

NEWS

Donation funds AIDS research

By Krysta Eaves

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AN 'unexpected' £140,000 donation has prompted a Channel Islands' charity to launch a research project about the support which is needed in the halliwicks for those living with HIV or AIDS.

And today, on World AIDS Day, Liberate is due to launch an online survey asking islanders for views about, and experiences of, HIV.

The charity says it is undertaking the research after it received the donation last year, which came with the restriction that it be used to support the fight against HIV and AIDS through providing support to those living with the condition or their families, through funding medical research for treatment and prevention or to educate about safe sex.

Liberate has already visited the Terence Higgins Trust, a leading UK HIV and sexual health charity, the National AIDS trust, which champions the rights of people who live with HIV, and StopAIDS, a network of UK agencies that work towards an effective global

response to HIV and AIDS, to see the work they are undertaking.

Liberate is also supporting the EN-DAIDS2020 Festival, organised by StopAIDS, which marks 30 years of World AIDS Day and raises awareness of the commitment to end AIDS globally by 2030, by having a presence at the London event.

Vic Tanner Davy, chief executive of Liberate, said: 'This is a new remit for Liberate, so it is imperative that we get the right focus for our support work in the islands. We know what work we might undertake as a result of our discussions with the UK charities.'

'We now need to research what the picture looks like across the halliwicks, so we can then decide what strand of work will have the most impact.'

The anonymous survey can be accessed from Liberate's homepage liberate.je. Islanders do not need to be living with HIV or know someone who is to take part in the survey, which is in English, Polish and Portuguese.

Islanders who would like to get more involved in the work can email vic@liberate.je in confidence to find out more.



■ Liberate chief executive Vic Tanner Davy Picture: ION O'NEILL (STP246)

Poppy Appeal raises £195k



■ The Field of Remembrance at the Cenotaph Picture: TONY PREE (23074554)

THIS year's Poppy Appeal in Jersey on the centenary of the end of the First World War raised £195,000 to provide financial, social and emotional support to local veterans, service personnel and their families.

The amount donated by Islanders was £5,000 more than the previous year's appeal total and was boosted by collections taken at events such as the Celebration of Armistice Concert and the Royal British Legion Riders Jersey Branch torch relay, which conveyed the flame to set fire to the beacon at Les Landes.

Tim Daniels, chairman of the Royal British Legion, Jersey branch, said: 'We are proud of the way Islanders have supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2018.'

'To have raised almost £200,000 in Jersey is truly staggering and testament to the generosity of Islanders and the fantastic support we receive from our poppy volunteers and event organisers.'

'We are incredibly humbled and grateful for their efforts.'

'While this year we rightly remembered those who gave their lives in all wars, but especially in the First World War, it is important Islanders know that the money raised will go towards local servicemen and women and their families in providing the financial, social and emotional care and support they may need, which includes a modest sum to the UK for support we can't provide in the Island.'

SANTA'S GROTTO

Opening
Saturday 8th December
11am-3pm
Saturday 8th, Sunday 9th
Saturday 15th, Sunday 16th
Saturday 22nd

Monday - Saturday: 9.30am-6pm
Sunday: 9am-5pm until 23rd December
Wednesdays late night opening: 7.30pm
Until 19th December
Santa's Grotto: Booking in store required
Avenue de la Reine Elizabeth II, St Peter
www.bluediamond.gg