

Swaffham: Hospice gets a Waitrose boost

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SWAFFHAM and Litcham Home Hospice Support has received a £520 contribution towards its £120,000 annual running costs from a scheme run by the local Waitrose store.

The money has come from the Swaffham store's green token scheme, part of its Community Matters initiative.

This benefits three local good causes nominated by staff each month.

Waitrose shoppers put green tokens, which they are given at the till, in the collection box for their favourite charity or community group, and £1,000 is shared between those causes in direct proportion to the number of tokens each has received.

Rob Young, chairman of the hospice fundraising committee, said: "We received just over half the tokens put in this time. We were nominated by the staff at Waitrose and are very grateful to them for selecting us and to all the people who supported us."

He was joined by hospice coordinator Debbie Harfield, secretary Jayne Thomas and two student nurses – Samantha Sayers and Jade Cuthbert – who were spending a day with the hospice on work experience, to collect the cheque from Waitrose department manager Matt Rowland at the Swaffham store.

Mr Young said the hospice receives about £60,000 a year from the health service and has to try to match that figure through fundraising to meet its running costs, so donations of this kind were vital to its continuing work in such a rural area.

To try to meet this challenge various events are being planned, including a fundraising week in Swaffham and Litcham at the end of May and in early June.

The hospice is also looking to raise its profile to make more people aware of its work.