



APPLIANCE LOAN SCHEME

**SAFFRON WALDEN
AREA OF SERVICE:**



+ mobility



Project description

There was a need to provide, on a short-term loan basis (2/3 months on average), a range of mobility aids such as wheelchairs, commodes, rollalongs, toilet frames etc for all age groups not generally available through the NHS.

Saffron Walden Lions Club took over the service from a local couple, Jack & Joy Turnbull, who created it and ran it from their garage until they decided to retire.

We were fortunate enough to be offered part of a store owned by and at the rear of Saffron Walden Community Hospital who charged us an initial one-off payment spread across 15 years. This service known locally as the Appliance Loan Scheme has now been in operation since 2006.



What went well?

The service was initially aimed at those in Saffron Walden and has since spread to encompass much of the northern area of Uttlesford District Council and parts of Cambridgeshire. When our 'Customers' return equipment to us they usually offer a monetary donation which when possible is enhanced by Gift Aid. This income has enabled the Club to donate up to £75,000 to mainly local but also national and international charities, needy causes and individuals over 15 years discounting the Covid year (2020/2021) with the current Lionistic year showing a healthy return to pre-Covid income levels.



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Lessons learnt

During the Coronavirus Pandemic we had to seriously reduce the number of items kept in the store to provide the necessary space for cleaning and sanitizing returned items. The Club also introduced a Safe Way of Working following a Risk Assessment. We have continued to follow this regime despite a fall in Covid cases and ensure an annual risk and fire assessment is completed each July.



14,010 people served

(estimated over the duration of the project based on last year's figure)



14,800 volunteer hours

(estimated over the duration of the project based on last year's figure)

