



The Gap • 39 Oakwood Grove • Warwick • CV34 5TD
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Press Release

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Warwick Charity Craft Fayre will help combat loneliness

A local charity is holding a Christmas Craft Fayre to raise funds for its Warwick community centre, which is helping to combat loneliness and isolation in the town by running social activities.

The Gap charity is inviting Christmas shoppers to step into the Christmas spirit at its Craft Fayre held on Saturday 30th November from 2 to 5 pm at The Gap community centre, at 39 Oakwood Grove, near Spinney Hill. The annual fundraising event promises an afternoon packed with unique shopping ideas, delicious festive refreshments, a raffle with a top prize of an overnight hotel stay for two, a tombola, and a dash of Christmas sparkle.

More than 20 local crafters will be taking part by selling unique hand-made gifts including painted glass; jams and chutneys; greeting cards; pom pom gifts; skincare; books and book art; sweet hampers; delicatessen cheeses; and more. Local businesses have also backed the event by donating prizes for the tombola and raffle. These include an overnight hotel stay for two at the Woodland Grange Hotel; Warwick Racecourse tickets for four; Royal Spa Centre Cinema tickets; vouchers for the Stratford Garden Centre, The Chip Shed, and Behoptimystic; and a Tesco Christmas food hamper. There will also be a face painter for children.

The Gap's Community Café will be providing festive refreshments including Pigs in Blanket Yorkshire puddings, festive sausage rolls, rice crispy Christmas pudding cakes, mince pies, tea, coffee, and hot chocolate.

All proceeds will go to The Gap charity, which runs social activities to bring people together at its friendly community centre, so nobody has to be lonely, isolated or coping alone for long. The charity specialises in providing fun, low-cost youth clubs for children aged 7 to 11 and teenagers up to 16 years old, plus low-cost companionship and wellbeing activities for over 60's and elderly people. It also runs an affordable Community Café open from 10 am to 1 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays and The Gap community centre, which hires rooms to other community groups and services. There is something for everyone seven days a week including toddler groups, exercise classes, hobby clubs, support groups, and more.

The charity is working towards its vision of a vibrant, happy Warwick community filled with respect, compassion and confidence, where aspirations are realised, friendships thrive, and people can feel they belong, are valued, and are part of something.

The Gap is very grateful to Volunteer Organiser Emma Joyce Smith, who arranges craft fairs as a hobby. Said Emma: "I'm very excited to be volunteering alongside The Gap for our second Christmas Fayre. We will have 24 stalls selling everything from teddy bears to Christmas stockings. There will also be children's face painting, a traditional Tombola, festive refreshments, and lots of fantastic prizes to be won in our Raffle, all very kindly donated by local businesses. It's all for a great cause and we hope to see you there!"

The Fayre at The Gap community centre at 39 Oakwood Grove, CV34 5TD is easily accessible from the number one bus route, a short two-minute walk across the green from the bus stop at the Chantry shops. There is also disabled access and facilities. To find out more contact The Gap on 01926 494200.

ENDS



Photo caption: Pictured left to right Tesco Community Champion Melissa Hazel presents The Gap Christmas Fayre Organiser Emma Joyce Smith and Volunteer John Baker with a food hamper to be raffled at the craft fair on Saturday 30th November.

Notes to Editors:

The Gap, also known as Warwick Percy Estate Community Projects Ltd, is a registered charity promoting community togetherness in Warwick for 20 years. We are changing lives by reducing loneliness, social and financial isolation by bringing people together. We provide a friendly community centre, and low-cost, inclusive activities and services for children and young people, the elderly, and the community.

Our Mission: The Gap is leading the way to promote community togetherness and personal fulfilment by providing a safe and welcoming environment where people can meet and participate in social and physical activities; support groups; volunteering and learning with the aim of enhancing overall quality of life.

Our Vision: A vibrant, happy community filled with respect, compassion and confidence, where aspirations are realised, friendships thrive and people can feel they belong, are valued, and are part of something

Our work focuses on three key areas:

Disadvantaged children and young people: The Gap Youth provides eight engaging, universal youth clubs at five locations in Warwick for 7 to 16 year olds. We provide young people with safe, fun places to go to make friends, access supportive youth workers, and improve life skills, resilience, self-confidence, and aspirations.

Isolated and lonely older adults: The Gap Goldies provides weekly social and wellbeing activities, five days a week, for over 60's. We help vulnerable and widowed elderly people find companionship and improved emotional and physical health, continued independence, and a better quality of life.

Building stronger communities: The Gap Community provides a friendly, welcoming community centre on the Percy estate in North Warwick hosting a wide variety of community groups, exercise classes, and services, for all ages from 0 to 95! We also run community outreach in the most deprived area of Warwick at Packmores, supporting low-income families and hard-to-reach members of the community.

For further information, images or a spokesperson please contact: Kathy Wheeler, Fundraiser and Communications Officer at kathy.wheeler@thegapwarwick.org or phone 01926 494200.