



# The Rotary Club of Kettering supports

## ABBNEYFIELD, SARNIA HOUSE

### Improved storage for mobility scooters

Sarnia House offers assisted housing that allows its residents to live independently, with the privacy of their accommodation, in a warm and welcoming communal house. Along with great companionship, it offers home cooked meals and the security and support of the dedicated house staff.



Around 40 years ago The Rotary Club of Kettering raised the money to buy Sarnia House and ran it as an assisted housing project. After establishing the business, it was sold to the Abbeyfield Society. Ever since then the Rotary Club of Kettering has funded and carried out several projects to maintain and develop the facility.

Several years ago, a summer house was installed by Kettering Huxloe Rotary Club, but this was gradually filled with garden furniture and used as a store for gardening equipment. In 2017 The Rotary Club of Kettering refurbished the summer house, installing a new felt roof and externally repainting. However, during the refurbishment, the manager expressed disappointment that mobility scooters had to be kept outside in all weather, with no safe method of recharging them. Since, increasingly, mobility scooters are an essential part of residents' lifestyle this was becoming a problem.

It was decided to explore the possibility of converting the summer house into a scooter store, so The Rotary Club of Kettering planned a project to refurbish and alter the summer house and add a second shed to accommodate the garden furniture and equipment previously occupying the summer house. The total cost was £3,500, which was 50% funded by Rotary District 1070 and 50% by The Rotary Club of Kettering and the project was completed in the summer of 2018.



The floor of the summerhouse was strengthened to support the weight of scooters and a shelf with seven charging points was installed. Automatic PIR lighting ensured that users did not have to reach for light switches when entering and leaving the facility. Outside the summerhouse a new concrete apron was laid to help with access and to make manoeuvring easier for scooter users. And finally, the garden perimeter entrance gateway push bar was replaced by a long handled, vertical bolt, more easily accessible when seated on a scooter.

The work was undertaken by Rotarians Bruce Lamford and Chris Diaper with support from David Newman, Steve Mutton and Chris Holdsworth.

The project has been pronounced an outstanding success.