



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date:** 5 November 2018

### **Subject: Busiest Week Ever for Community First Volunteer Service!**

October saw the busiest week ever for Community First's Employee Volunteering Scheme.

On the Monday, IBM ran a marketing workshop for local organisations with seven charities benefitting from their expertise in marketing including the use of social media. The seven staff from IBM volunteered their time out of their busy work schedule.

Wednesday saw St. John the Baptist School, Bishops Waltham, supported by a team from Peter Symonds College based in Winchester. Despite the rain, they enthusiastically took on various conservation work in the school grounds including clearing a large pond area.

A group from Pfizer, a large company based in Havant, enjoyed a sunny day on the Thursday volunteering for Friends of Brockhampton Millstream. This is a newly formed group aiming to clear and conserve the site and promote the history of the former Brockhampton Mill. Jozy a volunteer from Pfizer said, "This is not something I get to do often, so to be given the opportunity to get my hands dirty has made me feel very proud."

Jenny Bishop from Friends of Brockhampton Millstream said, "I have been very impressed at their commitment and work ethic, it has been a great help in the initial clearing of the start of the Solent way footpath, this will enable us to more easily maintain the area. We greatly appreciate the help from Community First and a special thank you to the employees of Pfizer who attacked their task with great gusto."

At the end of the busy week, Lockheed Martin UK gave up their 'off Friday' (they work their 37.5 hours over 9 days) to spend some time at Hewitt's Community café in Emsworth. Debbie Lyall from Hewitt's wanted the volunteers to makeover their garden, and paint and decorate their large hall and toilets.

John Enfield from Lockheed explains, "I always make time to volunteer – it truly makes me feel good. It seems that we are all happy to take from community groups but not many give back, so I, along with the team here take the time to appreciate the facilities provided and the amazing people who volunteer full time. No amount of money gives us the same sense of satisfaction that volunteering does." Debbie Lyall said, "Thank you so much to the team from Lockheed Martin, what they have achieved today has been remarkable. The help we have received from the volunteers has been invaluable."

Community First is the trading name of Communities First Wessex

Registered Charity no 1147527 Company Registered in England and Wales 8071971 at  
3000a Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hampshire PO15 7FX



Community First would like to thank the volunteers, the various businesses and College, for giving up their time for such worthy causes. "As well as helping in the community we have enjoyed their company and value their continued support. If you would like to support a community project by volunteering either as an individual or as part of a team, please contact me [rachel.taylor@cfirst.org.uk](mailto:rachel.taylor@cfirst.org.uk)."

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**Photos:**



**Volunteers from Pfizer at Brockhampton Millstream**



### **Volunteers from Lockheed Martin at Hewitts**

#### **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

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- b. Shopmobility in Fareham, Havant and Chichester, and Winchester
  - c. Health and wellbeing services including surgery signposting with GP surgeries in Bordon, Fareham and Waterlooville, 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:  
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