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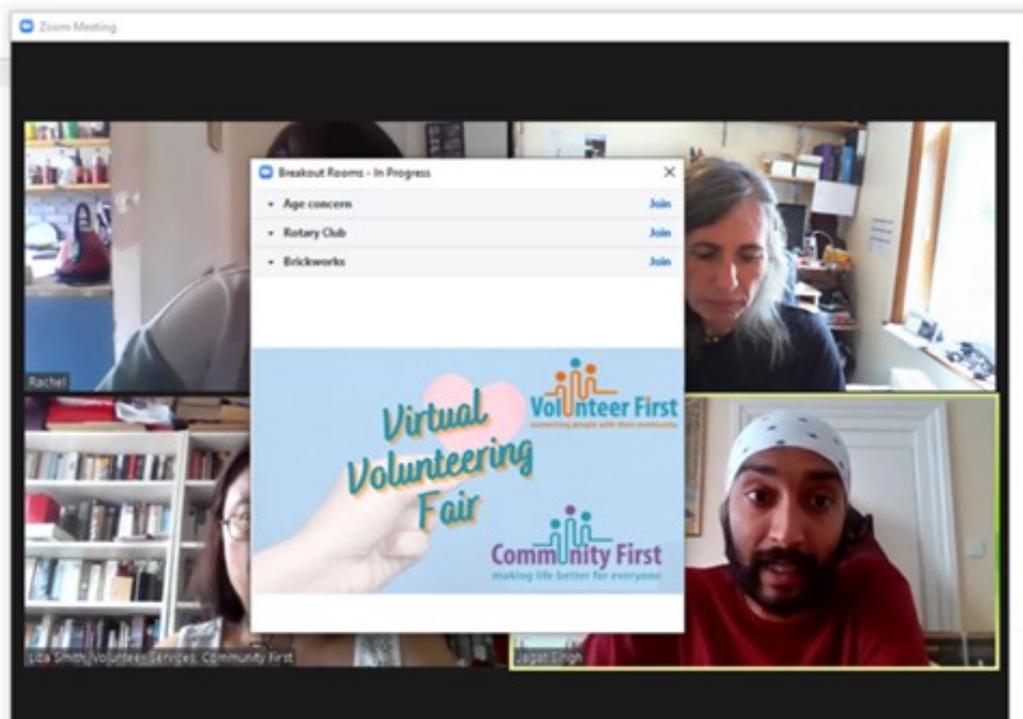
One Community thanks COVID response volunteers

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All the Fun of the Virtual Volunteering Fair!



Community First was delighted by the success of its first ever Virtual Volunteering Fair that took place on Wednesday 14 July.

Using Zoom, the Fair was organised to create a virtual “marketplace” of volunteering opportunities offered by local charities and community-based organisations. With the end of restrictions, many organisations are planning the way forward and are keen to recruit new volunteers to help deliver services to the community.

National organisations such as CPRE Hampshire, the countryside charity, and Guide Dogs were just two of the 40 organisations who took part in the Fair alongside smaller, local volunteer-led charities serving their local communities,

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



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Supporting the voluntary and community sector

such as Home-Start Hampshire, Emsworth Good Neighbours and Pedall New Forest.

Many of the organisations were delighted by the interest they received from the 60 local delegates who registered for the event and were impressed by the technical support offered by the Community First hosts. Feedback from the organisations taking part included: "I just wanted to thank you – and the team – for all your hard work in organising this morning's virtual fair. The event was very well run and enjoyable."

One delegate remarked: "Thanks for the opportunity for me to meet the people from various organisations. I think it's a great idea and I hope there will be more like this!"

Chief Executive of Community First, Tim Houghton, said: "I'm delighted that so many Hampshire residents took part in this event with groups showcasing such a wide range of fantastic opportunities. It really shows the increasing appetite people have for volunteering after many were inspired to help during the pandemic. The feedback from both participating organisations and delegates has been immensely positive."

New Forest Young Carers Splash Into Summer at Royal Southampton Yacht Club



Community First's New Forest Young Carers Summer Activity programme started with a splash thanks to the generosity of The Royal Southampton Yacht Club Trust. The Trust set up a family fun day for some of the Young Carers and their families so they could relax by the river and try some new activities.

