

Princess Royal Visits Derbyshire Carers Association



Derbyshire Carers Association were thrilled to welcome The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, as she visited the Ripley-based charity today. Well-wishers thronged the streets in the hope of meeting this popular Royal as she arrived late morning. Schoolchildren and shoppers were waving flags, whilst businesses had decked their stores with cheerful bunting and balloons. Highly regarded as a hard-working royal with a particular interest in carers and supporting their needs, she met with staff, volunteers and carers to hear more about the organization and its commitment to caring for vulnerable carers.

The Princess Royal spent over an hour in Ripley, chatting to the carers and the charity team. Young Derbyshire carer, Alex Walker, said that he was "over the moon" to meet the Princess. His mother, Beverley, who is cared for by her thirteen year old son said that it was an "honour and a privilege". Cullen Marshall, Young Carers Coordinator says, "I've worked with carers as young as seven. Young people are trying to find their place in the world. Their friends have more freedom and less to think about." Thirteen year old Abigail Nicholls is a carer from Ripley. She cares for her father who has severe anxiety and panic attacks. Meeting the Princess

Royal was a true delight for Abigail who said, "She shook my hand and we chatted about how Derbyshire Carers Association supports young carers. She was really down to earth and seemed really interested in all carers. It's been a cool day! The crowds were so big. It was amazing!"

Other dignitaries also attended the event, including the Lord Lieutenant William Tucker, High Sheriff of Derbyshire (Mrs Lucy Palmer), Amber Valley MP Nigel Mills and Mayor of Amber Valley Borough Council (Councillor Angela Ward).

The Princess Royal unveiled a plaque marking the milestones 30th birthday of Derbyshire Carers Association. Onlookers were thrilled to have the Royal Visit in Ripley. One said, "It's fantastic to have a member of the Royal family visiting our town. I think it's lovely that a local charity gets this kind of recognition. It's a bloom in cold day. My teeth were chattering with cold but I was determined to get a glimpse of the princess." The charity's CEO, Narinder Sharma said, "This was a truly special day. Staff and volunteers work so hard at DCA and we're all absolutely devoted to helping carers. Having the Princess Royal visit today has been a fantastic event. I know that the carers present absolutely loved meeting her and she took a huge interest in their stories and their lives."



ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 1062177

Est. 1988

A carer is someone of any age who provides unpaid support to family and friends who could not manage without the help

✓ Derbyshire Carers
✓ Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE CARERS ASSOCIATION

DERBYSHIRE YOUNG CARERS

Meet Your Local Councillors February

Members' surgeries give local councillors the opportunity to meet residents who live in the area where surgeries are taking place. For further information regarding members' surgeries, please contact Alison Steeples on 01773 841636.

Saturday, 2 February 2019 – Duffield
Residents of Duffield will have the opportunity to meet their local councillor on Saturday, 2 February 2019 from 10.30 am at The Weston Centre, T Street, Duffield. Councillor Steve and Councillor Chris Short will be available to talk to you about matters concerning Duffield Borough Council.

Saturday, 2 February 2019 – Somercotes
Residents of Somercotes will have the opportunity to meet their local councillor on Saturday, 2 February 2019 from 11.00 am at Somercotes Parish Hall, N Road. Councillors John McCabe and Lyrtle will be pleased to meet you about matters concerning Amber Valley Council.

Saturday, 9 February 2019 – Waingrove
Residents of Codnor and Waingrove will have the opportunity to meet with their local councillors on Saturday, 9 February 10am until 11am at the Methodist Church, Mill Lane, Codnor. Councillors Catherine Williams and Isobel Harry will be available to talk to you about matters concerning Amber Valley Borough Council.

Saturday, 9 February 2019 – Alfreeton
Residents of the Alfreeton ward will have the opportunity to meet their local councillor on Saturday, 9 February 2019 from 11.30 am at the Alfreeton Unemployment Centre, Alfreeton House, High Street. Councillors Martene Bennett, Gail John Walker will be pleased to meet you about matters concerning Amber Valley Borough Council.

Saturday, 23 February 2019 – Belper East
Residents of the Belper East ward will have the opportunity to meet one of their local councillors on Saturday, 23 February 10 am until 12 noon at the Alton Community Centre, Gregory's Way. Councillor Fay Atkinson will be available to meet you to talk about matters concerning Amber Valley Borough Council.

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PHOTOS: BRANNEVE

Onlookers were thrilled, one said: "It's fantastic to have a member of the royal family visit, and lovely that a local charity gets this kind of recognition."

Crowds turn out for royal occasion

By **EDD DINGWALL**
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Princess Anne was greeted by huge crowds in Ripley as she paid a visit to the Derbyshire Carers Association charity headquarters.

She spent more than an hour meeting carers and staff, and unveiled a plaque to mark the charity's 30th anniversary. Chief executive Narinder Sharma said: "It was a truly special day. Staff and volunteers work so hard at DCA and they're all absolutely devoted. "I know that the carers present loved meeting the Princess Royal and she took a huge interest in their stories and their lives."



Abigail Nicholls, 13 and a carer for her father, said: "Princess Anne shook my hand and we chatted about how the association supports young carers. She was really down to earth and seemed really interested. It's been a cool day."



Dignitaries at the event included the Lord Lt William Tucker, Sheriff of Derbyshire Lucy Palmer, Nigel Mills MP, and Amber Valley mayor Angela Ward.



Schoolchildren and shoppers were waving flags, while businesses had decked their stores with bunting and balloons.

Advice charity to host fuel poverty events

Citizens Advice Derbyshire Districts is to hold drop-in advice sessions on tackling fuel poverty and rising energy costs at Co-op stores in Ashbourne on Wednesday, January 23, and Ripley on Friday, January 25, both 10am to 3pm.

The events are timed to coincide with Big Energy Saving Week 2019, and come in response to an ongoing rise in the number of Citizens Advice clients being forced into crisis situations over a choice between keeping warm or going into debt. Spokesperson Russ Bosanko said: "Our energy work is becoming an increasingly significant part of our service. It is not just an important 'consumer' issue.

Rising costs of energy, a lack of access to affordable fuel, and barriers to keeping a home warm such as rural isolation and old, heat-inef-

ficient properties are having very real impacts on people's lives, wellbeing and financial circumstances."

The charity is also highlighting the risk of loan sharks this month, who may prey on Amber Valley residents in financial difficulty after spending more than usual in December.

Campaigns officer Dawn Mackenzie said: "Christmas can take a heavy toll on people already struggling to make their money last and leave them with a debt burden. It can turn a difficult situation into real crisis."

"Loan sharks may appear friendly at first but interest rates can increase. We hear reports of people being intimidated or attacked, or ending up in a spiral of debt." To speak to a money advisor, call 0300 4568390. To report an illegal money lender, see stoploansharks.co.uk.

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