

Care charity's delight after generous donation

A community-minded business has made a generous donation of more than £3,500 to the Aylsham and District Care Trust after it was hit with a £15,000 bill when its boilers failed.

Liam McHugh, the owner of Aylsham-based Steve Pye & Co Chartered Certified Accountants, stepped in to donate £3,600 to ACT after discovering the charity's boilers broke down as the temperatures plummeted at the start of the new year.

Liam's firm, which is based at the Aylsham Business Park, looks after ACT's accounts and he was keen to help out.

"I can't fix boilers, I can't install boilers, but I can contribute something to help get them up and running," said Liam.

"Without donations, the boiler is taking money away from something else because the money has got to be found. It's nobody's fault and we thought we'd help."

ACT, which is based in St Michaels Avenue, has initially replaced its two boilers with one stronger boiler but will need a second one in due course.

Liam added: "We just wanted to help. ACT is an important part of the community and it felt like it was the right thing to do. It's not all of the cost of the boilers but it's a good chunk and they still need more donations.

"Aylsham is a lovely community and we're in a fortunate position that we can support it."

ACT Chief Executive Philip Macdonald was delighted when he heard about the donation from Liam.

He said: "We know by his very nature that Liam is very supportive of community but we had no expectation of anyone. When Liam took me on one side and said he wanted to help, we were delighted.

"They want to be part of the community as well as work in it. So, in one sense I wasn't surprised, but it was nevertheless



THANK YOU:
ACT Chief Executive Philip Macdonald (left) with Liam McHugh, owner of Steve Pye & Co.

totally unexpected and incredibly generous. Liam's values are community-minded, caring and supportive.

"For some people that wouldn't be a large sum of money but we're a charity that spends its money on serving its clients and service users and we had a bill that's out of proportion with what we normally do. So, the contribution is significant. But more than the contribution, it's the desire to support us because that's such an encouragement.

"We serve people who are struggling with various aspects of their lives, particularly through loneliness. We're making significant impacts and this helps us to continue to do that."

■ If you'd like to help ACT with the cost of replacing its boilers, you can email Philip at philip.macdonald@aylshamcaretrust.com or call 01263 733385.

■ For more information about Steve Pye & Co Chartered Certified Accountants, visit

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

ACT is hosting new bereavement drop-in sessions at its centre in St Michaels Avenue.

It is working in partnership with the Priscilla Bacon Hospice Charity to hold the sessions on the second Monday of each month (10.30am-12.30pm), with the first one on Monday April 13.

The sessions will provide a welcoming space where people can connect with others who understand the experience of loss.

■ See page 27 of this edition for more information about the sessions.

its website at www.stevepye.com, email norwich@stevepye.com or call 01603 279505.

New bus service is on its way for town

A bus service will once again serve Henry Page Road in Aylsham, giving residents living in the area easier access to the town centre and beyond.

A new timetable, which will be introduced from April 13, will see the Number 1 Sunbeam service travel along Henry Page Road on weekdays from Monday to Friday (at 9.36am, 11.20am, 12.30pm, and 2.10pm).

Aylsham Town Council Chair Kay Montandon said: "Following the removal of the bus service along Henry Page Road last year, a resident contacted me to explain they were unable to get into Aylsham anymore to shop because they had relied

on this bus, particularly when they had heavy shopping bags to carry.

"I got in touch with Norfolk County Council senior transport officer Daniel Yellop, who then worked very hard to find a way to get a service back to Henry Page Road. This service is now being launched on April 13 and we are very grateful to the team at Norfolk County Council for facilitating this service. We would like to promote this service to all the residents on the south side of Aylsham so they are able to get out and about once more."

As well as taking residents into Aylsham, the new service will allow travellers to connect with Sanders bus services to

Norwich and north Norfolk. And some of the Number 1 services will travel on to North Walsham and Hoveton on certain days.

■ Meanwhile, from April 13, a revised Sunbeam 1A service will take passengers to Blickling Hall on Mondays and Fridays (excluding bank holidays), leaving Aylsham Market Place at 10.30am and 12.10pm and returning at 12.18pm, 2.01pm at 4pm. The 4pm service runs from May to September.

■ Further information about Sunbeam's services is available online at sunbeamcoaches.co.uk

Kay Montandon is also happy to email a copy of the new timetable. Contact her at kaymontandon@aylsham-tc.gov.uk