Devizes

The Lindsay LegClub Foundation

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Chit-Chat

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Hearts and Flowers on Valentine's Day at Devizes Leg Club

The Leg Club never misses an opportunity to celebrate something - birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, Easter, Hallowe'en and other special dates such as Valentine's Day.

Table decorations and a festive bric-a-brac stall echoed the theme with a few extra pink and red treats on offer. Love was definitely in the air!

Alzheimer's Society United Against Dementia

Buddy, can you spare a dime?

Donate your unwanted foreign coins to us and we'll pass them on to the Alzheimer's Society which accepts the following:

- all foreign coins and notes
- pre-Euro currencies
- old British and Irish money
- pre-decimal coins
- commemorative coins

Thank you

Leg Clubs are an innovative model of social prescribing, managing the treatment of patients with lower limb conditions such as leg ulcers, in a social environment.
For further information about the Leg Club Foundation and Leg Clubs visit: www.legclub.org or contact Justine Bland or Karen Fletcher at Market Lavington Surgery on 01380 812500

Spotlight on … Carrie Thomas, Leg Club Nurse

Carrie is a breast cancer nurse at the GWH, as well as a Leg Club nurse in Devizes. She originally trained as a primary school teacher and taught for five years before leaving to start a family. She then retrained as a nurse eleven years ago. Something else you may not know, is that Carrie goes to Kenya for three weeks every year to volunteer with Camp International at one of their health clinics.

"We pay to go out to Camp Muhaka, so I usually do some fund raising and our money pays for a local optician, a dentist, the drugs, and a group of 40 nurses and some teachers. We set up a clinic and we take it to all the different hill tribes in that area. We have a skin department and deal with all sorts of dermatology, fungal infections etc.

The main skin problem with children is jiggers – tiny parasitic flies which burrow and lay eggs inside – mainly in feet, then the eggs burst open and all the flies go into the sand. We soak their feet in kerosene and put on a special jigger treatment. It's pretty grim and little babies have them their feet and hands. We give each child a pair of shoes and a knitted teddy bear – which are really prized as they have no toys. We bring out clothes we've collected from home for them too. Everyone who needs glasses gets a pair and teeth are also extracted if necessary. Everyone gets a worming tablet to help with worms.

We stay in a camp in traditional *bandas*- mud huts with straw roofs, and we have proper toilets and showers, all inside a fenced area. Last year we had a Masai warrior walking around protecting us with his bow and arrow. For three of the villages we visited, we had to have armed guards because people are after the drugs we carry. The camp staff are wonderful and prepare delicious food for us. In our free time we go to the beach.

I just love going to Kenya to work. We can cure for now but not in the long-term. I hope we make a difference."

Due to the success of our bric-a-brac stall at the social club, we have been able to give Carrie a donation of £50 to take to Africa to benefit her very worthy charity. A huge thank you to everyone who has donated to the stall and bought items, and also to our volunteers who help to run it. The money raised by our stall goes towards keeping the social club a happy, friendly place for members and visitors to attend.