

New NDAA charity shop opens in Bideford

The North Devon Animal Ambulance (NDAA) has come to Bideford, and it's not just another visit from Diana and the charity's distinctive ambulance! Monday 25 February 2008 saw the opening of the NDAA's latest charity shop in the town's picturesque Grenville Street.

Close to Bideford's High Street

After last September's decision to close the NDAA's South Molton shop, the team quickly went into action to find replacement locations for new charity shops. Bideford was quickly identified as a prime location; it wasn't long before they'd negotiated a lease for a new shop in Grenville Street – a promising site, close to Bideford High Street, where lots of pedestrians pass on their way to the town's Pannier Market and many other interesting local shops.

Inherited fittings and volunteer work keep costs down

With the lease sorted, Mrs Joan Lewis's hard-working volunteer team got busy with mops and paintbrushes. Helped, whenever possible, by Pauline Bussell and Mick Lewis, the team worked for weeks to get the new shop ready for its opening. Luckily, we inherited lots of fittings from the South Molton shop so, apart from a few accessories, a couple of extra garment rails, some paint and a bit of flooring, it didn't cost much to get everything ready.

Veterinarian, Bill Slee, opens the store on 25 February 2008

At Noon on 25 February, the new shop was officially opened by Mr Bill Slee, senior partner at Torbridge Veterinary Hospital, accompanied by his wife Jane. Many supporters of the NDAA, as well as our volunteer shop workers, were there amid the well-stocked shelves and we had good coverage from the *North Devon Journal*.

Special thanks go to Pat Bowden and the shop team for the wonderful quality and quantity of food enjoyed by everyone present. As well as Diana, Pauline, Mick, Jane our Treasurer and her daughter Karen, Mrs Nancy Sawyer, a patron of the NDAA, also attended.

Animal attendees – large and small

And then, appropriately, there were the animal attendees: Lin Lines, our dog fosterer, brought along Wilbur, one of our newest rescue dogs. Being a Bull Mastiff, Wilbur took up quite a lot of the available space – in contrast to little Hobo, the former travellers' dog that was so badly injured last year, who looked very fit and well.

Visit soon – find yourself a bargain!

Along with the existing Barnstaple shop and a soon-to-be-opened new store in Braunton, the Grenville Street shop gives the NDAA a much-needed presence in the heart of Bideford. Come along and visit us soon – you're sure to find a bargain!

(Below) Nancy Sawyer and Wilbur share a quiet moment amid the celebrations at the opening of the new NDAA charity shop in Bideford



(Below) The NDAA's Diana Lewis (left) and patron Nancy Sawyer (centre) join Bill Slee, senior partner at Torbridge Veterinary Hospital (right) and other NDAA members and volunteer shop staff to celebrate the opening of the new Grenville Street, Bideford shop.



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