

Press Release 01/2017

Release date - Immediate



For more information regarding this press release please contact initially, Terry Street, Publicity Officer press@villagevoices.co.uk mobile 07785916060 quote reference **VVPR1701**

Village Voices Warwick Choir Raised £2000 for the Salvation Army's Way Ahead Project in 2016.

Local community choir, Village Voices, has raised £2000 for the Salvation Army's Way Ahead Project, its chosen charity for 2016.

The funds were raised at two concerts (see below) presented by the choir, one in the summer at St Nicolas Church, Warwick and a Christmas one at Dale Street Methodist Church in Leamington Spa.

The funds came from sales of tickets and programmes as well as raffle tickets, donations for refreshments and money collected in donation boxes.

The members of the Choir nominate suggested charities each year and one is selected by choir members voting. A new charity will soon be chosen for 2017.

For more information please initially contact Terry Street *Publicity Officer for Village Voices*, ☎ 07785916060

In May, the choir had its biggest audience ever at its concert held in St Nicholas Church, Warwick, with over 190 tickets sold, and raised over £550 from a raffle and donations, and in addition, £122 was raised via an exit collection.

Funds raised at the "Deck the Halls" Christmas concert, included £145.57 Donations and these, with ticket and raffle sales brought the annual total to £2,000, a cheque for the balance of £1,450 was presented by *Claire Darlington*, Chair of the Committee and Jill White, who nominated the charity, to Jonathan Chilvers and the minister Major John Mclean who runs the Leamington Salvation Army. On receiving the cheque Salvation Army Way Ahead project leader, Jonathan Chilvers said:

"I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in Village Voices for choosing us as their charity of the year and raising this magnificent amount of money. The Salvation Army Way Ahead project relies on local donations to stay open. We would not be able to help people who are homeless or struggling with addictions to put their lives back together without such generous support from people in and around Leamington and Warwick."

For more details of the *Way Ahead Project* go to <http://www.wayaheadproject.org.uk/>

Notes for Editors

1. Village Voices Warwick

Village Voices is an established mixed voice community choir which celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2015. The choir rehearse Thursday evenings from 20:00 to 22:00 at Chase Meadow Community Centre. They recently took a leading part in the *Warwick District Remembers* concert at the Spa Centre on Friday 28th October and have been invited back to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Falklands War on Saturday 28th October 2017. For more details of Warwick District Remembers contact Adrian on adrian@warwickdistrictremembers.com, <http://www.warwickdistrictremembers.co.uk/>

Some members of the choir also sang at the Guild Chapel in Stratford for the Springfield Mind charity on 8th December at 11am. The programme included one or two of their own numbers (such as O Holy Night and Chris Last's In the Bleak Midwinter) as well as supporting the singing of the communal carols.

The Village Voices choir is a mixed choir and has successfully recruited some new singers and has developed a much stronger base and tenor section. However, we always welcome new singers 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 and theatres etc. 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. Salvation Army Way Ahead Project

The Way Ahead Project is part of the Salvation Army in Leamington Spa.

We provide drop in, advice and activities for 120 people each month who are homeless, or struggling with alcohol, drug use or their mental health. We're here to support people to turn their lives around.

We offer food, clothing, shower and laundry facilities but just as importantly somewhere people can find company; housing, addiction, employment and benefits advice; referrals to supported housing and a range of activities from small group cooking to art and first-aid. We encourage people to get involved in running the project and support people into voluntary and paid work.

We're not here to provide a sticking plaster for homelessness, but to help people turn their lives around and create a positive community where people can reach their full potential.

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

3 Funds Raised Previously by the Choir

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

- Salvation Army Way Ahead Project - chosen Charity for 2016 (interim payment) - £2,000
- Springfield Mind - chosen charity for 2015 - £1500
- SW Heart (South Warwickshire Heart Failure Education and Cardiac Rehabilitation Trust) - chosen for year 2014 - £2280
- Alzheimer's Society chosen - charity for 2013 - £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,
- Galenos House residents - £570
- RNLI at Cubbington Hall, the choir helped to raise £600

4 Images

See also images of the choir and presentation of cheque enclosed with press release.

Image 1 **Claire Darlington, Jill White, Jonathan Chlvers and Major John Mclean.**

Image 2 **at Dale Street Methodist Church December 2016.**