

# Press Release 2019/01

*Release date - Immediate*



For more information regarding this press release please contact initially, Terry Street, Publicity Officer [terrystreet@live.com](mailto:terrystreet@live.com) mobile 07785 916060 quote reference **VVPR1901**

## Village Voices Warwick Choir Raised £2,650 for the Helping Hands Community Project.

Community choir, Village Voices Warwick, has raised **£2,650** for the local Helping Hands Community Project, their charity chosen by the singers for 2018.

The funds were raised at two concerts presented by the choir, on 24<sup>th</sup> March and December 1<sup>st</sup> at Warwick (Northgate) Methodist Church, from sales of tickets and programmes, donations for refreshments and general donations. Paddy Kirkman, from Helping Hands spoke at the concert about their work, and Lorraine Cattrall and Sarah Abrahamson also helped with programmes and refreshments.

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

A cheque for the £1,300 raised at the second concert was presented to Lianne Kirkman, CEO, by **Kevin Sumner** on behalf of the choir, at the Helping Hands Gateway Café in Smith Street, Warwick. On receiving the cheque Lianne said that she was very grateful to the choir for choosing the Helping Hands Community Project to benefit from this year's concerts. The monies will help fund on-going work to support the homeless in the local community, some of it may help refurbish the café.

### Notes for Editors

#### 1. Village Voices Warwick

Village Voices is an established mixed voice community choir now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year. The choir rehearse Thursday evenings from 20:00 to 22:00 at Chase Meadow Community Centre Warwick. The Choir has an active schedule which include weddings, singing for residential homes and its own concerts, as well as singing at other events and festivals. Future events include:

- Concert - Saturday 6th April 2019 - Village Voices will combine with Coventry Male Voice Choir to present a concert at Dale Street Methodist Church for the RNLI,
- Londonderry Tour – Friday 12th to Monday 15th April 2019. Members of the Choir visit Londonderry to perform at various events arranged by their MD,

- Concert - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019      The Choir will sing at a Concert at Shrewley Village Hall,
- Concert - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019      The Choir will sing at the Mid-Summer Concert at Guy's Cliffe, Warwick

Village Voices Choir has successfully recruited new singers during 2018 and has developed a much stronger bass section. Their MD Trevor Barr joined in January 2018 and brought a fresh wave of enthusiasm and energy to the choir.

Life in village voices is not all rehearsals and singing, as they have an active social agenda too, including a lunch club, skittles evening 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 to perform as guest with other choirs. If you have a booking enquiry please contact our secretary.

**Contact** Anne Love, Secretary of Village Voices, ☎ 07484 820650

🌐 [www.villagevoices.co.uk](http://www.villagevoices.co.uk)

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

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## 2. The Helping Hands Community Project



Helping Hands now works in Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, and Warwick, Literally Hundreds of local people have been helped in some way, small or large by the Helping Hands team since it began in 2013, and the project is now a registered charity under the name 'Helping Hands Community Project'.

The COMMUNITY PROJECT is all about local people helping local people in need. We give people the support and opportunities to feel better about themselves, be more active in the community and get back into work.

We run a shop and drop in centre and operate a soup kitchen offering hot food and a listening ear. We like to give a "hand up not just a hand out" through new skills, experience and qualifications.

We recently opened the Gateway Café in Warwick (*see image attached*) where we offer work experience and training to help people get back to work.

Our volunteers for our House 2 Home project support clients with goods from fridges to furniture to recently homed and low-income families

You can contact us in many ways

Our Charity Shop & Drop-in  
The Lighthouse  
Helping Hands Charity Head Office  
12 Gloucester Street,  
Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire,  
CV31 1EE  
Tel. 01926 732118

Our Gateway Café  
Wednesday to Friday: 10am - 4pm and Saturdays  
Helping Hands Gateway Cafe  
2-4 Smith Street  
Warwick  
CV34 4HH

Website <https://www.helpinghandscharity.org.uk/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HelpingHandslwk/>

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

Village Voices has raised over £13,000 in funds for a variety of causes in recent years, including these examples: -

- Helping Hands Community Project – 2018 (final figure) - £2650
- Second Warwick Sea Scouts, - 2017 - £1250
- Bloodwise, Heart of England Branch – summer 2017- £1750
- Salvation Army Way Ahead Project - 2016 - £2,000
- Springfield Mind - 2015 - £1500
- SW Heart (South Warwickshire Heart Failure Education and Cardiac Rehabilitation Trust) - 2014 - £2280
- And these charities, Alzheimer's Society, Childhood Eye Cancer Trust, Myton Hospice, Long Itchington Church restoration, Warwickshire Northamptonshire Air Ambulance, Galenos House residents, RNLI.

#### 4 Images

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

Image 1 {P1340446}

“Presenting the Cheque”

Left to Right, Kevin Sumner, (Village Voices) Lianne Kirkman (CEO Helping Hands),



Image 2 {P1340450}

“ Smiles all Round at the Gateway Café”,

(Left to Right) Trevor Barr (MD) Jonny Morgan - Cafe Manager, Sarah Feng - assistant Cafe Manager, with members of Village Voices committee, Anne Love, and Elaine Archibald and Kevin Sumner, with Lianne and Paddy Kirkman.