Sue Ward from New Forest Young Carers said: "We've been really lucky in the past to be supported by the Trust. Several Young Carers have had the chance to go on a Tall Ship or learn to sail because of them, so when they asked if we would be interested in a family day, we didn't hesitate to say yes. For some of our Young Carers it's the first chance they've had to do something face to face for over a year because of the pandemic, so we wanted it to be special."

One of the Young Carers who took part said: "It's been brilliant. I've tried kayaking, paddleboarding and crabbing. We caught loads – and then we made a raft and sailed on that and everyone ended up in the river!"

A parent added: "Just watching them all enjoy themselves has been so lovely. I don't think any of them have stopped smiling all day!"

The Young Carers Service currently works with over 230 Young Carers and their families across the New Forest providing support, advice and activities.

Preparation, Progress and Passports for New Gosport Volunteers



After months of lockdown, Gosport Voluntary Action has provided the first of many six-week *Preparing to Volunteer* courses.

Those who took part explored the various types of volunteering available in the community and how to prepare for a role as a volunteer, covering everything from practical considerations to how to improve confidence, communication and reduce anxiety in new situations.

Each candidate received a certificate of achievement and their own “Volunteer Passport”, which is used to record their volunteering experience, update their volunteering CV and record feedback from organisations they have volunteered at, ready to present to future organisations as evidence of their achievements.

Unity Puts on Social Events For Older People



On Tuesday 27 July, Unity, supported by Love Andover, organised a small social gathering for the older members of the community at The White Hart Hotel in Andover, who supplied a yummy spread of high tea cakes with tea, coffee and juice.

Isolation and loneliness are two things that we have all been made very aware of during the COVID lockdowns, with many people stuck at home with no one to talk to. These social events are so important and serve as a reminder that they are still valued members of our community.

After the success of this gathering, Unity has organised “Just Brew It”, an afternoon cream tea on Thursday 23 September at The White Hart Hotel in

Andover.

Celebrating at the Orchard



The BVA team was delighted to host the unveiling of a sculpture created by the young people at Ashwood Academy, Youth Offending, and YMCA Basingstoke. BVA took pleasure in providing the venue for the unveiling of the sculpture and supporting the Basingstoke Peace Project, which is aimed at promoting positive activities for young people that will steer them away from criminal activity and anti-social behaviour.

BVA also hired out one of their meeting rooms at the Orchard for the ceremony that took place prior to the unveiling and enjoyed welcoming the guests arriving at the Orchard building. The celebration included a spread of refreshments pulled together by BVA and the event provided the perfect opportunity for catching up with some friendly faces. BVA had a great time talking to everyone, including those involved in creating the sculpture. This project was a

fantastic opportunity for young people to express themselves creatively and was something the team at BVA were passionate about supporting.

The BVA team had a blast being part of the celebration and were fortunate enough to have the sculpture on display in the atrium at the Orchard.

One Community Thanks COVID Response Volunteers



One Community has held two volunteer thank you celebrations, one in Eastleigh at Pavilion on the Park on 3 August, and one in Fareham at Titchfield Festival Theatre's Great Barn on 9 August.

One Community recruited over 100 volunteers in each borough for COVID response volunteering, such as shopping, collecting prescriptions, telephone companionship, Basics Bank deliveries, Flow Test Centre and Vaccine Centre marshalling and administration.

The events were to say thank you for the difference they made to local people at a very difficult time, and in many cases to put faces to names. Staff could be contacting volunteers daily with assignments, to the point where they felt they knew each other well, without ever meeting in person.

The Mayor of Fareham, Cllr



Pamela Bryant accompanied by her daughter, the Mayoress, Cllr Louise Clubley; and the Mayor of Eastleigh, Cllr Cynthia Garten accompanied by her Escort Cllr Derek Pretty, attended the respective evening receptions and each spoke warmly about the impact the COVID response work had had in their borough, and certificates were awarded to each of the volunteers in their name.



One Community Receives Local Heroes Award

The Mayor of Eastleigh, Cllr Cynthia Garten, has presented One Community with an Eastleigh Borough Council Local Heroes Award, for the organisation's "outstanding contribution during the pandemic".

The presentation was aptly made at One Community's COVID Response Volunteers' thank you event, and was accepted by CEO Jean Roberts-Jones, who will be retiring shortly.