



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 7th June 2019

Subject: Volunteering contributes an estimated £22.6bn to the UK economy!

Every year thousands of people across the UK celebrate National Volunteers' Week which took place from 1-7th June. Community First had a particularly busy week, organising a series of events throughout the seven days in Havant, Bordon, Fareham and Winchester.

The first event started with the Havant Volunteer Awards where over 120 people came together to recognise the outstanding contribution volunteers make in Havant Borough. There were six award categories: Young Person of the Year, Large & Small Team, Unsung Hero, Lifetime Achievement and The Mayor's Special Commendation. The Lifetime Achievement Winner, Walter Taylor, has been a volunteer at Hayling Island Community Centre undertaking many different roles. He is currently the President and it is estimated he has volunteered over 10,000 hours of his time. Walter comments, "Even at the age of 90 I enjoy every aspect about volunteering and would encourage anyone to get involved in their community. I am very honoured to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award and thank you Community First and Havant Borough Council for putting on such a good event."

On the Wednesday residents of Bordon had the opportunity to talk to Volunteer Service staff about what volunteering opportunities are available in East Hampshire, at an event organised by Radian Housing at Café 1759. Our team were also at The Discovery Centre in Winchester on the Wednesday and Thursday to be on hand to talk to any new potential volunteers.

As part of our Employee Volunteering Scheme a team from Wärtsilä, based in Havant, did their bit for Volunteers' Week by doing a beach clean on Hayling Island on the Thursday. Pete Maidment from Wärtsilä says "We have really enjoyed taking part in Volunteers' Week and hope our small contribution of tidying up Hayling Island beach has a positive impact on the community".

Due to heavy rain the Social Action Day planned for the Friday was cancelled. Local businesses and residents of Bordon were looking forward to spending a morning helping the Deadwater Valley Trust doing some conservation tasks at the Bordon Inclosure.

Our final event was in Fareham on the 8th & 9th June with staff attending the Fareham Borough Council and HMS Daedalus D-Day 75 event. Our Fareham team were on hand to talk to the visitors about our service and it was a fitting way to end Volunteers' Week 2019.

Community First is the trading name of Communities First Wessex

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Janet Duggan, Business & Volunteer Engagement Manager at Community First, says "We have had one of our busiest ever Volunteers' Week campaigns and hope more people will think about volunteering in the future. It's great fun, you meet lots of new people and it has a real impact on local community projects". If you want to find out more about volunteering contact Janet or Julie on 07467 941013 or email julie.eden@cfirst.org.uk. Or you can visit Community First's volunteering website at www.volunteerwessex.org.

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Photos:

Havant Volunteer Awards Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Walter Taylor (R):



Staff attending the Radian Housing Café 1759 event in Bordon:



Employees from Wärtsilä in Havant ready for their Hayling Island beach clean:



Picture taken by the Community First team at the D-Day 75 event at HMS Daedalus:



Notes for Editors

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.

1. 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

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- 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.
2. 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.
 3. For further information contact:
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