NEW SERVICE FOR BEREAVED GETS CASH BOOST OF MORE THAN £4,400

A special service set up to help meet the needs of the bereaved and lonely in Tendring has been given an extra cash boost of more than £4,400.

The money from Tendring District Council (TDC) will be used to cover the running costs of weekly get togethers held in Clacton.

The Bereavement and Friendship Café is staged every Friday from 10am to 12noon in the Community Information Centre in Rosemary Road.

The grant will also help pay for speakers, trips out, counselling where it is needed, materials for craft and therapy sessions, as well as publicity and promotion.

The café is run by Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST) and has proved a great success.

CVST Chairman Brenda Ellis said the initiative began as monthly, developed into fortnightly and those attending have now decided it should be weekly.

“Those going along are encouraged to share their individual skills with each other and some are giving talks to the group,” she said.

“There is a very warm and friendly atmosphere and the café is going from strength to strength and meeting a large need in Tendring.”

CVST was chosen to receive the money which has come from recycling metals from crematoria throughout the country. It was nominated to receive a share of the windfall from TDC’s Weeley Crematorium.

Each year the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management – which receives the proceeds nationwide – hands out the money to chosen charities.

Last year TDC handed over a cheque for £3,473 to CVST to set up a service for the bereaved and lonely after it was identified there was a gap in the District for a group to provide for any resident.

Nick Turner, TDC’s Cabinet Member for Environment and Coast Protection, said he was pleased that the new money would be made available to continue the good work already under way.

“Loneliness and isolation is a serious problem for many people in Tendring and I was delighted when this initiative was originally set up,” he said.

“The fact the café now runs weekly speaks volumes about the need and this group will make a huge difference to so many of our residents.”

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NEWSDESKS

For further information on this press release contact Nigel Brown, Tendring District Council’s Communications Manager on 01255 686338.

Note to editors:

CVST, which is based in Rosemary Road, Clacton, is run by the local community to support, promote and develop voluntary and community action.

PHOTO

TDC Cabinet Member Nick Turner hands over the cheque to CVST Chief Officer Sharon Alexander (second left) and Chairman Brenda Ellis (far left). Also in the picture is Clare Thompson, TDC’s Bereavement Manager.