**Press Release**

For release*:*7 June 2018

**Local festival pledges support to Thrombosis UK**

The annual Kington Langley Scarecrow Festival, which runs this month (16 – 17 June), is hoping to raise over £2,500 for Thrombosis UK after choosing the charity as the recipient of its Elizabeth Coles Award.

Created to honour the founder of the festival, this award gives 25% percent of the funds raised to the chosen charity.

Thrombosis UK was selected after committee member Keri Allan shared her experience of having a life-altering blood clot, which left her with a condition called post-thrombotic syndrome. Through information provided by the charity, Keri was eventually able to get in touch with medical experts that have greatly improved her mobility and pain, after diagnosing her with a rare autoimmune disorder coined as ‘Sticky Blood’.

“This is a great organisation to support, as well as helping thrombosis suffers and their families, the charity helps bring together people in similar positions,” Keri says. “It also continues to work hard to educate people about the risks and symptoms of VTE (venous thromboembloism) in all its forms, as well as push for further research into conditions like my own.”

“We are absolutely delighted to be chosen as the Kington Langley Scarecrow Festival’s charity this year and are incredibly grateful for their support,” continues Annya Stephens-Boal, Executive Officer at Thrombosis UK. “A frightening fact is that over 25,000 people die every year from VTE-related disorders which is more than MRSA, breast cancer, HIV & AIDS and road traffic accidents combined. Thrombosis UK is dedicated to promoting the awareness, research, and care.

“Amazing fundraising events such as the Kington Langley Scarecrow Festival, and the generosity of those who support it, enable us to achieve our goals to provide life-saving information, much needed research funding, and vital support to health professionals, patients and carers.”

**The Kington Langley Scarecrow Festival**

This is the 18th year the festival has been held and families will be able to visit almost 90 different scarecrows, this year themed around ‘books’, which are scattered around a village trail.

As well as the scarecrow trail, festival goers will be able to enjoy local bands and artists, craft stalls, storytellers and circus skills workshops, as well as enjoy BBQs, beers, Pimms and cream teas. There will even be a ‘scrapheap challenge’ competition for visitors to make their own scarecrows.

Everyone is welcome to come to the Kington Langley Scarecrow Festival on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 June from 10am to 5pm. Parking is available and Thrombosis UK will be there [on Saturday talking about the work that they do]

**Further information:**

**Kington Langley Scarecrow Festival**

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**Thrombosis UK**

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