

- Action Hampshire
- Basingstoke Voluntary Action
- Communities First Wessex
- Gosport Voluntary Action
- Hart Voluntary Action
- One Community
- Rushmoor Voluntary Services
- Unity

Page 2

RVS's new Membership Team

Test Valley recognises volunteers in a civic service

Page 3

BVA's Reboot Project update

Giant leap for GVA's Walking Past history walk

Page 4

Community First's Voluntary Sector Recovery Workshop series

Wheels to Work, enabling young people in the New Forest to get to work

Fareham Community Showcase Success



More than 70 voluntary and community groups lined Fareham's West Street in bright sunshine for One Community's biggest ever Community Showcase on Saturday 17 July, 10am-4pm. Stallholders declared this, the first outdoor version of the event, the best yet, attracting plenty of passing trade in a packed town centre.

Groups talked directly to the public about the activities they run, the support they provide, the volunteers they need, and the members they welcome.

Musical, theatrical and dance entertainments were provided all day at the Podium by local arts groups. A Transformer, a Star Wars Stormtrooper, Micky and Minnie Mouse, and One Community's own Mollie the elephant strolled around engaging with the crowds, and there was plenty to try, taste and buy.

Mayor of Fareham, Councillor Pamela Bryant accompanied by her daughter, the Mayoress, Councillor Louise Clubley and One Community CEO Jean Roberts-Jones, visited every stand. The Mayor told the Portsmouth News: "I can't speak highly enough of One Community for putting this together and bringing all these organisations together."

Produced by Hampshire Councils for Voluntary Service, who would be delighted to have your feedback. Please contact Julia Allan 023 8090 2457 jallan@1community.org.uk

Featured articles represent the views of the contributing CVS



**HAMPSHIRE
CVS Network**
Supporting the voluntary and community sector

RVS Membership Team

Like many of us, RVS is focusing on supporting its members back to being operational. For some, their doors will not be opening again. For others they have adapted their offer throughout the pandemic and are now taking a view on the way forward. Many small organisations have been mothballed and are looking for advice and help to blow out the cobwebs. RVS has created a volunteer Membership Team, who are busy making calls and collecting information. From that information, already they can see some

commonalities. A primary concern is community facilities reopening so groups can start. They ran a 'Back to Public Spaces Safely' workshop, which was well attended and received positive feedback. Next is refresher MiDAS courses for volunteer drivers. Coming up they have emergency first aid and full first aid courses planned. A Meet the Funders event will take place later in the year. Alongside this the Community Development Team is providing one to one support on governance and funding. RVS is pleased that many of their team of ORCA Responders are looking for other opportunities to support their local community. RVS is ensuring they are aware of the members and what they can offer, through monthly newsletters, email and WhatsApp bulletins, as well as through social media. As a CVS, RVS has focused so much on responding to the pandemic, they say: "It feels good to get back to our core business. Together we feel stronger than ever."

Membership Team volunteers: Hemansu Mehta; Blossom Blackwell; Lesley Pratap



Test Valley Civic Service Recognises Borough's Volunteers



Dignitaries gathered in Romsey Abbey on Sunday 4 July for the Test Valley Civic Service, led by the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev Thomas Wharton. The theme was to give thanks for the dedication and support of volunteers who have worked so hard throughout the borough, in particular during the pandemic.

The Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Mark Cooper said: "The fact that this day coincided with the National Thank You Day was apt, during the pandemic we have seen overwhelming support from volunteers across the borough and this was the perfect opportunity for us to give thanks and show our appreciation."

Guests at the service included freemen of the borough, aldermen, Test Valley's past Mayors, councillors, and civic heads from across Hampshire, as well as representatives of voluntary support groups in the borough. One of these was Terry Bishop, CEO of Unity. She said in her reflection speech that the community spirit in Test Valley is undeniable and that Unity is proud to have been a small part of this enormous effort.

The Test Valley Charity, Health and Wellbeing Directory (CHAWD)

Unity has announced the launch of its Charity, Health and Wellbeing Directory, or "CHAWD" for short. The Test Valley CHAWD contains details of Charitable, Voluntary and Community organisations that serve the Test Valley Community in a simple, online, searchable format. The directory can be accessed straight from the Unity Website at www.unityonline.org.uk and is firmly aimed at facilitating social prescription and self-service for Test Valley residents looking to improve their physical or mental health.

According to Unity CEO, Terry Bishop, the need for an easy way to find these organisations has never been greater: "Literally hundreds of voluntary and community organisations have been quietly supporting health and wellbeing in our community for decades. They do that by supporting residents with health conditions, bridging the gaps in social welfare provision, delivering opportunities for social

engagement and helping residents to participate in and support causes that enthuse them. As we begin emerging from the pandemic, they have a massive role to play in helping us all to recover from the physical and mental strains caused by repeated lockdowns. The CHAWD will help us all to find the right organisation for us.”

