

Harry has flight of a lifetime

Former Senior Aircraftsman, Harry Lee, experienced a thrill of a lifetime when he took to the sky in a helicopter as the result of winning first prize in a raffle organised by the Sylvia Wright Trust. Harry, 78, from Stockport had served for five years in the RAF but had never had the opportunity to fly in a helicopter.

When he bought the raffle ticket at a Concert for Sylvia, staged at Notre Dame Sixth Form College, Harry had not realised, until Sylvia Wright drew his ticket out first, that the main prize was the helicopter flight.

"I would have been happy with a bottle of wine but a helicopter trip made it really very special," said a delighted Harry. "It has been a lifetime ambition to go up in a helicopter."

"We took off from near Leeds Bradford Airport and had magnificent views. Our flight took in the Wharfe Valley as far as Bolton Abbey and back over Harewood House, Moortown and Shadwell. The day was made even more special by being let loose with the controls (well partially) to actually fly the helicopter!"

The prize was donated by Paul Greaves, a helicopter pilot and Sales Director of aql telecoms. Paul said he was pleased to support the Sylvia Wright Trust and, before take-off, dedicated the flight to Denis Noon, a fellow Catenian who had died recently. Harry was accompanied on the flight by lifetime friend and Sylvia Wright supporter, Hilary Thackray, from Shadwell (pictured before take off with Harry Lee and Paul Greaves).

"This was so exciting and beat going to the supermarket on a Friday morning," said Hilary who was given just an hour's notice to get to the airport in time for the flight.

"I am proud to be involved with Sylvia's work in my own small way."

