

Press Release- Volunteer Centre Dorset

Release Date 4 Nov 2009

Countywide Volunteering Recognised (Thursday 29 October)

On **National Make a Difference Day**, Volunteer Centre Dorset hosted its 4th Annual Awards Evening, at the Dorford Centre in Dorchester

Alan Knott compared the evening in which over 180 volunteers were recognised for their community work across all districts. During the special evening, local author Kit Berry of the **Stonewylde** series made a guest appearance and handed out books as prizes to the young volunteers, whilst Dorchester Mayor Susie Hosford and main sponsor Gerald Duke thanked the volunteers and volunteer groups of the year.

During evening , music was provided by local group **Howling At The Moon**

Deputy Manager Craig Womble said, this year we were amazed at the numbers nominated from all ages across the region and for the support of local Businesses and statutory bodies in providing sponsorship for the evening and recognising the contribution of all volunteers.

The sector grows and grows and all the volunteers are a credit to Dorset.

All photographs supplied by Steve Pallant

Volunteer of the Year (names & organisations)

Mervyn Smith – Sherborne Area Partnership

Jackie Allen – Dorset Partnership for Older People Project (POPPs),

David Watts – Cavernoma Alliance, Mrs Ann Abernethie – Verwood Memorial Hall Trust, **Charles Stanley Wood MBE** – Dorset Community Action,

Maureen Biss- Ridgeway Day Services,

Bob Kerr – Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE),

Eric Hayter – Castleton Waterwheel Museum,

Karen Jones – Age Concern Torbay, Digital UK and Digital Outreach,

Lisa Mitchell – Volunteer Centre Dorset,

Gill Wilson – Phab, Cruse, Sensory Loss, Charter Fair & Deaf club amongst others,

Mike Furse – Dorchester Arts Centre,

Robert Chilver – North Dorset Club for Visually Impaired,

Vince O'Farrell- First Dorset Credit Union Ltd,

John Bentley – Riverside Court Day Centre,

Richard Meatyard – Dorset Adult Learning,

Barry Parkin – The County Ambulance Service.

Teams of the Year: MS Society (Gillingham & Shaftesbury Branch)
Shaftesbury Arts Centre, The Hub, Sherborne Voluntary Ambulance,
Ridgeway Day Service, St Nicolas & St Hubert's' Lay Pastoral Visiting Team,
Purbeck Day Services, Brian Bean & his Chickerell community litter team (CPRE),
Sturquest Community Office, Verwood Memorial Hall Trust,
Southill Centre (Ridgeway Day Centre) Age Concern, WRVS Home Library
Services, Dorchester Strollers, Crossways Young People's Forum

Young Volunteers:

Leon Howe – Lyme Regis Development Trust,
Jessica Winter – Sherborne & District Citizen's Advice Bureau,
Roan Doyle – Dorchester Arts Centre,
Jonny Webb – Crossways Young Peoples Forum
Stuart Thursfield- Crossways Young Peoples Forum
Darwin Culley – Kingcombe Environmental Studies Centre,
Adam Harris- Dorchester Youth Extra
Adam Kerslake- Dorchester Youth Extra
Anthony Coleman - Dorchester Youth Extra

Sponsors

Henry Ling
Humphries Kirk
Casterbridge Rotary
Mrs Mrs Lester
West Dorset District Council
Clipper Teas
Kit Berry-Stonewylde
Perfect Part Co