

JOIN IN

Central England Co-operative

Spring
2018

FREE



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Find out how store manager Sean makes a difference with his role as a director

NEWS

We are proud of the many ways our members and colleagues support their local communities - here are some great stories showcasing co-operation in action

COMMUNITY DIVIDEND ROUND-UP



Community Dividend Fund recipients celebrate sharing thousands of pounds of funding in Leicester

Thirty-six charities and groups shared over £57,000 in the latest award from our Community Dividend Fund.

A diverse range of projects picked from across 16 counties have been handed funding of up to £5,000.

Over £4,500 was handed to Fare Share East Midlands to pay for an industrial chiller and chiller boxes.

This payout will support the project that aims to support over 2,000 youngsters living in food poverty. Simone Connolly, Fare Share Project Manager, said: "Increasing our capacity will allow us to reach more children who are vulnerable and hungry."

A community café based at Beyond the Wall, a day service for people with disabilities in Eye, has been handed £2,110 to support the project.

Havelock Junior School, in Desborough, secured a grant of £2,000 to support a sensory garden for its pupils.

A total of £2,500 will be used by the Birmingham Youth Empowerment Project to buy musical instruments as part of one of its successful projects.

Over £2,500 has been awarded to the Hope Centre, in Derby, to pay for food, duvets and underwear to help support homeless people in the city.

Paul Brookhouse, from the Hope Centre said: "Without support like this, we would not be able to provide this service to those who most need it."

Other groups to receive funding included schools, Scout groups, and football teams.

Grants of between £100 and £5,000 are handed out every three months to a wide range of applicants.

The Community Dividend Fund guarantees that at least one per cent of the Society's trading profit each year is reinvested into our local communities, all in a bid to help projects from the Midlands to the East Coast.



The Salvation Army was one of several groups supported by the coat donation

COATS TO HELP COPE WITH THE COLD

Homeless charities across the Midlands were handed a boost after Central England Co-op donated 280 coats to help those in need during the winter months.

The coats were bought from Newlife, the Charity for Disabled Children, who will also be supported through the donation.

100 of the coats were given out in Birmingham, 80 in Nottingham, and 50 each to Leicester and Derby through charities

who regularly work with those in need, including Charity Link and The Salvation Army.

Hannah Gallimore, our Corporate Responsibility Manager, said: "We have really pushed our campaign, to help people in need."

"When the opportunity arose to do more through Newlife, we started organising the distribution straightaway."

GRANT GIVES VITAL SUPPORT

Our Membership and Community Councils provide vital support to help with an amazing variety of projects, charities and good causes as a part of their community work.

Recently, our councils donated kettles and toasters to support vulnerable adults with their independent living through the housing charity Home Group.

These essential items were handed to the Kettering Temporary Homeless Service, which works with people who are homeless,

vulnerable and going through challenges in their lives.

The 'Move on Starter Pack' has been devised to help a number of individuals when they start their independent living.

Karen Bevan, Member and Community Relations Officer for Central England Co-operative, said: "Our Membership and Community Council grants are for occasions such as this, where there is a need in the community and we can do something to help."



Smiles all round after Home Group received a vital donation

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our work with Dementia UK continues to have a major impact and our #beingcoopy campaign allows colleagues, customers and members to come together to support those in need



Our Chief Executive Martyn Cheatle and President Elaine Dean with Dementia UK's Hilda Hayo

CAKE AND A CUPPA HELP BOOST FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FOR DEMENTIA UK

Customers and colleagues recently joined forces to host dozens of tea parties and bake sales to help raise money for the Society's corporate charity partner Dementia UK.

The special charity campaign saw food stores, funeral homes and travel stores across 16 counties take part in 'Time for a Cuppa' events.

All the money raised has resulted in the current overall collection total rising to over £168,000 – with more donations coming in every single day.

The funding will be used to help pay for hundreds of hours of support via the Dementia Helpline and towards employing more Admiral Nurses and their ongoing training.

Admiral Nurses work alongside people with dementia and their families, offering one-to-one support, expert guidance and practical solutions so they can face dementia with more confidence and less fear.

The nurses can be found based in the community, as well as in hospitals and care homes.

The Dementia Helpline is available to anyone and is staffed by Admiral Nurses who offer support with any dementia-related

problems and ensure people are able to get the best possible care and advice on offer to them.

Our Chief Executive Martyn Cheatle said: "I am very proud of the amazing amount that our colleagues, customers and members have so far helped to raise for Dementia UK.

"It is a testament to their dedication and support for such a great and worthwhile cause.

