ALTERNATIVE GLEANING

THE DEEPINGS AREA OF SERVICE:

+ hunger

LIONS SHARE

Project description

Some years ago, the District Officer and now our current District Governor inspired the club to think how we could contribute to preventing hunger and help the environment locally. Unfortunately, we don't have a large farming community locally, but one of our club members put forward an idea. She lives in a road called The Orchard, where nearly every house has an apple tree. Between all the neighbours they have a glut of apples they can't use every year. The initial plan was that we gleaned the apples for them. When we started to look into how we could achieve it, there was a number of health and safety issues, an aging club membership and the dreaded pandemic.

So, we decided to ask the people of the area to bring the unwanted produce to us and we would distribute it locally. We targeted allotments initially and advertised in the local press and poster.

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What went well?

We spread the collections over two days. Day one we collected about 65kgs of tomatoes, pears, courgettes and kale. Day two, it poured with rain but we still collected another 5kgs of produce.
We had been given names of families in need by a local charity, who were so grateful, it made it worthwhile. The rest went to a food pantry and some to care homes.

Lessons learnt

- Needed to advertise more
- Needed to target more areas where growers will see poster e.g. garden centres
- Reduce it to one day, as second day was a bit of a wasted day
- Look for more recipients who are in need of the produce

120 people served

100 volunteer hours