



Charity update for the Worshipful Company of Butchers



Prepared by Sarah Ramsay, Partnerships Manager
April 2021

Thank you for helping to rebuild futures

Thank you very much for your most recent donation of £20,000 towards our Rebuilding Futures Fund. Thanks to your support we continue to provide financial assistance for people affected by meningitis across the UK. So far in 2021 we have made 15 awards, totalling £9,888.80. And our next panel meeting will take place at the start of May to consider the new applications that we continue to receive.

Your donation is making a big difference to people's lives

Adapting Jacob's home to make it safe

In January 2013 Jacob contracted meningococcal septicaemia. His family were told that he had a 10% chance of survival. Thankfully Jacob did survive but the infection meant that he had to have his legs amputated below the knee. He now wears prosthetic legs. He spent 699 days in hospital and underwent extensive therapy to slowly rebuild strength and relearn how to carry out day to day tasks.

We have supported Jacob and his fiancée Summer since 2014. Their Meningitis Now Community Support Officer, Christine Mather, has provided 1-1 support and information to help Jacob understand what happened to him, we have funded counselling, provided financial support, given Jacob access to a peer community through our Young Ambassador programme and our support events.

Jacob says: *"It's been an unplanned journey, but it's given me a new perspective on life. I must say I'd never willingly endure it all again, but I'm grateful for the remarkable people I've met as a result."*



Jacob meeting another meningitis survivor at a Meningitis Now Family Day (before the pandemic)

Jacob has volunteered at many student awareness events to encourage students to get their vaccinations and he has been the face of our student awareness poster campaigns. Jacob also featured as one of the statues in our 2015 Chelsea Garden.

Jacob has made great strides in rebuilding his life after meningitis. He now works for the NHS and lives with his fiancée in their beautiful home that they have created together. In February this year he applied to the Rebuilding Futures Fund for £901 to have a new front door installed with low threshold entry. Jacob told us:

"This item will permit me safer access when entering and exiting my home, currently the door frame in place has quite a high threshold and I have tripped on it several times causing me to fall. A new door with a low threshold would help alleviate physical stresses on my body in order to safely step up and over the threshold into and out of the house."

The lower threshold will also make it easier and safer for Jacob to enter his home in his wheelchair if he needs to. We were delighted to agree to fund this item at our latest Rebuilding Futures Fund panel meeting and help Jacob to continue forge forward with leading a happy and independent life.

New five-year strategy – Making a Difference Everyday

We are determined to continue to be here for the people who need us. We are launching our new five-year strategy in 2021, which resolves to:

- Fight to defeat meningitis in the UK within a generation
- Reach out to everyone who needs our help, support and information
- Be recognised as a centre of expertise for aftercare and support

We look forward to sharing our published strategy as soon as it is ready.

Your commitment to our charity is helping to provide financial security while our organisation strives to rebuild and recover in the wake of the pandemic. With your help we will thrive once again and achieve our ambitious strategic goals.

World Meningitis Day – 24th April

Every year April 24th is World Meningitis Day, bringing together meningitis organisations and people affected by the disease from around the world.



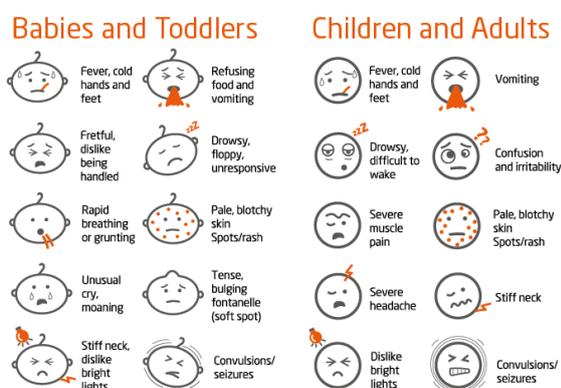
This year’s slogan is ‘Take Action, Defeat Meningitis’. The Worshipful Company of Butchers can help us achieve this by:

- Telling people about the signs and symptoms. Early diagnosis and treatment saves lives. Please share our symptoms information on your social media and in your communications with Liveryman. Encourage Liveryman to display posters and our signs and symptoms cards in their places of work.

Suggested social media post:

*Learn the signs and symptoms this
#WorldMeningitisDay to help
#DefeatMeningitis. Suspect meningitis?
Trust your instincts and seek medical help.*

And include symptoms information, such as this graphic, with the post



- Get vaccinated to protect yourself and those around you. Ask you Liverymen to check that they and their family members have had all our their routine vaccinations that are available for free through the NHS – the current list is available to download from : https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899423/PHE_Complete_Immisation_Schedule_Jun2020_05.pdf and new updates will be posted on this government webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule>

We can provide more information, graphics and films to support with this promotional work. Please get in touch if you can support with this.

Look out for our BBC Lifeline appeal

We are extremely excited to have been selected to feature in a BBC Lifeline appeal.

Long-term Celebrity Ambassador, Lisa Snowdon, will front our BBC Lifeline Appeal. Lisa has been an avid supporter of our work after contracting meningitis in 2010. Lisa is pictured here helping at one of our events with her friend Joel Dommett.



The special broadcast is due to air on Sunday 25th April (barring any last-minute scheduling changes).

The 10-minute broadcast will highlight our work in meningitis research, awareness and support, and share the stories of families affected by meningitis. This is a fantastic opportunity to engage the BBC's audience, inspire people to support us and reach out to people who may be in need of our help.

We need your help to reach as many people as possible. Meningitis Now will be the featured charity on the BBC Lifeline website throughout the week following transmission and we would love our partners to share a link to this page through your media channels. Please share our social media posts in the lead up to the appeal and afterwards to encourage as many people as possible to watch the video.

Seeking specific skills for our Believe and Achieve programme

Our Believe & Achieve programme supports young people aged 14-25 affected by meningitis. It aims to put appropriate support in place to help young people to take their next step in life. The support we offer to each young person is tailored to them and led by their needs.

We have recently been seeking to connect one of our young people with a person who has successfully built a career in social media. Please do let us know if the Worshipful Company of Butchers can help us to connect this young person for a chat about the social media industry and how to get started in a career in social media.

We may have other young people in the future that are also seeking one-off connections to discuss other industries and career paths. If this is something that the Worshipful Company of Butchers could help with in the future, it would be very helpful to have a list of career areas that you could support with. Please do let us know if you would like to explore this further.

Thank you for your support!