

# HEALTH MATTERS

The newsletter of **The WPH Charitable Trust** – A charity supporting health related projects for individuals, groups and organisations across Coventry and Warwickshire

## New and improved kitchen for St Peter's Centre

**Centre awarded £5,000 from WPH Charitable Trust to ease access for disabled people**

Disabled visitors to St Peter's Centre in the Hillfields area of Coventry are making the most of a new kitchen – thanks to a £5,000 grant from the WPH Charitable Trust.

Rise and fall units for wheelchair users, and lighting and flooring with specified colours to support partially sighted people, are among the special features for disabled people using the new facility, which will be available to disabled and other groups across Coventry.

Thanks to the installation of training cameras in the kitchen, the centre

now has the perfect facility to give cooking demonstrations to large groups of people watching from a large screen in an adjacent hall.

With a footfall of 42,000 last year – and untouched since first opening in 2001 – the centre had been badly in need of the new kitchen. Proposed in early 2016, the project was completed in mid July this year.

Centre Manager, Joan Haywood, said, "Thirty-five per cent of our regular users have physical or mental health challenges. One of our largest groups is the Coventry Asian

Blind Association, while the remaining 65 per cent include children and elderly people who attend with groups such as Cook and Eat Well, which works with disadvantaged families.

The new kitchen is part of a wider £75,000 project to renovate the whole centre –

including new heating, new flooring and lighting, to meet the needs of people with visual impairment or dementia.

Joan said centre users had been delighted with the improvements. She thanked WPH Charitable Trust for its donation, adding, "This kitchen is the jewel in the crown. It is an excellent facility available for all members of the community to use".



## Grant from WPH helps keeps air ambulance in the skies

**Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance (WNAA) is celebrating a £10,200 windfall from the WPH Charitable Trust.**



The grant takes the total donated by the Trust to the air ambulance to £55,200 over the past eight years.

The latest donation follows an application by the air ambulance to fund six missions – each costing an average £1,700.

Launched almost 15 years ago, the air ambulance –

in partnership with the neighbouring Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance – covers 3,850 square miles taking in stretches of many major roads. Last

year the service, which includes a critical care car for incidents with poor visibility, completed 1,333 missions.

The majority of missions (43%) were road accidents. 20% were medical emergencies, 11% were sports related injuries, 8% were falls and almost 4% were industrial

incidents. With a top speed of 185 mph the average response time to a mission is 13 minutes.

As well as helping to keep the air ambulance flying above Coventry and Warwickshire, the money helps fund the on-board crew which includes a pilot, at least one doctor and at least one paramedic.

Chloe Bass, Legacies and Trusts Manager at The Air Ambulance Service, said: "WNAA has received an extremely generous sum from the WPH Charitable Trust this year, for which we are very grateful.

Since WNAA began

operating in 2003 we have gone from strength to strength with doctors and paramedics trained to the very highest levels.

We have also developed excellent relationships across the two counties with the NHS ambulance service and the hospitals that we transfer our patients to after they have been assessed and treated."

She added, "We really could not have done all of this without the support of Trusts, such as WPH who have supported us since 2009, and we are truly thankful".

# Mobility scooter brings independence to Diane

Multiple Sclerosis patient Diane Quirke says a new mobility scooter purchased with a grant from the WPH Charitable Trust has given her a whole new level of freedom and independence.

Being almost entirely wheelchair bound, Diane, a 51-year-old housewife from Binley in Coventry, would rely on the help of family and friends to get out and about.

Shopping centres and other public places became impossible to visit unless they provided mobility scooters for visitors.

Earlier Diane applied to WPH Charitable Trust for help in purchasing a mobility scooter of her own and was awarded £1,500.

Diane, who is married to Sean and

is mother of 23-year-old twins Molly and Sean, said, "The Trust approved my application really quickly which was a great help as sometimes these things can take such a long time.

It has made a real difference to my life. It is one of the latest models and it doesn't need dismantling and assembling every time. It folds up automatically by remote control and is easily stored. Not only can I get about day to day with it but it is easy to take on an aeroplane when I want to go away."

Diane was diagnosed with MS in 2001. Prior to her diagnosis she had worked as a nurse.



Diane on her new mobility scooter

## WPH HELPS DISABLED PEOPLE SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS

### WPH Charitable Trust award ILEAP £6,000.

The Stratford-upon-Avon charity (Inclusive Leisure Education Activities Project) exists to give opportunities to disabled people with a mild or moderate learning disability, allowing them to take part in the same activities as their non-disabled peers. ILEAP works with people across South Warwickshire. Established in 2001 to provide safe opportunities for disabled children, ILEAP's members now range from 7 to 72 years.

The donation will fund enterprising 'Skills for Life' sessions, where members create beautiful shabby chic items to sell at local markets and also at ILEAP's own shop at the Kenilworth Centre in Abbey End.

Peter Bazeley, CEO of ILEAP, said, "Projects such as this are ideal

for service users whose lack of opportunity has led to low self-esteem, loneliness and isolation, limited friendship groups, vulnerability and lack of confidence. As the project continues to grow, members plan to open an online shop and to hold a monthly market in Kenilworth, Stratford, Leamington and Warwick".

The sessions will help the charity achieve its aim of raising awareness of disability in the local community.

Peter said, "Market Ability is our attempt at sustaining the wider work of our charity through social enterprise, whilst adding worthwhile and purposeful activity to our programme, and thanks to the grant from WPH, the project can continue to develop for another year".

## WPH TRUST AWARDS ZOË'S PLACE £20,000 TO FUND GP SERVICE

**The Midlands' only dedicated baby hospice has been awarded £20,000 from the WPH Charitable Trust to fund its on-site GP service.**

Since opening its doors six years ago Zoë's Place Baby Hospice has provided care and support for more than 100 families with children across Coventry and Warwickshire aged up to five years old with life-limiting or life-threatening illnesses.

Michael McCann, Fundraising Manager at the Ash Green hospice, said, "This really is a very generous donation and we are extremely grateful to the trustees for their kindness and continued support of our work.

The service allows our highly skilled nurses to work in conjunction with our GP to keep our babies from being admitted to hospital."

Zoë's Place Baby Hospice costs between £1.3m and £1.4m a year - or



£3,600 a day - to run. The hospice employs 35 staff and can provide care for six babies and infants at any one time, including four youngsters in need of the hospice's cot room facilities.

Over 85 per cent of the funds raised each year comes from public fund raising.

David Holt, Chairman of the WPH Charitable Trust, said, "Zoë's Place Baby Hospice is a vital facility for Coventry and Warwickshire, providing an invaluable lifeline to children with life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses".