

Your charities

# Project gets people together

By STAFF REPORTER

LEICESTERSHIRE Cares has been awarded £73,340 from the National Lottery for its 'Together' project.

The project will broker partnerships between business, community and local government across the city and county so nobody is left behind.

The project will seek to support 20 community groups a year who are supporting isolated and vulnerable people.

This will vary from lending a practical helping hand such as carrying out DIY and gardening activities to participating in social events to providing training, coaching and mentoring.

Their first event took place recently when business member CS Ellis Group Limited, a warehousing and logistics company in Oakham, hosted a group of isolated elders from Oakham and Rutland at their newly acquired Wellies Cafe at Rutland Water Garden Nursery.

The group took part in a session with a master gardener, afternoon tea and fun activities, including a quiz.



**STEMMING FROM LOTTO BOOST:** The event in Oakham which included fun gardening activities



Derek, an 82-year-old who suffers from dementia, who served in the RAF for 29 years, said: "I have forgotten all the names of flowers so their quiz was good reminder for me."

"The colours and smells helped me remember names of plants I once enjoyed."

CS Ellis Group, which has hosted Age UK groups at Christmas for festive fun, carol singing and Christmas

Food, was pleased to extend its offer, according to Laura Kingzett.

She said: "I thought the afternoon was great and it was lovely to see them all getting involved with the planting of the cyclamen and getting their teeth into the plant quiz afterwards - they were all very competitive."

Laura will be going forward for a befriending role with an isolated

lady who doesn't have much family around. They have now met twice and would like to continue the friendship.

The new funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, which distributes money raised by National Lottery players and is the largest community funder in the UK, will see at least 20 of these events take place a year as well as skills sharing sessions strengthening the community.

A national assistance dog charity is inviting locals to Raise the Woof at an open evening.

Canine Partners, in Osgathorpe, is seeking local help to build specialist kennels.

The charity, which trains assistance dogs to transform the lives of people with physical disabilities across the UK, is opening its doors and inviting locals to join it for drinks and canapes, while finding out more about the build, on Thursday, August 29.

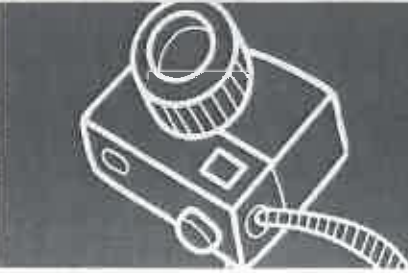
Visitors will be able to see how the kennels are taking shape from the outside and take a tour of the Midlands

Training Centre. They will also get the chance to see Canine Partners' working dogs in action and ask questions in a Q&A session with the charity's director of operations, Richard Smith.

Richard said: "The new kennel building will be able to house up to 40 dogs and will include a veterinary room, kitchen and outdoor runs, giving us space to allow our dogs to rest between training sessions."

The open evening will take place from 6pm to 8pm and will include drinks and canapes. Book via:

raisethewoof@caninepartners.org.uk



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