

## Press Release 05/2016

*Release date - Immediate*



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### Choir to support Salvation Army's *Way Ahead Project*

Local community choir, Village Voices, chooses a new charity each year and in 2016 it is supporting the Salvation Army Way Ahead Project. It will raise funds for this project at its next concert on the 21st of May, at St Nicholas Church, Warwick. The choir raises funds through ticket sales and raffle prizes donated by members of the choir.

For more information contact Claire Darlington (01926 886408), chair of the committee of Village Voices, or Jonathan Chilvers (01926 883616) project leader of the Way Ahead Project at the Salvation Army.

Village Voices is pleased to be able to support the Salvation Army Way Ahead Project which helps local people who are homeless or who suffer from addiction or mental health problems.

Jonathan Chilvers said "It's brilliant that Village Voices are generously giving their profits this year to the Salvation Army Way Ahead Project. The money will go to support people in the area who are homeless or with addictions to find accommodation and turn their lives around. We're here for people every step of the way, no matter where they're at."

<http://www.wayaheadproject.org.uk/about-us/>

<http://www.villagevoices.co.uk/musicevents.htm>

If readers are interested in joining Village Voices, they will be recruiting new members during the summer ready for the Christmas concert in December. You can find them on Facebook at Village Voices choir

<https://www.facebook.com/VillageVoicesWarwick/> and you can register your email address on the website in order to be kept informed of future events.

### Notes for Editors

#### 1 Village Voices Warwick

Village Voices is an established mixed voice community choir which celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015, with a special arrangement of O HOLY NIGHT by their MD, *Benjamin Hamilton*, sung at their Christmas Cracker Concert in December. The choir rehearse Thursday evenings from 20:00 to 22:00 at Chase Meadow Community Centre. Their next concert on 21<sup>st</sup> May, also at St Nicholas Church, is called "Musicals and More". They welcome new singers of either sex and any age and there are no auditions. It is not all rehearsals and singing at Village Voices, as they have

an active social agenda too, including a lunch club and trips to the cinema. Members of the choir are also available to sing at private functions, from performing at residential homes to weddings and parties.

**Contact** Claire Darlington, Chair of Village Voices, ☎ 01926 886408

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## **2 Way Ahead Project**

The Salvation Army has a long history of walking alongside people who are homeless or with broken lives. The Leamington Spa corps (church) is no exception and for years had helped out with food and old furniture.

The Way Ahead Project, formerly known as the Homeless Action Project (HAP) started around the year 2000. The Salvation Army officers (ministers) at the time were running a small café which attracted a number of people who were rough sleeping or homeless. As the officers found ways to meet their needs the HAP was born. Eden Villa hostel grew out of the HAP in 2003 later providing accommodation and support for 11 people.

In late 2008 the Salvation Army teamed up with the Saturday Friendship Group, based at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church. We started opening on a Saturday, involving volunteers and providing a range of activities and consciously trying to create a positive community and culture where clients could take ownership of their project and contribute something back to wider society.

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## **3 Funds Raised Previously by the Choir**

Village voices has raised funds for a variety of causes in recent years including these examples:-

- Springfield Mind chosen charity for 2015, Raised £1500
- SW Heart (South Warwickshire Heart failure Education and Cardiac Rehabilitation Trust) chosen for year 2014. Raised £2280
- Alzheimer's Society chosen charity for 2013, Raised a total of £560.
- Childhood Eye Cancer Trust 2012. £280
- Myton Hospice October 2012 in memory of former member Roger Duclaud-Williams. £285
- Long Itchington Church restoration on 11 May 2012.
- Warwickshire Northamptonshire Air Ambulance,
- Galanos House residents, raised £570
- RNLI at Cubbington Hall, the choir helped to raise £600