

Donation to Vale of Clwyd Mind Charity to support their vehicle DORIS (Denbighshire Outreach Rural Information Service)



L to R: Paul Moore CEO – VOCM, R.Wy Bro.Tony Stringer PGSR, DORIS, Diane Roberts Prescribing Practitioner.

On Tuesday morning, 5th March, W.Bro. Darren W. Coleman-Heald (Charities Manager) representing The O.S.M. Benevolent Fund and the Province of Cheshire and North Wales who were successful in their application for match funding, visited Rhyl on the North Coast of Wales, to present a cheque for £2,000 to the Mind charity's Vale of Clwyd branch, to support their vehicle DORIS.

DORIS, a roving support vehicle for the charity, plays a vital role in supporting rural neighbourhoods, both mentally and emotionally. The Trustees and volunteers regularly visit farmers markets, food banks, community fridges, and other venues, looking after the well-being of local residents in need. The 'big, yellow van' attracts attention and people come (some curious, some recommended by friends) often to ask "What do you do?" Over a friendly cuppa, they 'open-up' and tell their stories; homelessness, family break-ups, financial problems, mental and/or physical abuse, addiction, suicidal tendencies, the list goes on...

The Volunteers are able to offer reassurance and advice, and the Prescribing Practitioner, a mental health professional, is able to contact and refer people to a number of tried and trusted, relevant organisations and specialists.

Sometimes DORIS is approached to partner with some of these organisations who meet with her at her regular venues to bring their own expertise to the people. This month the NHS are highlighting heart disease and strokes, and an NHS Stroke Prevention Team is with DORIS for the month.

On the day of the presentation, outside Rhyl railway station, the nurses checked the blood pressure of 55 people of whom 8 received a written, urgent referral to their GP. The previous week, at the Farmers' Auction in St Asaph, 40 people were tested with 3 referrals. A total of 95 tested and 11 referred to their GP. That's an 11% hit-rate, and possibly 11 lives saved.

Photo: NHS Stroke Prevention Team check the blood pressure of one of the British Transport Police Officers before the cheque presentation.



The lineup for the presentation



L to R: Back Row: WyBro.Paul Burton Dep.PGSR, Paul Moore CEO VOCM. Front Row: Darren Coleman-Heald Charities Manager MMM Hall, VWyBro. Tony Stringer PGSR, Diane Roberts MIND Prescribing Practitioner, WyBro. Barrie Billinge MIND Volunteer on the DORIS team and SR of Dewi Sant 457 WyBro.Colin Lemin Past SR of Dewi Sant and representing NW Mark Benevolent Fund.

The volunteers strive to keep the vehicle on the road as much as possible, but after 19 years, DORIS needs a little love and attention. A great achievement from everyone in the Province and thank you for your donations.

Ctrl/Click the link below for a message from our Charities Manager:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xp6hHzHfZnY>

