

## 'Guardian angel' praised after life-saving act in Gloucestershire

A Brandon Trust support worker, described as a 'guardian angel', has earned special recognition after performing life-saving first aid in the street whilst on duty in Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Lesley Bishop, 57, courageously carried out CPR for 20 minutes on Alun Probert, a man with mild learning disabilities she supports, after he suffered a heart attack and suddenly collapsed near his Bisley Road home last September.

The police, paramedics, and air ambulance services which arrived on the scene later, said she undoubtedly saved Alun's life through her quick-thinking actions.

Mum-of-four and grandmother Lesley said: "Alun seemed perfectly normal in the morning and said he was going to the café. I said wait and I'll walk down with you. He was sat on the wall chatting, laughing and joking, but then he just stopped and keeled over. I supported him to the ground, but saw his face and knew it was a heart attack."

Her only first aid experience came from a one-day work training course, but Lesley added: "A man called for an ambulance and I told them he wasn't breathing so I began chest compressions. It seemed ages before I heard sirens coming and it was traumatic. I never thought something like this would ever happen to me, but I was on automatic pilot and remember saying 'don't you die on me Alun'. The paramedics took over and I was shattered. I remember someone from the ambulance then saying 'it's okay we've got him' and 'well done, you probably saved this man's life'."

Lesley, who has worked as a Brandon support worker for just over a year, visited Alun in hospital and was also with him in theatre for heart surgery. She still supports Alun now and added: "My biggest reward was when I picked him up and brought him home from hospital."

After spending time in intensive care, Alun, 64, is now making a good recovery back at home and is visiting his favourite café again. He calls Lesley his 'guardian angel' and said: "I felt a bit weird, like I'd been hit on the head. It was lucky she was with me."

Lesley received a standing ovation when details of what happened and Alan's subsequent thank you letter were heard at Brandon Trust's recent staff awards event in Bristol.

She was presented with a special award and gift by Brandon Trust CEO Lucy Hurst-Brown, who said: "She did something incredibly special and I'm so proud a member of staff responded in that way during what was a traumatic event. It also says a lot about her, that she was back in work the next day."



## Children's Playlink joins Brandon Trust

Yate-based charity Children's Playlink has transferred its services to Brandon Trust.

In December, Brandon took on Playlink's South Gloucestershire inclusion services, which includes holiday play and buddy schemes.

As part of Brandon Trust, Playlink will continue to deliver school holiday play schemes to 200 registered children and support to the 30 children accessing the buddy scheme and 15 18-25-year-olds using the 'What's Next' scheme.

Brandon Trust Chief Executive Lucy Hurst-Brown said: "Brandon Trust wants to strengthen opportunities for children and young people, so we're really excited to host the services provided by Playlink. They have been providing vital services to disabled children and their families for some time and it is a great chance to work together to improve the opportunities available to people in the area."

For more details, please contact Ash Lloyd [ash.lloyd@brandontrust.org](mailto:ash.lloyd@brandontrust.org) or Izzy Clarke [izzy.clarke@brandontrust.org](mailto:izzy.clarke@brandontrust.org)

## Keeping it local with new farm shop

Brandon Trust has opened a new farm shop at its Elm Tree Farm project in Stapleton, Bristol.

The grand opening took place last November with farm supporter Kerry McCarthy, MP for Bristol East and Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, cutting the ribbon during a public open day.

The new shop sells a range of fresh, seasonal produce, along with other products from the onsite wood workshop and plant nursery social enterprises.

Elm Tree Farm Project Coordinator Keily Elvin said: "It's been a long time in the making and everyone onsite is really excited. We're selling seasonal stuff that we've grown using organic methods, and items we have preserved, such as jams and chutneys, as well as supporting other Brandon Trust projects such as Fired Up ceramics by selling their products. We also sell kindling and eggs and pricing is very competitive.

"Please spread the word and feel free to pop along to get your five-a-day; it's local, it's fresh, it hasn't been flown in from the outer regions of the world, and it's all produced with love and care. All the money made will be reinvested to improve the services we offer at the farm."

Elm Tree Farm Shop is open throughout the year, Monday to Friday, from 9.30am-3.30pm, with ample free car parking onsite. The address is Park Road, Stapleton, Bristol BS16 1AA. Contact 0117 958 6206. Visit their website at [www.elmtreefarm.org](http://www.elmtreefarm.org)



## Staff awards success

The Brandon Trust 2015 Staff Awards were held at the Trinity Centre in Bristol, on Thursday, 3 December, where we celebrated the hard work and achievements of all Brandon Trust staff across the areas.

Congratulations to everyone who was nominated for an award. Here are the overall winners in each category with a picture of the Team of the Year, Pizey Avenue, from North Somerset.

**Team of the Year Award:** Pizey Avenue

**Freedom Award:** Floating Support Team – Gloucestershire

**Involving and Inclusion Award:** Notley Street – London

**Technology Award:** Padstow Foyer – Cornwall

**UNISON Award:** Badgers Croft – Gloucestershire



## Leominster appeal

A project we run in Leominster is appealing for donations of garden cast-offs – such as unwanted garden tools, leftover seeds and spare cuttings.

At Eaton Barn, Herefordshire, we work with adults with learning disabilities to grow plants and craft garden items, which raise funds to boost the charity's work.

To help and donate, please drop by the project at Stoke Prior Lane, Leominster HR6 0NA or telephone 01568 614748.

## Fired Up makes a move



Have you heard... Our Fired Up community-based ceramics studio offering employment training services and adjoining Enterprise employment training unit, which produces specialist first aid boxes and kidney transplant packs, has moved from Pucklechurch to new premises in Yate.

They are now based at Unit 54, Beeches Industrial Estate, Waverley Road, Yate, Bristol BS37 5QR.

Project Coordinator Emma Carey said: "Please visit our new premises to get an appreciation of the range of services we offer and see examples of our hand-painted ceramics. Fired Up has always been part of the community. We run weekly hobby classes and children's parties, while offering the people we support here the opportunity to learn new skills and apply them in a work setting."

For more information, contact Emma Carey at Fired Up on 01454 312606.

## Son's marathon tribute to his dad, Fisherman's Friend Trevor Grills

Cornwall man Paul Grills has two key reasons that are driving him on to succeed in this April's London Marathon.

Paul, 30, is the son of former Fisherman's Friends singer Trevor, who sadly lost his life in a tragic accident three years ago while touring with the Port Isaac band, and will run in his memory.

At the time of his death, Trevor was also an ambassador for Brandon Trust, so Paul is fundraising for us with the support of Fisherman's Friends.

Paul currently works as an assistant head teacher at a secondary school in Surrey, while his close family all still live in Port Isaac.



He said: "The last three years, since the passing of my dad, have been extremely difficult and I think this is a great way to continue the support of Brandon Trust.

"My aim is to complete the marathon in memory of my dad. Dad was a proud Cornishman, who loved his family, his home in Port Isaac, watching his three boys play football, and making the most of the opportunities that came his way, especially in the last few years of his life.

"He was a huge supporter of all the fantastic work Brandon does for people with learning disabilities. Also, growing up with his brother John, who has Down's Syndrome, made Dad really appreciate the work organisations like Brandon do every day. I know he would be extremely proud to see Brandon is still being supported in his memory."

It will be Paul's first marathon and he is training hard, while his link with Fisherman's Friends continues with the band collecting money on his behalf at all their gigs across the UK, which is helping him towards his fundraising target.

To support Paul, visit [www.justgiving.com/Paul-Grills](http://www.justgiving.com/Paul-Grills)

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