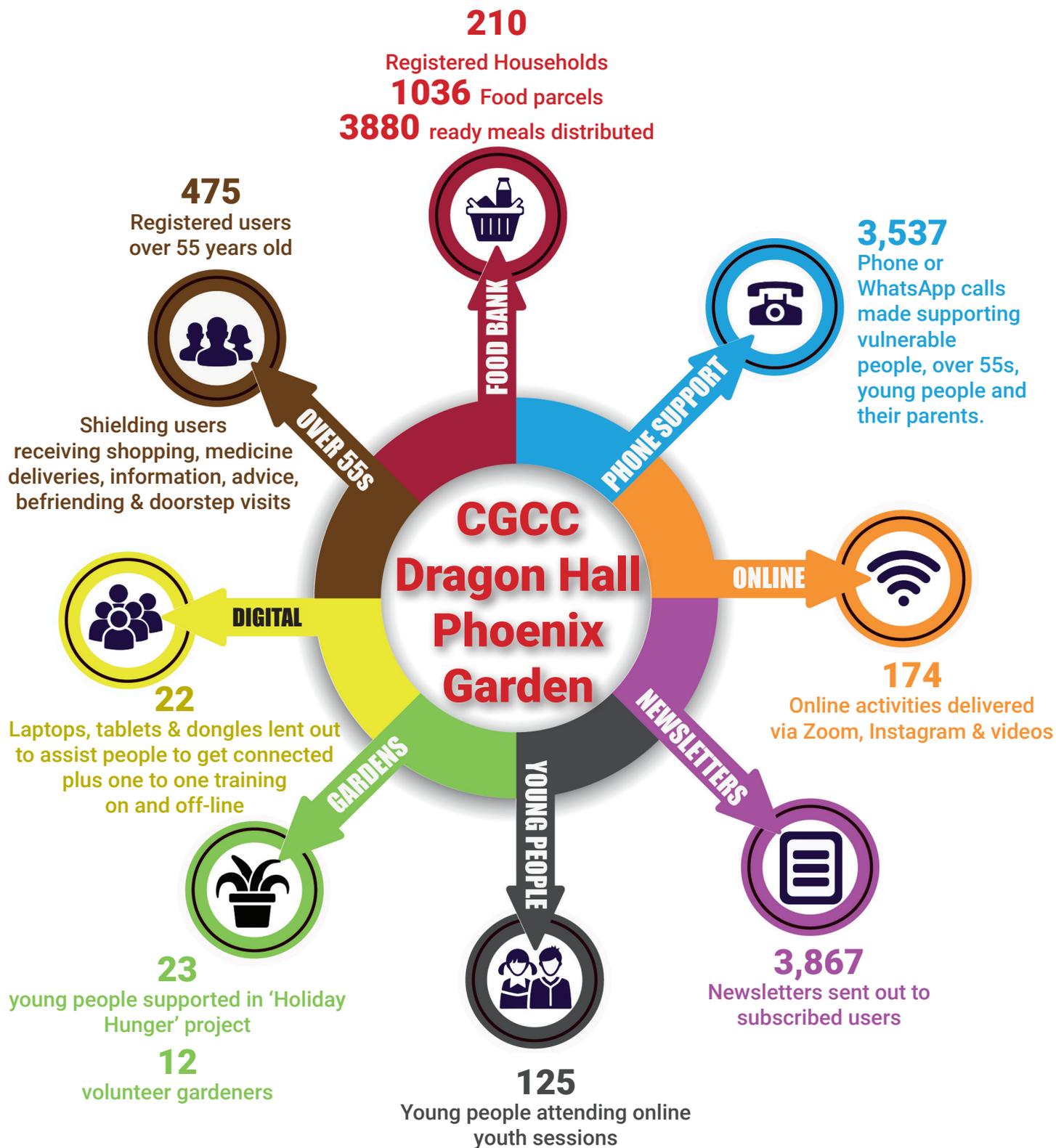
Dragon Hall & CGCC are reimagining the Food Bank as a Community Kitchen. Raising funds to cover the ongoing costs of our chef to create 1000 ready meals per week plus establishing breakfast & lunch clubs in our venues.

