



## PRESS INFORMATION

### **Gates Garden Centre raises over £1,700 for local sepsis survivor and campaigner, Tom Ray**

Throughout 2017/18 Gates Garden Centre and its customers have been raising funds for quadruple amputee, Tom Ray, who lives locally and is the subject of the recent feature film, Starfish. This has been achieved by the generous support of customers through donations into the Gates charity coin fountain. On 12 July 2018 a cheque for £1,757.14 was presented to Tom at the Garden Centre in Cold Overton near Oakham.

Tom is a quadruple amputee with additional facial amputations as a result of sepsis.

In December 1999, Tom and his wife Nicola were living in Hambleton in Rutland. He was 38 years old and looking forward to the birth of their second child Freddy. Nicola had a thriving video production business. Almost overnight, their world turned upside down. Tom developed sepsis from a routine dental examination and spent nearly a year in Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. Tom was not expected to live, but he pulled through, but at enormous physical and psychological cost. To save his life doctors had to amputate his arms and legs below the elbows and knees, as well as much of his nose and mouth.

Almost 19 years on, the struggle continues. They no longer have the business and the family now live in Oakham. Maintaining and servicing prosthetic limbs, and day to day living present a formidable challenge that will last a lifetime. Tom is an active Disability and Sepsis Campaigner, but he needs ongoing support to maintain the basics in personal care and mobility. Funds raised will help him to direct his time and energies to campaigning and raising awareness of sepsis which claims at least 44,000 lives in the UK per year.

Gates Garden Centre is very proud to support this incredibly brave man and his family.

Gates Garden Centre has a long history of supporting good causes, both locally and nationally. Thanks to the generous support of customers and colleagues, our charitable partnerships have raised an

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enormous sum of money over the past 20 years. Through organising a range of fundraising events, both at the Garden Centre and elsewhere, together with our charity coin fountain, this has enabled us to support many worthy causes, including:

- Air Ambulance
- Anna's Hope – For Children and Young People with Brain Tumours
- Brain Tumour Research Nottingham
- Chernobyl Children
- Claire Lomas for Spinal Research
- CLIC Sargent – Cancer Support for the Young
- East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme (EMICS)
- Home Start Melton and Rutland
- Hope Against Cancer
- Matt Hampson Foundation
- Millie Baker for Rett Syndrome
- Oakham Medical Practice Crash Trolley Appeal
- Rainbows Children's Hospice
- Team George
- The Harley Staples Cancer Trust
- The Parks School, Oakham
- The Romy Fund
- #teamgeorge

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**PHOTO:**

Picture shows Kathy Gates (far left) presenting a cheque for £1,757 to Tom Ray at Gates Garden Centre. Also pictured are Tom's wife, Nicola Ray and Gates employee, Natalie Gregg (far right).

