

**NEWS FROM  
THE  
HAMPSHIRE  
CVS  
NETWORK**

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# Nexus

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## Gosport Voluntary Actions's Dustbusters



GVA's Dustbuster Kay supports those in need practically and with a smile! Dustbusters is one of GVA's much needed community services - that enables those most in need of domestic support to continue to live as independent a life as possible. Kay provides a very conscientious service to a range of Dustbusters' clients in Gosport. She's a huge hit amongst all of her clients - who often comment on her standard of work and cheerful ways.

John, has been having 2-hour weekly visits from Kay since April 2021. John suffers with vertigo amongst other health conditions. That affects how much he is able to do safely at home and also, how much he is able to get about too.

We asked John how he benefits from GVA's Dustbusters service...

"I benefit a lot more than I expected to be honest, I try to do some things myself when Kay comes, but because of my vertigo, I can't do too much and Kay always tells me to sit down or to stop if I am over doing it, she has a very caring nature. She gets more done than I would do on my own that's for sure. Anything that I am not able to myself, Kay will do for me. I look forward to seeing Kay each week, she is the only person I see regularly and she always brightens the day with her cheerfulness. It's nice to have a friendly face to look forward to seeing each week."

Clearly GVA's Dustbusters service and the amazing Dustbusters team have an invaluable positive social impact alongside the much-needed domestic support they provide.



## DUSTBUSTERS

Produced by Hampshire Councils for Voluntary Service, who would be delighted to have your feedback. Please contact Charlotte Walker 023 8090 2400 [cwalker@1community.org.uk](mailto:cwalker@1community.org.uk)

Featured articles represent the views of the contributing CVS



**HAMPSHIRE  
CVSNetwork**  
Supporting the voluntary and community sector

## Basingstoke Voluntary Sector Strategic Partnership

BVA have just launched their new Voluntary Sector Strategic Partnership with the aim of creating a clear mechanism for collective capture and dissemination of information from across the VCSE sector. This new partnership is made up of 6 networks and will act as the vehicle for strategic engagement with the VCSE sector amongst statutory partners and other key stakeholders.

BVA's VSSP will be held monthly, with each "Network" group attending twice a year and is a chance to hear about the latest updates and information from central, county or local partners, give feedback and views on relevant strategic priorities, initiatives and emerging work streams, as well as gather insight into the successes, challenges and needs amongst the specific aspect of the VCSE sector.

The BVA team believe it's important that local groups and organisations have the opportunity to discuss issues and challenges with like-minded organisations and provide a chance for groups to stay up to date with all the latest community news within their network.

The first VSSP meeting is a Healthy Ageing Network and is all about identifying the gaps in provision for our older community. The team aim to enable people to continue to live independently and to live well by ensuring they have information, opportunities, and services to support them. Their networks will consist of understanding and promoting existing provisions/services, provide a strategic view across the borough of the provision for the community, and increase collaboration with local organisations to facilitate projects to improve the area.

More information on the VSSP can be found here: [bvaction.org.uk/community-insight/vssp/](http://bvaction.org.uk/community-insight/vssp/)



## GVA's Preparing to Volunteer Course Reaps Great Rewards



Christopher was referred by the mental health team at Southern Health following a complete breakdown, Christopher was referred to GVA as part of his ongoing support.

He completed the 'Preparing to Volunteer' course last November/December. initially he was very reluctant to take part or communicate; fortunately, the group was small and we all got to know each other during the six-week course and Christopher became more willing to talk and share his anxieties'.

His medication and condition mean that although he is clearly very well educated, he can't gather his thoughts quickly enough to respond to questions or discussion. This is what made him reluctant to even try.

He agreed to become a member of VoluntHeroes—Gosport's supportive volunteering team after the course and has started to take part in discussions more confidently, recognising that the group are naturally very supportive of each other and give each other the respect and time they need.

Last week Christopher completed his first two hours of volunteering at the allotment and really enjoyed it and would like to do more. Unfortunately for H&S reasons we can only have four people on the allotment at any one time, so VoluntHeros have to take turns every 2 or 3 weeks.



## Unity attracting green fingered Volunteers!

Meet Derek, one of the volunteers who are helping to clear the Unity Allotment preparing for Spring. A number of volunteers are preparing the way for the allotment to be turned into a disability friendly space with plans to provide a Health and Wellbeing hub for local groups and their service users.

With conservation in mind, the allotment already has an established wild flower bed attracting, in 2021, five species of bees and Derek is seeking to convert the old brick barbecue area into an Insect Hotel.

## Christmas Trees to promote the Voluntary Sector in Eastleigh

Once again the One Community Christmas Tree festival has been a great success at Eastleigh Museum. Local charities produced a wonderful array of Christmas tree inspired displays to raise awareness of their services to the public. Over 1000 guests visited the Museum while the Christmas Tree display was running. Many visitors took the time to stop and comment on how much they enjoyed the display. The comments that they left sum up the value of the project.

"Such a lovely idea wonderful selection of trees that show the huge importance of all organisations, and their work."

"Lots of original designs fab- I have never seen plant pots painted as Christmas trees but it works. "

"Love the random ideas, a single bauble representing loneliness very powerful. "



"I love the unusual ones and the handmade decorations."

One Community run Eastleigh Museum in partnership with Hampshire Cultural Trust. The Christmas Tree exhibition has now become a regular feature in the Museum displays calendar.



## One Community Support Community Buildings Managers in Fareham



Fareham Community Building Network (FCBN) has been going from strength to strength in 2021. The network started the year meeting virtually but moved back to face to face meetings in September at the request of the members. Members love to visit other community buildings and to meet their

colleagues, virtual meetings just aren't quite the same! The most recent meeting in November was held at Abshot Community Centre. This enabled John to show off their new floor and lighting replaced during Covid closures. Community Building Managers have faced a lot of challenges during the pandemic. They were forced to close their doors to hall users during lockdowns which has had a huge impact on booking income and re-opening rules have presented constant challenges. The building managers have relished the opportunity to meet and discuss challenges and opportunities with other managers.

Kevin Sawers from Action Hampshire has come along to each meeting, to bring his expertise on Community Buildings. Action Hampshire are always able to provide helpful advice on all aspects of running a community building. The focus this year has been on information sharing platforms, Covid advice updates and also research into income diversification which has been a great help. The November meeting saw questions and discussions around CCTV use and policies, a general shortage of trustees and the problem of smoking bins by doorways. One centre manager said "The meetings and ability to share has been a lifeline recently."

### Have you visited the Hampshire CVS Network Website?

For the latest information on the work of the Hampshire CVS Network, go to our website to read case studies, find out information and learn more about the support and advice that the CVS Network can offer to the voluntary sector.

The screenshot shows the Hampshire CVS Network website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, About, CVS Network, Resources Directory, Supporting Equality, Volunteering, Events & Training, News, and Contact. A red banner below the navigation bar contains the text 'Coronavirus-Covid-19: Hampshire Community Response →'. The main content area features a large image of hands being sanitized. To the left of the image is a 'Coronavirus Update' button with the text 'Find out more'. To the right of the image is a block of text about the network's purpose and a 'Read more' link. Below this is a section titled 'Find your local CVS:' with a search bar and a 'Search' button. At the bottom of the page, there are logos for various partners like Hart Voluntary Action, At the Heart of, Action Hampshire, and a weather widget showing 4°C Cloudy. There's also a 'Website Feedback' button.