

Christmas lights boost for charities

Steve's tradition helps Dogs Trust and Air Ambulance

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A MAN has raised a total of £1,585 for two charities.

Steve Morgan, a resident of Hamilton Court in Greenham for 43 years, delivered £625 worth of dry dog food, toys and training treats to the Dogs Trust at the charity's rehoming centre in Hamstead Marshall on Monday morning.

Mr Morgan and his neighbours raise the funds with a spectacular lights display each Christmas.

He has done so for the past seven years and has no plans to stop.

He has also donated £625 to Thames Valley Air Ambulance and a further £240 to Air Ambulances UK and £95 to the Dogs Trust through online QR codes.

Mr Morgan said: "I speak on behalf of the residents of Hamilton Court that helped to get us to this stage, because if it



Steve Morgan with his wife Tania and Dogs Trust supporter relations officer Lucy Maynard

wasn't for them doing all the lights that we'd done again, this wouldn't have happened.

"I was only expecting to get about £500 between the two charities.

"I am grateful and I'll do it for as long as I can do it."

Supporter relations officer for the Dogs Trust Lucy Maynard reacted to the donation saying: "We don't normally get donations of this scale.

"Individuals bring out what's left over from dog food that their dogs didn't like or when their dogs pass away, so it's normally quite small scale.

"We appreciate everything, but to get this volume of treats and toys and all the rest is quite unusual."

More than 70 people gathered to view the light display as it was turned on in December.

Mr Morgan said The Nightingales always gets a bad reputation, so wants to do as much possible to bring the community together.

Two more houses are getting involved in this year's display and Mr Morgan plans to add a sit-on-train.



Some of the dog treats donated by Steve Morgan

First-ever V365 On The Road volunteer fair for Thatcham

VOLUNTEER Centre West Berkshire and Thatcham Town Council have partnered to bring the first-ever V365 On The Road with Thatcham Volunteer Fair.

Residents of various ages, experience and backgrounds will have the opportunity to explore a range of Thatcham-based charities, community groups and organisations they might be interested in contributing their time to.

There will be something for everyone, whether they are passionate about environmental causes, supporting the elderly, youth initiatives or community events.

Volunteering is a valuable way to develop new skills, form friendships and make a difference in your community.

The fair will take place on Monday, March 17, and Sunday, March 23, from 10am to 2pm at Frank Hutchings Community Hall.



Newbury's V365 has been held at the Corn Exchange for several years

Participating organisations include: Thatcham Town Council, West Berkshire Homeless, Living Paintings, PALS, Girlguiding, iCollege, 7th Thatcham Brownies, Step by Step, Neighbourhood

Watch, Thatcham Volunteer Bureau, Thatcham Radio, Swings & Smiles, Thatcham Youth, Thatcham Memorial Foundation, Thatcham Rotary, Project Salama and Greenham Control Tower.

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