"But we need to keep the momentum going and continue to help make a real difference to families living with the effects of dementia."

Throughout the partnership, Dementia UK will be working with the Society to deliver vital training to colleagues providing the information needed to help people with this life changing condition.

Hilda Hayo, Dementia UK Chief Executive, said: "Dementia UK would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who has played a part in the fundraising so far."

Customers and members can support Dementia UK by donating via collection tins when they visit food stores, funeral homes or travel shops and also getting behind a range of different fundraising activities taking place in the coming months.

For support with dementia please call **0800 888 6678** or visit www.dementiauk.org/get-support

FOODBANK APPEAL STILL GOING STRONG AFTER HELPING PROVIDE 16,000 MEALS TO PEOPLE IN NEED

Central England Co-op works with over 50 different foodbank providers all year round to ensure that colleagues, customers and members have a way to provide food and support to people and families in crisis.

The Society recently collected over 60,000 items as part of its successful Christmas Foodbank Appeal – which helped create over 16,000 meals – and undertook a similar campaign over Easter in a bid to get people to drop off one or more items when visiting food stores.

Now, we are urging people to make sure we keep up this fantastic support by donating vital items throughout the remainder of 2018.

The items will then be collected up, turned into parcels with enough food to create meals for three days and distributed to help people in need across all of the 16 counties that the Society trades in.

Martyn Cheatle, Central England Co-op Chief Executive, said:

"Everyone involved with the Society was delighted with the amazing response by customers and members to our foodbank campaigns.

"We want to continue to help people by continuing our great work with foodbanks and this is why we are encouraging our customers and members to help provide vital food and supplies for people across the area.

"All we are asking is that people drop off one or more items into our foodbanks and help make a real difference."

Items that can be donated include shopping basket staples from tea, sugar and cereals to other essentials such as toiletries and hygiene products to ensure people can maintain their dignity during times of crisis.

Hundreds of our food stores have permanent food bank collection points all year round, which have resulted in thousands of people every month from Birmingham to Norfolk being given enough food to cook meals.



Colleagues from across the Society support our foodbank appeal

KEY ITEMS NEEDED BY FOODBANKS

- Cereal
- Tinned food
- Sugar
- Rice
- Dried pasta
- Sauce
- Biscuits
- UHT milk
- Juices
- Tea
- Instant coffee
- Toiletries

More details about foodbank collection points at Central England Co-operative food stores can be found at www.centralengland.coop/stores

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Our Membership and Community Relations Officers (MCROs) work hard to create and grow links with local people and organisations. Here we meet our new MCRO Kym Hunt as she explains what she hopes to bring to the role across the Eastern Region



Kym Hunt is just weeks into her new role as an MCRO and is already loving every minute of helping to support communities across Anglia.

She took time out from teaching youngsters about the importance of healthy eating as part of National Breakfast Week to talk about her passions for educating youngsters and teaching people new skills.

The 26-year-old takes up the new role following a decade working for the Society, most recently as a team leader at Bradwell Food Store.

Why did you decide to apply to become an MCRO?

"I gained a passion for community while organising small events at store level and wanted to get involved more.

"I have seen how much more can be done in our local communities with a little personal touch - so when the opportunity came up I jumped at it."

What do you think you will bring to the role?

"I hope to bring a sense of youth, enthusiasm and 'being coopy' to the role and be able to reach more members.

"I want to encourage more people to become members and I would also like to spread co-operative values in a relatable way to younger people."

Why are events like National Breakfast Week important in your role and for the Society as a whole?

"We take part in events like this to educate children on the importance of a healthy and balanced nutritious breakfast.

"They have a big impact on the children we work with, giving them a sense of independence and an understanding of how important having a balanced breakfast is when it comes to focusing and concentrating for a full day at school.

"Getting out into the community is our point of difference and we pride ourselves on our local activities."

What other events will you be part of in the coming months?

"I will be heavily involved in our Fairtrade Fortnight event, meeting with Fairtrade groups within the Eastern Region, presenting Fairtrade assemblies to local schools and supporting store colleagues to present Ethical Challenge events to youngsters.

"I will also be working on Co-operatives Fortnight, which will mean educating young people on the benefits of being a member of a co-operative.

"I will also be carrying out numerous Healthy Choices Workshops to local schools and community groups."



MCRO Kym Hunt teaches youngsters about healthy eating at Woodston Primary School, Peterborough



Why do you think it is important we play an active role in the community?

“The communities local to our food stores and funeral homes are important to us because they are our members and customers.

