

## Bearsted Patient Participation Visor Project

Bearsted Patient Participation Group[ (PPG) originally responded to a request from the Bearsted Medical Practice on 26th March, who asked us to put a request out to our 300 PPG members via email. The surgery sent us a Prusa face shield prototype internet link and three individuals replied to say they had a 3D printer either at home or available at work for them to use.

The movement to produce the visors grew from this. The request spread out beyond the PPG membership as Bearsted societies and groups helped to publicise it for us. PPG Members sent us suggestions of other establishments making visors such as Sutton Valence School and The University of Kent which we followed up and people also offered to make donations. As a result of this activity the local Bearsted production group has donated visors to Bearsted Medical Practice and other medical practices, pharmacies, care homes and local shops around Maidstone distributing our 100<sup>th</sup> re-useable visor on 11<sup>th</sup> April.



Our team of 7 printers is based around mostly working from home although one of them is operated by 36 Engineers Regiment at their barracks. We set up a WhatsApp group for contributors to share production problems and solutions and it has become a truly collaborative team, enabling the screen to be improved and modified from the feedback we received from users. We have also had tremendous support from Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) who have obtained significant quantities of the screen material for the visors and cut it to size for us.



Our initial funding came from the PPG but we have also had a number of individual contributions and one from The Bearsted and Thurnham society which has helped us to maintain a supply of filament and to replace an overworked 3D printer.

We currently have outstanding requests for over 200 visors and today we have had a request from Kent County Council to help them support local care homes so our production team will be continuing for the foreseeable future.