

LISTEN HEAR

SAMARITANS
Walsall and District

Walsall and District Samaritans Newsletter . Winter 2018 . Issue 2

Doreen Dresses Walsall

BLACK COUNTRY comedian Doreen Tipton took time out of her busy schedule to offer her own style advice at our recent fashion show. Sporting her trademark brown velour



tracksuit with matching handbag, Doreen – real name Gill Jordan from Cheslyn Hay officially opened the fund-raising event held at Aldridge Social Club.



Doreen Tipton shares her fashion tips.

The event, hosted by SOS Charity Fashion, involved volunteers modelling high street fashions from stores such as Dorothy Perkins, Next, Top Shop and New Look, which were available to buy at up to 75% off shop prices.

SOS Charity Fashion donated a percentage from each sale, and together with a raffle and jewellery sale, the afternoon raised £665.17 for Walsall branch.

*Branch director
Adrienne takes to the
catwalk.*

Supermarket Sweep!

SATURDAY shoppers were given a helping hand packing their groceries thanks to branch volunteers. And the fund-raising bag pack at Walsall's Morrisons supermarket raised £178 for Samaritans.

Staff and customers made this an enjoyable event for our bag-packers Ann, Caroline, Carolyn, Steve and Sharon, who spent the morning chatting, packing and talking about volunteering as a Samaritan.

Anyone who may be interested in finding out about volunteering should contact us by email at walsallsams.recruitment@gmail.com



Shop till you drop

Make a difference this Christmas

STILL looking for that special gift but want to avoid the crush of the crowds this Christmas? Well, there's still time to fill everyone's stocking, and raise funds for Samaritans - simply by clicking your finger!

Walsall branch is now a member of 'easyfundraising', an internet shopping site which turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for your favourite cause – Walsall Samaritans!

All you have to do is log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk, choose the option to support Samaritans of Walsall and District, then simply join for free, shopping as normal. Sainsbury's, Argos, Booking.com, Amazon, John Lewis, Ebay, and many other popular online retailers will make a donation to us to say, 'thank you' for choosing to spend money with them.



The site has more than 3,500 retailers for you to shop from and has so far raised over £24 million for thousands of charitable organisations in the UK.

It's easy, it's free and it will make a huge

difference to us. So far, we have 36 supporters who have already raised £1217 for the branch. So, if you really want to make a difference this Christmas, join www.easyfundraising.org.uk and help us to keep the phone lines open at the festive season.

Comedy Gold



COMEDIAN Sarah Millican is standing up for Samaritans on her current UK tour by allowing volunteers up and down the country to collect for their local branch.

Not only did Sarah raise a laugh at her recent show at Birmingham's Symphony Hall, but she also helped Walsall branch raise a staggering £1341.20 after her generous fans dug deep and dropped their spare change into our buckets.

A branch spokesperson who was at the gig said the money raised was a 'significant contribution' to branch funds.

She added: 'Everyone seemed very happy when they left the show and were very enthusiastic donators. Thank you, Sarah!'

It's in the can! Volunteer collectors at Symphony Hall.



Sarah Millican's tour, Control Enthusiast, which she is now taking to New Zealand and Australia, raised more than £181,000 for Samaritans' branches around the UK.

Lend us your ear

SAMARITANS is always looking to train new listening volunteers and we hold regular information days at our Bott Lane HQ for anyone to pop in and find out if they've got what it takes to be a Samaritan.

Two people who did just that are Anna and Richard who are now beginning to take calls at the branch.

SUPPORT

'It's a big commitment for anyone, but the training and support has been brilliant,' said Richard, who was one of a group of volunteers to go through eight weeks of nine modules of intensive skills training.

REWARDING

Anna also described the weekly sessions as, 'intensive, but well worth all the effort.' 'The whole team at the branch have been accommodating and supportive throughout and although it is a huge responsibility, it is well worth it and incredibly rewarding,' she added.

Both Anna and Richard are now at the stage of their training where they are learning from experienced listening volunteers and starting to take calls themselves.



New recruits, Richard and Anna

SKILLS

Samaritans training is all about equipping volunteers with the vital listening skills required to support people in crisis. At the end of the training it is hoped that volunteers will become what we term 'active listeners' who are non-judgemental and empathetic to the needs of others.

If you think you've got what it takes and want to learn new skills, meet new people and be there for someone in crisis, then please contact us by email at walsallsams.recruitment@gmail.com or by calling 07852 770202.

Don't Forget:

2019 sees the 50th anniversary of Walsall branch. We are keen to hear from any former volunteers, or callers who have been helped by the service over the years. We won't publish names but would love to hear how your experience with Samaritans helped you at a difficult time in your life. Please email walsall@samaritans.org if you would be willing to share your story for publication in our newsletter.

TALK
TO US

If things are getting to you

116 123 ^{FREE}
This number is FREE to call

✉ jo@samaritans.org

🌐 samaritans.org



A registered charity

IN BRIEF:

RECYCLE

RECYCLE your old printer cartridges and mobile phones by bringing them to branch HQ in Bott Lane. Not only are you saving the environment by keeping them out of your household rubbish and landfill, but we can recycle them for funds to support the branch.

CLEAR THE CLUTTER

CLEARING out your wardrobe to make room for all your January sales purchases? Donate your unwanted clothes to us and we can convert them to cash for Samaritans at 'Cash 4 Clothes'. We're organising collections on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th January so get in touch and our volunteers will be happy to pop round and relieve you of your excess baggage!

GONE TO THE DOGS

A NIGHT out at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green dog track raised £40 for branch funds. A spokesperson said: 'We're not sure how much money was spent or won, but a pleasant evening was had by all.'

Samaritans' seasonal service

CHRISTMAS can be a difficult time for many people and whilst we at Samaritans wish all of our supporters a very merry Christmas, Walsall branch volunteers will still be providing a listening service throughout the holiday season.

We understand that not everyone enjoys the festive season for whatever reason, but our support lines will be open every day as usual with listening volunteers on the end of the line for anyone who is struggling to cope at Christmas.

Date for the diary:



Collectors' Corner

Thank you!

Lime Beauty Salon, Sweet in Aldridge, Iceland in Aldridge, D-Coded, Jewellery and Gifts, Nutrition and Wellbeing and the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton for donating items for the branch's Silent Auction.

Thank you!

Inner Wheel District Chairman Mrs Ann Ward who has chosen to support Samaritans during her year in office.

Thank you!

The Wolverhampton section of the Union of Catholic Mothers for donating their used printer cartridges for recycling. (See 'In brief' for details on how to recycle and support us).

Thank you!

Staff and customers at Andy's Ale House in Hilton Lane, Great Wyrley, for raising £33.11 in their Samaritans collecting tins.