The Over 55s need support to be able to come out of isolation in a safe and considered way. Covid-19 safe venues and activities are being restarted with a close eye on the ever-changing Government guidelines. Our After School Clubs are operational with a reduced intake - based around those who have the greatest need - and restricted to their already established school 'bubbles'. We continue to work closely with south Camden partners & to respond swiftly to emerging needs.

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Covent Garden Food Bank

Covent Garden Community Centre @ 7 Dials Club & Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust
42 Earlham Street, London WC2H 9LA. foodbank@cgcc.org.uk

Registered Users

294

Statistics 13/10/2020

Food Bank opened 30/04/2020

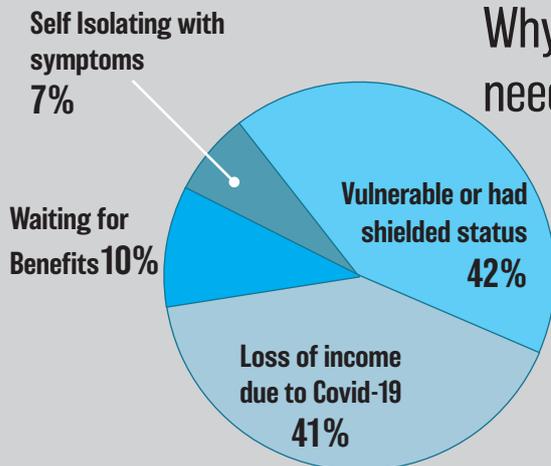
Food Parcels distributed

1119

Ready Meals distributed

5190

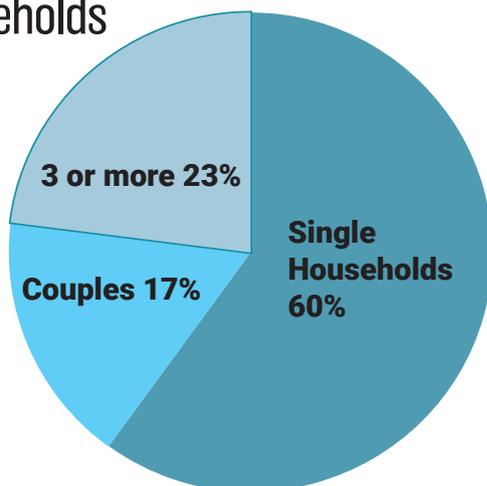
Why is help needed?



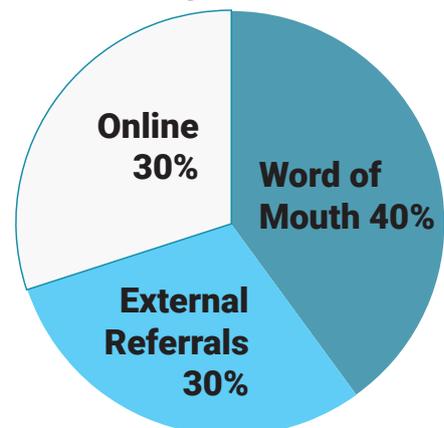
Where do they live?

Camden 60% - Westminster 32%
Islington 5% - Other 3%

Households



How did they find out about it?



Food donations: The Felix Project / LB Camden, Local residents, M&S via Neighbourly

Funding Support: CAPCO, Northbank BID, London Community Response Fund, Shaftesbury PLC, Westminster CC, LB Camden, Covent Garden Area Trust, South Bloomsbury Residents & Tenants Association, CBRE, HM Government in partnership with The National Lottery Community Fund

Register here: www.cgcc.org.uk - foodbank@cgcc.org.uk - 020 7691 1577