



Press Release 26/02/2016



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Local Community Choir Raises £1,500 for Springfield Mind Charity

Claire Darlington, Chair of the **Village Voices** choir, recently presented a cheque for £500 to *Maria Fennell* CEO of **Springfield Mind**. (see photo 1). The money was raised by Village Voices choir from ticket sales and a raffle at their Christmas Cracker concert held at Saint Nicholas church in Warwick. (see photo2). The choir members chose Springfield Mind as their charity for 2015 from three nominations, after a presentation by Maria, who also sings as a soprano in the choir. This cheque brings the annual total raised by Village Voices choir for Springfield Mind to £1500.

Presenting the cheque Claire said, *"On behalf of all the choir, I am very pleased to present this payment to such a worthy cause."*

Accepting the cheque Maria said, *"Donations, fundraising and volunteer support is essential to keeping projects like our Breakfast club alive. This fantastic fundraising efforts by Village Voices has supported the continuation of this innovative programme and has made a huge difference in the lives of those accessing the project"*.

Images

- 1 Claire Darlington presenting the Cheque to Maria Fennell.
- 2 The Village Voices Choir performing at St. Nicholas Church, Warwick

Notes for Editors

1 Village Voices

Village Voices is an established mixed voice community choir which celebrated its 20th Anniversary last year, 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 at a local Community Centre. They recently held a very successful open evening and attracted several new singers at the start of rehearsals for their **next charity concert on 21st May, also at St Nicholas Church Warwick at 7:30pm**. They welcome new singers of either gender 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 out like a trip to Bletchley Park in 2015 or to local

musical events . Members of the choir are also available to sing at private functions, from performing at residential homes to weddings and parties.

Anyone wishing to join the choir is initially asked to contact Claire Darlington.

Contact Claire Darlington, Chair of Village Voices, 01926 886408

 Website www.villagevoices.co.uk
 twitter <https://twitter.com/villagevoicesL>
 Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/VillageVoicesWarwick/>
 warwick.villagevoices@gmail.com or info@villagevoices.co.uk

2 Previous charities

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

- 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. Raised £280.
- Myton Hospice October 2012 in memory of former member Roger Duclaud-Williams. Raised £285.
- Galanos House residents. Raised £570.
- RNLI at Cubbington Hall. The choir helped to raise £600.

3 Springfield Mind Breakfast Club

1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year and there can be a variety of triggers such as stress, trauma, physical illness, unemployment or loss of a job to name but a few. Springfield Mind is a leading mental health charity based in South Warwickshire that offers a diverse range of services for those living with mental ill health to support them on their journey towards recovery. These include; information hubs, mentoring, counselling, training and workshops to support individuals back into employment.

Being in work is important for everyone's general health and wellbeing: it gives us purpose, promotes independence and engages us within social situations. Springfield Mind developed The **Breakfast club** to enable those living with mental ill health to develop their self-confidence, recognise their own strengths and identify transferable skills that could support them into new employment and achieve their own personal wellbeing. The programme is delivered weekly from the local job centres. The Breakfast club is open to anyone living with low mental wellbeing 17+ year and also offers a specifically tailored session for 50+ years once a month.

Individuals have said:

'Thank you for your support, I now feel more confident'

'I noticed that I persevere and am brave'

'I feel more confident in my ability to succeed'

4 Springfield Mind

Springfield Mind is a registered charity based in South Warwickshire. They are affiliated to National Mind and financed by contracts and grants from statutory authorities and trusts, donations and on-going fundraising.

Springfield Mind has been part of the fabric of the Stratford-upon-Avon community for over 30 years. More recently, the organisation has expanded its reach, with a base in Leamington Spa and outreach sessions and workshops across Warwickshire.

The organisation continues to grow from strength to strength, continuing to support individuals living with mental health distress to achieve their own personal wellbeing.

-  Website <http://springfieldmind.org.uk/contact-us/>
-  Email enquiries@springfieldmind.org.uk.
-  Phone infoline 01789 298615,

