Charity to benefit from cremations

Old hip and knee joints from Stafford Crematorium have helped raise thousands of pounds for the Mayor’s charity.

The artificial body parts, along with nails and screws from coffins, have been passed on to a recycling company in return for a £3,400 donation to the Stafford and District Bereavement and Loss Support Service - which is one of Borough Mayor, Councillor Angela Loughran’s chosen charities this year.

The metal is filtered out as part of the cremation process leaving the ashes to be collected by the deceased’s loved ones or buried. The award winning crematorium on the town’s Tixall Road has collected around 150 kilos of recycling.

Councillor Frank Finlay, cabinet member for environment and health, said: “I’d like to think that those who have had loved ones cremated will be comforted in the knowledge that their loss is helping fund a charity dedicated to making life easier for others who have suffered bereavement.”

The Tixall Road site in the summer retained its green flag as one of the best open spaces in the country.

And the crematorium is no stranger to new initiatives. In August it ran its third open day - which attracted more than 250 visitors and allowed the public to see behind the scenes and ask questions about the bereavement service.

The recycling scheme is a partnership between the ICCM and Orthometals and written consent is required from bereaved families before any orthopaedic implants – such as hip and knee joints – are taken.

The cheque for a total of £3,472 was presented to the mayor by Councillor Finlay on Tuesday 12 November. The Mayor’s other main charities are Homestart Stafford and Staffordshire Women’s Aid.

More details about the service can be found at www.staffordbc.gov.uk/bereavement.

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