“The things that matter to them matter to us. Playing an active role in the community helps us to spread our Co-operative values to our members old and new.”

What do you hope to achieve during your time as an MCRO?

“I hope to create further links between retail and funeral colleagues, bringing them together to work on projects in their shared local communities.

“I aim to create more members’ groups in the region so we can use our facilities to have a positive impact on the largest number of people possible.

“I will also carry on working to educate the next generation of members on important issues such as the importance of Fairtrade, healthy eating, responsibility and equality.”

Outside of work what kinds of things do you do to unwind?

“I have a soft spot for photography and I like to take my camera on long strolls around the eastern coastline. I like to unwind with a good book and a hot cup of tea.”



MCRO ACTIVITY UPDATE



TANYA NOON

MCRO FOR THE NORTHERN REGION

Some activities Tanya has recently delivered for members include:

- Organising an opening event to mark the arrival of a special First World War exhibition at Coalville food store – the exhibition showcases 50 soldiers from the area who were the first to go to war
- Delivering Healthy Choices Workshops to schools across the area and organising a well attended health day in Ripley

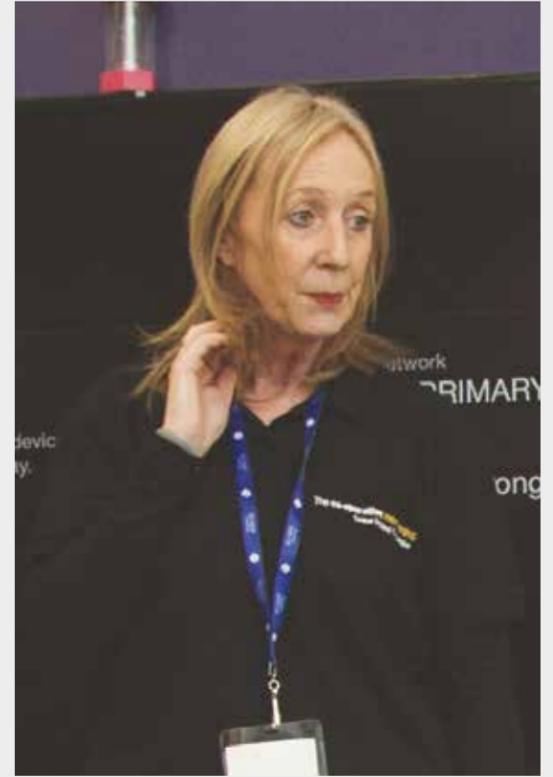


JAMES KNIGHT

MCRO FOR THE WESTERN REGION

Some activities James has recently delivered for members include:

- Working with local schools and organisations to support the promotion of all things Fairtrade as part of Fairtrade Fortnight
- Delivered Ethical Workshops to over 200 youngsters in Birmingham, Lichfield and Sutton Coldfield - teaching them about where food comes from and why it is important that it is ethically sourced



KAREN BEVAN

MCRO FOR THE SOUTHERN REGION

Some activities Karen has recently delivered for members include:

- Delivering Healthy Choices Workshops and several events as part of National Breakfast Week to school children
- Arranged the donation of toasters and kettles to Wellington House, in Kettering, for a vital and growing project in the area that helps people who have been sleeping rough to set up real homes

In future editions we will give you updates on the events and activities run by our teams and volunteers

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Email us at member.community@centralengland.coop or visit your local Central England Co-operative food store

OUR SOCIETY

Central England Co-op is made up of a variety of businesses. Here we take a closer look into how funeral colleagues are making a difference and the impact our major investments are making

FUNERAL COLLEAGUES ENSURE YOUNGSTERS AND EX-SERVICEMEN AND EX-SERVICEWOMEN GET A BOOST

Our funeral colleagues have been going out of their way to help people in need. The team from Swanns Funeral Service linked up with Loughborough based Rainbows Hospice to donate £2,000 worth of toys and gifts to bring smiles to the faces of youngsters living with disabilities and life-limiting conditions.

Funeral Director Neil Finn said: "The work the team at Rainbows do every day is quite simply amazing and the impact they have on youngsters and their families is vital.

"There is no better feeling than heading up to the hospice and seeing the smiles that these toys and gifts bring to the faces of young girls and boys - it really is priceless and showcases perfectly how at Central England Co-op we work to bring the community together to help those in need."

Presents included everything from remote controlled dinosaurs and an ice cream maker to special lights and toys to be used in the onsite sensory room, including a glow in the dark unicorn.

