School's £12,000 boost for charity

Gresham's School in Holt has handed over £12,000 to its charity of the year – The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House.

As its charity for 2012/13, the school presented the cheque on December 5 after 12 months of fundraising.

The charity provides an invaluable service to Norfolk residents where skilled and compassionate care is made available to people with cancer, neurological and other life limiting conditions.

Tapping House is currently expanding its services, and is working towards a new hospice with in-patient facilities. The funds raised by Gresham's will be used to equip a new room for a young person in need of their care.

Father Bryan, Gresham's School chaplain said: "As a school we are always trying to get involved in different areas of the community and Tapping House is an exceptionally good cause so we were delighted to be able to support it."

Gresham’s pupils undertook a number of fundraising events from a sleepover in an igloo, cake sales, home clothes day to collections taken at their annual house music competition and carol services.

On November 30, the school hosted a special Lights for Life service at Gresham's chapel to remember loved ones who have used the charity’s services over the past five years.

This year Gresham’s charity of the year will be North Norfolk Young Carers, another Norfolk-based group, providing much-needed respite time and support to young people who find themselves caring for a family member at home.

Ian Mason accepted a cheque on behalf of The Norfolk Hospice.

Richard Shaw MBE, chief executive of the charity said: "Working with young people as they become adults is an increasing part of our work with the East Anglian Children’s Hospice. I would like to add my thanks for the donation from Gresham’s which will go towards the cost of providing a teenage and young adult facility at our new building in Hillington which we plan to open in the spring."

Together we can make a difference

KATIE MAIDMENT, co-founder of AylshamWorldWide, explains how...

If you're wondering what an organisation with "Aylsham" in the name is doing in your particular Just Regional magazine, then read on.

AylshamWorldWide is a group of small, independent charitable projects working in the developing world, all run hands-on by the people who founded them and all based within a 20-mile radius of Aylsham.

So our catchment includes you!

As local people, our main purpose is to raise awareness of the developing world, how local people are making a difference in Africa, Asia and South America and how other local people, just like you, could also contribute to that work.

Our current projects are:

- Kikambala Aid Trust (water and electricity for Kenyan coastal villages).
- Hope and Song to Freedom (assisting women prisoners in Peru).
- Gambian Aid Through Education [aid for rural villages in the Gambia]
- Support Cambodia (helping communities in North-West Cambodia).
- We also have school representatives from Aylsham High, John of Gaunt Infants and St Michael's Infants, a working partnership with Aylsham Rotary Club and an association with Kitle School (Uganda).

AWW is not a fundraising organisation in its own right and charities are responsible for raising their own funds. None take any commission.

We also run Gifts Make a Difference, a year-round collection scheme of useful items that are then distributed between the AWW charities.

Education is a key part of AWW's approach. We happy to talk to groups about our project visits and experiences and are committed to a programme of global education in several local schools, aiming to raise young people's awareness.

AWW also serves as a support network for the members.

A final thought. We may not be able to change the world but AWW believes we can all give a helping hand so the world’s poor can help themselves.

If you'd like to know more go to aylshamworldwide.org.uk