

Nora the explorer!

Intrepid 103-year-old taking on glider challenge for charity

By EVA MILLETT

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AT the ripe old age of 103, Nora Gilliver is still up for a challenge – literally!

The intrepid resident of The Lawns Care Home, Oadby, is taking to the skies for a glider flight to raise money for Brain Tumour Support.

She will soar above the Leicestershire countryside on August 14 – and care home staff believe she will be the oldest woman in the UK to take on a glider experience.

The flight was organised as a less hazardous alternative to skydiving – something Nora regrets not having done earlier in life.

She said of her forthcoming adventure: “I’m excited but I just want to stop hanging on and get it done!”

“I’m fed up of waiting but looking forward to being in the air.”

After consulting with medical professionals and risk assessors, it was decided a skydive was not ideal.

“We asked doctors and risk assessors everything we needed to put a parachute jump in place,” said Karen, a member of staff at the care home.

“The age range generally stops at about 100. So we thought, ‘What could we do to make that experience as close as possible to fulfilling her dream? We live quite near to a gliding school, so that’s when gliding came about.’”

Nora will fly at Husbands Bosworth Airfield with a pilot from the AeroSPARX team.

“She’ll be with the pilot at all time,”



THE HIGH LIFE: Chosen as a slightly more sedate alternative to her original choice of skydiving, a glider experience awaits Nora Gilliver, 103, later this month

said Marie, another member of staff. “It’ll hopefully be 20 to 30 minutes long, looking over the Leicestershire countryside, which is one of the things she really wanted to see.”

The care home team rallied around to fund the experience and Nora chose to raise money for Brain Tumour Support, a charity with a deep personal connection after Nora’s son suffered cancer.

Karen said: “We’ve set up a GoFundMe page and Nora feels like she’s giving back to the community.”

Nora’s adventurous spirit has inspired others at the home, with one resident now hoping for a hot air balloon ride.

“Everybody at the care home’s been shocked,” said Marie.

“When I asked Nora what she wanted to do for her birthday and she said a skydive, I nearly fell off my chair! I thought, ‘wow, 103’.

“To have the thrill and courage to do that is such an inspiration.”

For her 100th birthday, Nora took a ride around Oadby in a sports car.

“I love my sports cars,” said Nora. “I always have done.”

Reflecting on her long life, Nora cites her time in the Women’s Land Army as a proud memory. She was recently awarded a veteran’s badge for her service.

“I’ve been very proud of the Land Army,” said Nora. “You just have to go and do these things. You never know till you just get on with it.”

“Do what you want, get on with it and don’t worry too much.”

Staff at the home said Nora’s

exploits had brought a huge sense of pride.

“Just because you live in a care home, life doesn’t stop,” said Marie.

“If we can make it happen, we’ll do everything to make it happen, it doesn’t matter how old you are.”

“Nora is an adrenaline junkie, she used to drive in sports cars and play tennis, she’s always been active.”

To donate to Brain Tumour Support charity for Nora’s glider flight, search “nora-raise-money” at:

gofundme.com

SCENE: A recovery crane in Forest Road, Leicester



E-bike collision: Man in court

A MAN has been charged following a collision that left an e-bike rider with life-threatening injuries earlier this week.

The collision, which also reportedly involved a red Audi A4, happened in Forest Road, just off the A47 in Leicester, at about 11.30pm on Monday.

The e-bike rider, a man in his 20s, was taken to hospital.

In an update issued yesterday, police

said Rahul Singh, of Hampden Road, Rushey Mead, has been charged with causing serious injury by dangerous driving and driving a motor vehicle otherwise in accordance with a licence.

Singh, 21, was due to appear at Leicester Magistrates’ Court yesterday.

Two other men, aged 31 and 22, arrested have since been released on bail. Police said their investigation is continuing.

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