Unity say that the CHAWD has been kept deliberately simple and is being launched alongside a dedicated digital support offering. “The directory takes the user to the shopfront. They go through the door by clicking on the website link of the organisation they’re interested in or using the contact details supplied. So we’ll be on hand to support listed organisations in developing a digital strategy to maximise the impact of the additional traffic that the CHAWD delivers,” explains Terry Bishop.

BVA’s Reboot Project Update



BVA’s successful Reboot IT project involves refurbishing donated computers that are then given to disadvantaged members of the Basingstoke and Deane community, via referral from local organisations.

ReBoot IT’s most recent project has been to set up a new computer room for Audley’s Resource Centre. This is a day centre in Basingstoke for people with physical or learning disabilities, which previously had only one very old computer that wasn’t very user friendly. They now have three laptops and three desktop computers set up in a dedicated computer room. The project has also purchased several

specialised keyboards, which has made it easier for many of their clients with visual impairments or learning disabilities to access the computers independently.

Recently, BVA was also able to provide a laptop to an individual client who lives alone and couldn’t afford to replace his laptop when it broke. It was great to meet him a few months later and hear how it had helped him to feel less isolated and alone.

So far, the project has supported 101 individuals, as well as three different organisations with laptops and other digital equipment. For any Reboot IT enquiries, please email: rebootit@bvaction.org.uk

One Small Step for Queen Victoria, One Giant leap for Walking Past!



Queen Victoria’s Railway, 11 July 2021

Gosport Voluntary Action (GVA) was awarded a Heritage Fund grant in 2019 to deliver a programme of volunteer-led healthy and historical walks, encouraging the Gosport community to become more connected and actively involved with the area’s rich heritage. After major successes in the development phase (not least having the routes featured on *The Outdoor Guide’s* national website for publicity and posterity), the original launch event in Spring 2020 was thwarted at the last minute with the introduction of lockdown, and the interim has brought many twists, turns and tribulations.

It was therefore a jubilant day, when on 11 July 2021, this prized project was able to officially take its long-awaited first steps! Beginning a Summer Series of

five Walking Past walks, devoted volunteer Ann led a group along the *Queen Victoria’s Railway* route, truly in the spirit and dressed for the occasion in the style of its royal namesake.

Remaining walks this season will take place in Alverstoke, Monks Walk/Fort Brockhurst, along the Waterfront, and in the Alver Valley Country Park and Browndown North. Volunteer-led walks along these routes will also take place during Gosport Heritage Open Days (HODs) in September.

Walking Past’s presence on *The Outdoor Guide* (www.theoutdoorguide.co.uk) was originally intended to secure long-term sustainability of the project, but having the option to access the routes

online and do a self-guided walk with the same historical content, is of greater value in light of the circumstances of the last 15 months, and the consequent difficulties in running group activities.

This accomplishment has been possible thanks to the flexibility of the Heritage Fund, allowing the project's timeframe and objectives to be revised, as well as the cooperation of partner organisations, including Gosport Borough Council, Heritage Action Zones, the MOD, Gosport HODs, Lee Residents Association, Gosport Access Group and Disability Forum, and the Gosport Society. The contribution of the volunteers in researching and developing the routes, as well as leading the guided walks, cannot be overemphasised, not to mention their patience and perseverance!

To find out more about Walking Past, please visit www.gva.org.uk/walkingpast

Community First Champions Voluntary Sector Recovery with New Workshop Series



Community First helped local charities prepare for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in its workshop for member organisations on 23 June 2021. The workshop, led by Dr Debra Gray from the University of Winchester, focused on volunteering and building upon the rapid momentum of social action seen during the pandemic. Dr Gray presented her research and evidence on volunteer engagement both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her insights covered the change in motivations for new volunteers, as well as barriers to involving groups such as younger people and areas where volunteers would benefit from more support. She presented the

organisations in attendance with a variety of potential routes to volunteering and how they can support volunteers.

Community First's Chief Executive, Tim Houghton, provided reflections on the importance of valuing volunteers, who are often the lifeblood of charities and voluntary organisations. He also noted the powerful drive for neighbourly support and local community networks that arose during the pandemic.

Reflecting the charity's vision for the future of volunteering, Tim said: "What we'd love to do is make volunteering a mainstay of society - everyone volunteers, it's seen as an exception if you don't volunteer, and we're looking for you to be part of that revolution with us."

Community First members left the event with new ideas to action at their organisations, with attendees noting that it was helpful to understand more about recruiting, working with, and retaining volunteers.

Enabling More Young People to Travel to Work



Community First has received a £6,800 grant from New Forest District Council so that its Wheels to Work service can help more young people get into work. Wheels to Work supports young people aged 16-25 with a low-priced moped loan to help them attend work, apprenticeships, training, and job interviews.

Community First said: "We are so grateful to have received this grant from New Forest District Council so that our Wheels to Work service can help more young people get into work. Many of our hirers work in the hospitality or care industries, with the shift work and unsocial hours associated with these. In addition to this, they are mostly in rural

locations and the lack of public transport at the right times makes W2W an ideal solution, meaning that they can arrive at work safely on time."