

"Deeping St James United Charities says thank you to Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire.

Citizens Advice in South Lincolnshire was surprised and delighted to receive a donation from Deeping St James United Charities, of £1000, in recognition of the continuing support from the organisation, for all those people living in and around Deeping St James, and in particular from volunteer Liz McWilliams, who has been working with Citizens Advice for 11 years in and around Stamford, and more recently with the Deepings.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the Citizens Advice support has moved from face to face interviews, which started in Deeping St James in 2008, to telephone discussions, with appointments made by the Stamford Citizens Advice team, and also referrals from the United Charities team in Deeping St James. About 50 people in the Deeping St James area have been helped by the Citizens Advice team since the first lockdown. Liz says she is now talking more to younger people, who are seeking advice on benefits, and to a lesser extent with debts, even though the usual wide range of advice is available, whether people are having problems with housing, relationships, or employment for example. Liz has noticed through the pandemic a high proportion of self employed people who are encountering problems they have never faced before. "Sometimes people are just sitting there, thinking 'I don't know what to do' " said Liz, " they just need a bit of help to prompt actions."

The Deeping St James United Charities know their community well, and are aware of when people are struggling, so they can refer to Citizens Advice at the start of peoples problems. Carol Precey, Vice Chair, said "We are so pleased that Citizens Advice are carrying on during the various lockdowns, we consider the wide range of advice they can give people is the best they can get, and if it is appropriate, people can also ask for a direct grant from our charity to be considered. We want to help our community, and our relationship with Citizens Advice is just one aspect of that help."

Citizens Advice in South Lincolnshire is available on **Freephone 0808 278 7996**. For more information visit <https://www.citizensadvice-southlincs.org.uk/> **Volunteering:** Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire service is supported by over 80 trained volunteers from the local community.

Deeping St James United Charities can be contacted on dsjunedcharities@btconnect.com Tel: **01778 344707"**