Ex-servicemen and women who are homeless, or have fallen on hard times, have

also been boosted after Central England Co-operative Funeral homes in Oadby and Wigston sourced products to fill 90 hampers through the charity Once, We Were Soldiers.

The charity supports those who are struggling to revert to civilian life, as well as those who no longer have a home, or suffer from mental health conditions as a result of their service.

Janette Macleod, the Funeral Director for both homes, said: "Through no fault of their own many ex-servicemen and women struggle to adjust to civilian life once they leave the military.

"Some fall on really hard times, and sometimes become homeless, so we organised these hampers to help as much as we could.

"The charity does what it can to help veterans after they return home, and needs as much support as we can give.

"We donated hampers full of items last year, and they were really well received by the charity, so we thought we would do the same this year. I would like to say a personal thank you to everyone who donated to this great cause."



Swanns Funeral Service brings smiles to the faces of Rainbows Hospice

Find out more about Central England Co-operative Funeralcare by visiting www.centralengland.coop/funeralcare

NEW STORES & REFITS

Customers and members can look forward to a raft of new and refurbished food stores and funeral homes during 2018.

Already we have opened new stores in Godmanchester and Kings Norton and revamped sites in Burton, Derby and Rugeley.

We celebrated the arrival of new food stores by holding Golden Ticket Giveaways with customers winning everything from Co-op vouchers to big screen TVs.

The Society has pioneered the launch of new funeral booking offices in great locations for our customers and members – including one in Stretton. We have also revamped funeral homes in Spondon as well as opening a new site in Chilwell, Nottingham.

Most recently, the Society celebrated the opening of a brand new food store in Ermine

Street, Godmanchester, as part of a £560,000 investment in the area.

The new site includes the latest in pioneering energy efficient refrigeration technologies to minimise environmental impact and LED lighting.

Godmanchester Central England Co-operative Store Manager Joel Mattless said: "Our team were so excited to finally allow our members and customers to see our new store.

"The store looks fantastic and already customers have been making many positive comments about how it looks and the different products and services now available."

2018 will see millions invested in the communities we serve on new stores, funeral homes and refits – creating dozens of new jobs in the process.



Lights, camera, action at our Kings Norton food store



Three cheers for our Godmanchester food store



Our new Stretton booking office

Find your nearest store by visiting our website www.centralengland.coop/stores

FROM STORE TO BOARD

We get to know Store Manager and Board Director Sean Clothier and find out how he uses both roles to help and support colleagues, members and the community



Sean was all smiles when talking about his store

Sean holds a unique position within Central England Co-op.

He is one of three employees who sit on our Board of Directors and at the same time he is Store Manager at Market Harborough Supermarket and Petrol Filling Station.

The 50-year-old began his career with the Society in 1983 as a 16-year-old working 10 hours a week at his local store in Loughborough.

Since then he has gone on to work and support over 20 stores across the East Midlands and now enjoys the extra responsibility of shaping the future of the Society with his role on the Board.

He said: "My first interactions with the Co-op were via my grandparents and parents and then eventually when I got my first part-time job.

"I worked there for a couple of years while I was doing my A-levels and, after deferring university for a year, wrote to the then head of retail to ask if there was a management

trainee programme.

"The letter must have been well received because, despite a few months in 1989, I have worked for the Society ever since and never looked back."

Sean quickly progressed through a variety of roles and has now been a store manager for 23 years.

He added: "The role of being a store manager has changed over the years, mainly due to the arrival of new technology.

"My job has been to work with my colleagues to ensure they know how best to use this technology to perform their jobs to the best of their ability.

"It is a role that has its challenges, but challenges that I enjoy taking on.

"The highlight of being a store manager for me is being able to work with a great team, but also seeing them grow and progress. This can be everything from seeing people pick up a new skill to others progressing and going on to manage stores of their own."



Working with the board gives Sean a different take on work at the Society



Sean helps ensure the store is always looking good

Find out more about our Board and how you can get involved at www.members.coop

Community sits at the heart of everything that Central England Co-op does, and this is one of the major reasons that led to Sean becoming a Board Director.

"Being part of the community and, most importantly, giving back to our communities is our major selling point as a co-operative business," Sean said.

"Having an outlook focused on community and our members and customers saw me, in 2014, put myself forward and eventually be elected to the Board of Directors as an Employee Director.

"I feel extremely privileged to be part of the Board and to be able to bring ground level knowledge to decisions that shape the future of our Society.

"I also believe that being a Board Director also helped me in my role as a Store Manager.

