

# The Pershore Volunteer

Pershore Volunteer Centre puts volunteering at the heart of the community  
to reduce rural and social isolation for local people.

**Blitzed!**

March - April 2018

**1** 940's Britain was recreated at Crothorne and Charlton Villager Hall on the 24th of February as the audience of "Blitzed!" stepped back in time to raise funds for Pershore Volunteer Centre.

Many guests dressed in period costume to relive the camaraderie of wartime Britain. The foyer was decorated with artefacts from the period and those assembled were able to join in with their favourite songs of the time.

The singing was interspersed with cine clips of the time, including speeches by Neville Chamberlain, Winston Churchill and some brave attempts to make rationed food edible- fish roes and potatoes may not be to everyone's taste. Needs must!

The supper for the evening was a lot more palatable- fish and chips, eaten in traditional style straight from the paper, with ice cream to follow.

The contemporary theme was continued with jokes stolen from Max Miller's (white) joke book and the quiz tested the knowledge of the audience on the Wartime years.

David Barclay held the show together with his flawless delivery of a variety of wartime melodies and reminded us of the futility of war and lack of humanity such conflict brings with a heartening rendition of "Imagine", after the final clips of VE Day.

Big thanks must go to Ray Cook as the driving force behind the evening as well as our thanks to all those who contributed to the running of the show on the evening. We are very grateful to those who supported us on the night; the event has contributed to Pershore Volunteer Centre funds at this time when every penny counts.



*A packed house enjoying the evening.*



**STOP PRESS: Funds raised to date: over £ 700.**

**Pershore Volunteer Centre**

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**[www.pershorevolunteers.org](http://www.pershorevolunteers.org)**



## Another Splendid Donation!

The Pershore and District Branch of the Royal Navy Association (the Navy Club) hold Bingo nights every Friday and donates any funds raised to local charities. This year's funds were shared between the Air Ambulance and the Volunteer Centre.

On Friday 23 March, Eric Wiles (Chairman) and Jeanette Dowling attended the bingo night and were presented with a cheque for £500 by Alan Hitchman Treasurer of the Navy Club.

The Centre is very grateful for the Navy Club's support and generosity, in helping to support our vital work.



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## Kate's Progress

Kate is currently enjoying an extended holiday cruising her way back from Australia, via Hong Kong, Singapore and Goa amongst other places, not that we are jealous!

When she returns at the end of April she will be taking up a newly created role of Grant Manager, focusing on obtaining the funding we need to keep the Volunteer Centre running.

As it is not possible to cover both the new role and the role of Chief Officer, Kate will step down as Chief Officer with effect from 30 April. The trustees and the other members of staff will undertake the various functions Kate undertook as Chief Officer, for the time being.

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## John Hill

John, a long-time auditor and supporter of the Volunteer Centre, died suddenly on 13 February. John was a great friend and supporter of many local organisations and we will all miss him. John had announced that at the age of 73 he was finally going to retire and spend more time with Daphne and the family, but sadly this was not to be. Several representatives of the Volunteer Centre attended John's Memorial Service held at St James the Great Church, Birlingham on 7 March. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Daphne, Richard, Lenka and John's granddaughters Katie and Jessica.

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## Community Transport Across Wychavon

Wychavon DC will be sending a letter to all Parish Councils reminding them of the Community Transport services which the three Volunteer Centres (Persore, Evesham and Droitwich) provide. The letter will also seek to encourage volunteers to come forward (both drivers and office volunteers).

The letter will ask Parish Councils to promote our services and should be with all Parish Councils in the next few weeks. Please look out for the letter and encourage your Parish Council to cascade the information.

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## Community Transport Connections

"Connections" is an initiative designed to promote the services we provide, taking people to Worcester Royal and the Alexandra Hospital, Redditch. In the next few weeks a slide show promoting the service will appear in the waiting rooms at Worcester Royal and the Alex. A similar promotion will also start to appear in Doctors' surgeries soon. Please keep an eye out for them.

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## Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome two new volunteers. Robert Alexander and Ian Wilcox have joined us as Social Car Scheme Drivers. Thank you both and may we wish you many happy rewarding and satisfying times over the years to come!

The logo for the ACT F.A.S.T. campaign, featuring the word 'ACT' in white and 'F.A.S.T.' in yellow on a black background.

We are all aware of the major threat to our health that a stroke presents. But recently Public Health England (PHE) has relaunched the Act F.A.S.T. stroke campaign as new figures reveal that while the majority of strokes happen to those over 70, a larger proportion of strokes are occurring in middle age adults (40 – 69 years)

The campaign reminds people of all ages, including friends, family and carers of people at risk, to be aware of the signs of stroke and reinforces the importance of acting F.A.S.T. and calling 999 if you notice any single one of the signs in yourself or others:

**Face – has their face fallen on one side? Can they smile?**

**Arms – can they raise both arms and keep them there?**

**Speech – is their speech slurred?**

**Time to call 999**

There is a very useful messaging service available. People who are *deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired and are unable to call 999*, can text the emergency services on 999 but need to register their phone in advance. To find out more go to [emergencysms.org.uk](http://emergencysms.org.uk)

If you are aware of anyone with certain medical conditions who may be more at risk of having a stroke, please inform them of the action that can be taken. This includes people with conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and atrial fibrillation (an irregular heartbeat).

**Act F.A.S.T. Make the Call. Dial 999.**

## Beware the dodgy tenners!

**Please note** : there are reports of “old -style” £10 still being passed around. They are no longer valid for normal transactions and would have to be returned to your bank. Old-style £1 coins are also still being given in change. Watch out!

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