



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 20TH June 2018

Subject: Ancient Farm Welcomes Volunteers

A group of nine willing volunteers from Pfizer returned for their annual event volunteering their time to undertake a variety of tasks at Butser Ancient Farm.

The team from Pfizer, a large business based in Havant, took time out of their working day to help at the archaeological site. The team were split into different groups for the day for different roles, and managed to achieve a huge amount.

Pfizer take part in monthly volunteering events around the Havant area organised by Community First, which include conservation, gardening, decorating and helping out at a food bank. Volunteering your time for a local charity or not for profit organisation, makes such a big difference to local organisations.

Maureen Page from Butser Ancient Farm said, "A large group of volunteers from Pfizer came to help us on Monday 18th June. They organised our enormous store of kindling wood for the fires in our houses, they washed down the walls in the corridor of our Roman villa in preparation for redecorating in true Roman style, and they helped us to paint the outside walls of the villa with the first coat. It made a great difference as with such a large number of people a lot was achieved quite quickly. The group finished so much that they then went on to rebuild a fence for us. Their work has meant that we are much further on with our project to improve the appearance of our Roman Villa to give our visitors a better understanding of how a home would have looked for Romans in this country. By helping to organise our wood store, we will now be able to access the roof of our great roundhouse later this month when we will be starting to rethatch it. They were a lovely group to have here with us and we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all their hard work."

Julia a volunteer from Pfizer said, "It has been easy for us to come and volunteer our time today and very fulfilling to be able to see the huge results in such a short time. We will leave today knowing we have made an impact on the project and for the community to enjoy." Another volunteer Clare said, "We've had a brilliant day helping out and it's been really nice to participate and I will definitely be back."

Without the support of local businesses, many charity and community groups would struggle. For more information about how you can get involved with the Employee Volunteering Scheme contact Rachel Taylor at Rachel.taylor@cfirst.org.uk or telephone 0300 500 8085 ext. 9724

Community First is the trading name of Communities First Wessex

Registered Charity no 1147527 Company Registered in England and Wales 8071971 at
Langstone Technology Park Langstone Road Havant Hampshire PO9 1SA

- End -

Photos:

Pictured are Volunteers from Pfizer, with Maureen Page and William Scanlan from Butser Ancient Farm....



Notes for Editors

1. Communities First Wessex (known as Community First) provides support and advice to local voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises in order to build their capacity and ensure a thriving and successful voluntary sector across East Hampshire, Fareham, Havant and Winchester. We also provide a one stop shop for all aspects of volunteering; helping recruit and place volunteers throughout our local communities and providing specialist training for voluntary organisations.
2. Communities First Wessex also delivers critical community services including:
 - a. Community Transport and Dial a Ride in East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Winchester and Basingstoke
 - b. Shopmobility in Fareham, Havant and Chichester, and Winchester

Community First is the trading name of Communities First Wessex

Registered Charity no 1147527 Company Registered in England and Wales 8071971 at
Langstone Technology Park Langstone Road Havant Hampshire PO9 1SA



- c. Health and wellbeing services including surgery signposting with GP surgeries in Bordon, Fareham and Waterlooville, a Silver Linings programme for older people at Hewitt's in Emsworth, Walking 4 Health in Fareham, and a Home Help and a Gardening Service for vulnerable people in Fareham.
 - d. Support for Community Buildings and managing agents for Leigh Park Community Centre in Havant
 - e. Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling services
 - f. Specialist youth work including support for young people's mental health
 - g. Work and skills based training and support for unemployed people
 - h. Supported volunteering for people with a range of needs including mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and those with a physical or mild learning disability.
3. Communities First Wessex employs 116 staff, has more than 80 regular volunteers and has a turnover of £2.6m. Its main sources of income are local authority and government grants and contracts, Big Lottery Fund and a range of charitable trusts.
 4. For further information contact:
Tim Houghton, Chief Executive, Communities First Wessex
07467 941018 or email tim.houghton@cfirst.org.uk

Community First is the trading name of Communities First Wessex

Registered Charity no 1147527 Company Registered in England and Wales 8071971 at
Langstone Technology Park Langstone Road Havant Hampshire PO9 1SA