"It not only means I can bring a different outlook and view to my fellow Board Directors but it also means that when decisions are made I have a more informed view of why and can use this when trying to implement

change with fellow colleagues."

Juggling the roles of Store Manager and Board Director is not easy, but it is a challenge that Sean embraces.

He added: "I feel a real sense of responsibility with both of my roles and can wholeheartedly say that becoming a Board Director was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

"It has meant that I can enjoy being part of the business on the frontline in store and then take that knowledge to have a real say into the future of Central England Co-operative."

Away from work, newly married Sean enjoys walking his dogs with wife Kerry, his camper van and the outdoors and has been devoting time to renovating a 200 year old cottage. He is also really looking forward to becoming a grandfather in June.

Sean summed up his interesting dual roles by offering up the simple reason behind why he does it all.

"I do what I do simply because I want to make a difference for customers, colleagues and the community," he said.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Find out how our vehicle donations have helped people in need and helped train the mechanics of tomorrow

Corporate Responsibility sits at the heart of everything we do at Central England Co-op in our role as an ethical retailer.

The Society works with organisations that can really make a difference and recently continued this by donating two vehicles used to deliver food up and down the country to support budding mechanics and people in need across the globe.

Youngsters at Stephenson College, in Coalville, Leicestershire, received a LGV tractor unit and the National Police Aid Convoy team, in Mansfield, received a funeral limousine from colleagues at the Society's Food Distribution Centre, in Scudamore Road, Leicester.

The college will use the LGV tractor unit as a training vehicle for students on the maintenance and repair course, allowing them to get hands-on practical experience.

The National Police Aid Convoy team will use the limousine to give people dignified funerals in Zambia.

Robin Farrell, Head of Distribution and Logistics at Central England Co-op, said:

"We are delighted to be able to use two vehicles, which have helped us serve our customers so well over the years, to now help others.

"It is great to know that they will be going to help people in need and to help train the mechanics of the future.

"We pride ourselves on our reputation as an ethical business and focus on corporate responsibility. This donation is a great example of us giving back and supporting others in need."

"Dr Nigel Leigh, Principal and Chief Executive of Stephenson College, said: "Our students' practical skills will benefit greatly while working on the new LGV tractor and their improved knowledge will be advantageous to their employer's productivity.

David Scott, Trustee Chairman of UK National Police Aid Convoy, said: "This vehicle will be travelling to Zambia to bring a little dignity and respect currently absent in funerals."

Previously, the Society has donated four vehicles to the charity which were used to help people in Ghana and Zambia.

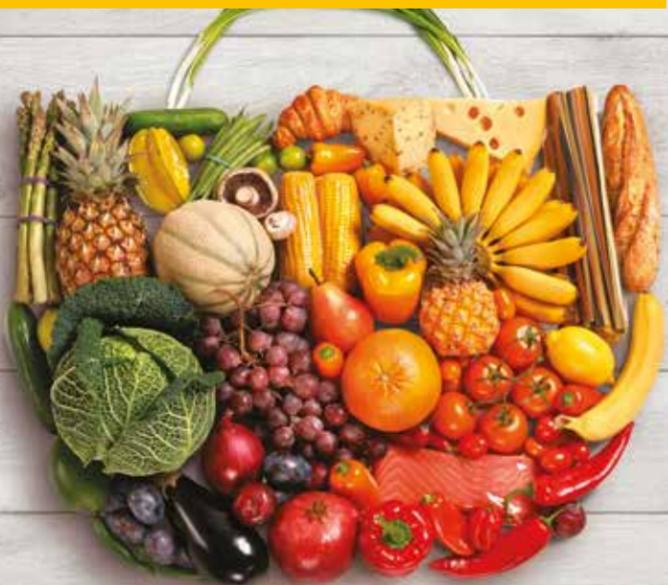


Students at Stephenson College inspect their new vehicle donated by Central England Co-op

Join in

Support your community and earn points as you spend

The **co-operative** membership
Central England Co-operative



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

We hope you've enjoyed finding out more about our membership and community news. If you're inspired to join in and become a member of Central England Co-operative too then you can enjoy an array of benefits including:



Share of the Profits

You can earn a dividend payment by shopping in our family of businesses, including earning a point for every £1 spent in our food stores.



Community Dividend Fund

As a member you can apply for funding for a local project through our Community Dividend Fund.



Have Your Say

Get involved with the democratic process and attend member meetings to make your voice heard.

Find out more about becoming a member by heading in to one of our stores, picking up a Join In leaflet and registering online at www.members.coop or by calling **0800 050 1601**