

Press Release 02/2018

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For more information regarding this press release please contact initially, Terry Street, Publicity Officer terrystreet@live.com mobile 07785 916060 quote reference **VVPR1802**

Village Voices Warwick Choir Raised £1250 for 2nd Warwick Sea Scouts.

Local community choir, Village Voices Warwick, has raised **£1,250** for 2nd Warwick Sea Scouts, one of two charities chosen for 2017.

The funds were raised at Village Voices 'I Saw Three Ships' Christmas concert, supported by Stagecoach Choir, on 9th December 2017 at the Baptist Church, Chandos Street, Leamington Spa, from sales of tickets and programmes, donations for refreshments and a collection on the night. A group of Scouts attended the concert and enjoyed the music as well as helping with serving the refreshments and handing out programmes.

Paul Brenig-Jones, a member of the choir and former Group Treasurer of 2nd Warwick Sea Scouts, nominated the Scouts as the choir's charity as he feels passionately that there is an ever-increasing demand for youth and scouting provision in Warwick and it is important to invest in the future generation.

The money was presented to Nick George, Assistant Scout Leader, and 2 scouts (Peter Hoerl, aged 11 and Abigail George, Age 10) at a rehearsal this week, along with a cheque for £100 generously donated by Volvo in return for carol-singing by a group from Village Voices at their offices just before Christmas.

Accepting the cheques Nick said *"Thank you to Village Voices for their amazing support. We will be using the money for first aid training, paddlesports training and training for minibus drivers. This will allow us to provide activities for even more scouts in the future."*

For more information please initially contact Terry Street *Publicity Officer for Village Voices*, [☎ 07785916060](tel:07785916060)

Notes for Editors

1. Village Voices Warwick

Village Voices is an established mixed voice community choir now in its 23rd year. The choir rehearse Thursday evenings from 20:00 to 22:00 at Chase Meadow Community Centre Warwick. The Choir has an active schedule and holds two main concerts a year as well as singing at other events, festivals and weddings. This year will be our third invitation to contribute to the Warwick District Remembers memorial concert in October 2018 (contact Adrian on adrian@warwickdistrictremembers.com, <http://www.warwickdistrictremembers.co.uk/>)

The next main concert is on March 24th at Northgate Methodist Church, Warwick and will raise funds for Helping Hands, the charity chosen by the choir for 2018.

The Village Voices choir has successfully recruited some new singers earlier this year and has developed a much stronger base and tenor section. We recently welcomed our new MD Trevor Barr and he brings a fresh wave of enthusiasm and energy. We always welcome new singers particularly basses and tenors, and there are no auditions. Life in Village Voices is not all rehearsals and singing, 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 or as a guest of other choirs.

Contact Claire Darlington, Chair of Village Voices,  01926 886408

 www.villagevoices.co.uk

 <https://twitter.com/villagevoicesL>

 <https://www.facebook.com/VillageVoicesWarwick/>

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2. The 2nd Warwick Sea Scouts

2nd Warwick is a large Sea Scout Group based in St Nicholas Park, Warwick. The group offers membership to the full range of 6-25 years old, in all the sections of Scouting. 2nd Warwick Sea Scout Group has been established for over 50 years, and with over 200 members, is now more popular than ever. Young people from the ages of 6 to 18 years are taking part 5 nights a week, and we also run activities most weekends. We are an RN recognised group, Number 14 which means we are inspected every 18 months to ensure we meet the requirements set down by the Royal Navy.

'Second Warwick Sea Scouts have maintained their status amongst the best of Royal Navy Recognised Sea Scout Groups in the country and for Scouting programme and achievements alone are probably the best'

- We were established in 1959 and has a current membership of over 200.
- Current building is limited to just 60 children and is in a bad state of repair
- We have a waiting list of over 130 youngsters
- More than 20 Adults give their time voluntarily as Leaders and Instructors.
- The 2nd Warwick Group is Royal Navy Recognised Unit No 14 and is one of the top Groups in the Country.
- We are unique in that we have a 50% mix of girls and boys in our group ensuring that we offer scouting to ALL local children.

What do we get up to?

Scouting aims to help young people achieve their full potential, as individuals, responsible citizens and members of their communities. Sea scouts delivers this through traditional scouting, whilst also offering water based activities such as sailing and canoeing and making them accessible and affordable to all local youngsters. You may have seen youngsters learning water skills on the river Avon during the summer.

New Sea Scout Hut Appeal 'Building a Future'

The 'Build a Future' project is about offering the best sea scouting experience to more youngsters whilst supporting the local community. 2nd Warwick Sea Scouts aim to increase the number of children who can join them by over 25 but to achieve this they need more leaders and a larger meeting place. In November 2014, 2nd Warwick Sea Scout Group received formal Planning Permission for their new HQ plans and recently made a substantive start to secure their planning.

As Lord Aylesford said in 1966 when opening their current HQ, 'A headquarters is a place that should grow forever. Once it is finished it ceases to live.'

A new hut will allow them to:

- ☐ Build a future for 2nd Warwick Sea Scouts
- ☐ Increase the number of local children who can learn the life skills we offer by over 25
- ☐ Guarantee the future of the only local Sea Scout Group in Warwick
- ☐ Provide for youngsters with disabilities

The first phase is to improve the jetties outside their current HQ and build a new boatyard alongside their existing hut, so that they can re-locate all their boats from the separate 'sailing club' site on Myton Fields and return it to parkland. They are aiming to do this in 2018. They then need to raise funds to build a new larger HQ next to St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre, which will also act as a local community resource. Once they have their new HQ, they will renovate their existing HQ into a new boathouse.

Fundraising Appeal – Overview

2nd Warwick Sea Scouts are therefore now raising money to build for the future. They need to raise £770k and to date have secured over £200k. They are looking for backers for their new HQ project from local businesses and the local community and also individuals interested in becoming new leaders.

You can find out more information or contact them at:

- Website www.2wk.org.uk
- Twitter @2wkseascouts
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/2wkseascouts
- Email: seascouts@2wk.org.uk

3 Funds Raised Previously by the Choir

Village Voices has raised over £10,00 in funds for a variety of causes in recent years including these examples: -

- Bloodwise, Heart of England Branch – chosen charity for summer 2017- £1750
- Salvation Army Way Ahead Project - chosen Charity for 2016 (totals 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 image of the presentation of cheque enclosed with press release.

Image 1 {Left to Right} Abigail George (aged 10) Nick George (Assistant Scout Leader) Peter Hoerl (aged 11) and Claire Darlington (Chair of Village Voices),

Image 2 Peter Irvine and Roger Haygreen with Village Voices Choir