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Coventry Building Society staff name third Guide Dogs puppy after late customer after raising more than £15,000

Coventry Building Society's Arena branch staff have raised enough money for its community partner, Guide Dogs, to be able to name the third guide dog it has sponsored – and it has chosen to name the puppy after one of its members.

The branch – located at the Arena Retail Park in Coventry – raised the money through tombolas held throughout the year, quiz nights at the Ricoh Arena and awareness days for Guide Dogs. The staff decided to name the puppy after one of its late members, Alan Herdman, after Alan's wife Angela said that she'd love to sponsor a guide dog puppy in his memory.

Jeyme Lawley, the Arena branch manager for Coventry Building Society, said: "We were all very fond of Alan so when Angela mentioned that she'd love to name a guide dog puppy after him, we wanted to help make it happen. I'm delighted with what the branch staff have achieved with the help of our members. Guide Dogs is such a life-changing organisation. Our first two puppies, Fletcher and Cooper, are doing really well, and we're now looking forward to meeting our third puppy, Alan, later this year."

Angela Herdman, Alan's wife, added: "Alan was a big softie and he'd be honoured that the staff have done this for him. It is such a lovely, kind thought, and I really appreciate that they've given me something in his memory."

Frank Lynn, Coventry Branch co-ordinator for Guide Dogs, added: "The partnership we have with the branch is really important to us. Every hour, someone in the UK starts to lose their sight. Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives and by 2050, there could be nearly four million. Guide Dogs is working to give people with sight loss the confidence and skills they need to live the life they choose."

To find out more about raising money for Guide Dogs, click to www.guidedogs.org.uk/

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For more information or additional comment please contact: the press office on **0800 121 6868** or email **media@thecoventry.co.uk**

Coventry Building Society. Principal Office: Economic House, PO Box 9, High Street, Coventry CV1 5QN. www.thecoventry.co.uk

Calls to 0800 numbers are free when made from the UK. You may be charged for calls to all other numbers, please contact your service provider for further details.



Photograph: Handing over a cheque for £5,000 to Frank Lynne from Guide Dogs and Coventry Building Society member Angela Herdman (with German Shepherd guide dog Brody) are (left to right) Coventry Building Society's Paris Bingley, Jeyme Lawley, Cilla Connelly, Megan Clarke and Amy McKenzie.

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