



# Volunteer Centre

Volunteering Throughout Dorset

**Full steam ahead**

*Swanage Railway..*



*Volunteer Awards Night*

**Never underestimate,  
the importance of cakes**

**Eucan make a difference.**



Issue 3 2018

Free Magazine

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We take no responsibility for any errors or omissions made in this publication. Inclusions of any training, article or information does not mean we recommend these services.

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[www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk](http://www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk)

(Meet the team series)

**Toni Guyton**  
Company at Christmas  
Organiser



Hi, my name is Toni, I am at present volunteering for a project called Company at Christmas, where elderly people who may be alone, get together to enjoy Christmas lunch. I have volunteered on and off since I was a teenager and have loved the experience. I find I can make a difference not only to individuals but to the organisations involved. I have lived primarily in Dorset and California, hence my love of American football! I have one son, Rowan, 26 and work part time at Boho Gelato in Weymouth. I love Dorset and it's people, and could not think of a better use of my time and effort than to volunteer to help make their lives a little bit better.

**Toni..**



## Contact us

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@ volunteeringdorset



@ VC Dorset

# Up front.. News and current issues

## Eighty years of volunteering remembered

More than one million women joined the Royal Voluntary Service during the Second World War, and thanks to their tireless efforts the “women in green” – as they became fondly known – were central to winning the war.

They assisted civilians during air raids by providing emergency rest centres, they also ran mobile canteens and helped with the evacuation of thousands of children. By 1943, the Royal Voluntary Service was involved in almost every aspect of wartime life from the collection of salvage to the knitting of socks and gloves for merchant seamen.

In Dorset, a group of children were pulled by Chummy the donkey at Coram Court nursery in Lyme Regis during the Second World War. The centre organiser for Dorchester & Rural District wrote in March 1941: “WVS did all waiting, washing up and bathing of children.

In May 1941, West Dorset District report noted: “So long as fares are paid and re-evacuation is possible at any moment, evacuees, including families with children, constantly return to London. In Wareham, the Bridge House Canteen served 50,399 cups of tea or coffee and 27,019 meals during 1940/41. But they were not exempt from suffering casualties, with 235 members killed during the war.



### The benefits of having specialist hospitals in

**Dorset** In September 2017, having considered a huge amount of feedback from local organisations and members of the public, NHS Dorset CCG made decisions on how care will be delivered in Dorset. In particular, it was decided that the Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospital will become a major emergency hospital and Poole Hospital will become a major planned care hospital. Dorset County Hospital will continue to provide emergency and planned services to meet the needs of people living in the west of the county. [A report has been published detailing the benefits of this change to local people.](#)

**Sue Brazier** Senior Engagement & Communications Coordinator [www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk](http://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk)

12-16 November 2018

## What are trustees?

Trustees' Week is an annual event to showcase the great work that trustees do and highlight opportunities for people from all walks of life to get involved and make a difference

### What do we know about trustees?

Trustees are the people in charge of a charity. They help to make the UK the [sixth most giving country in the world](#).

They play a vital role, volunteering their time and working together to make important decisions about the charity's work.

**How many trustees are there?** There are approximately 196,000 charities in the UK ([167,000](#) charities in England and Wales, [24,000](#) in Scotland, [5,000](#) registered in Northern Ireland). And just over 1 million trustees (of which some [850,000](#) are in England and Wales, [180,000](#) in Scotland and [30,000](#) in Northern Ireland)

- ◆ From NCVO and CCNI research, we know **just under half the UK's trustees are women**
- ◆ There are many young trustees too with some 86,000 trustee positions held by 16-34 year olds (of which 2,611 in Northern Ireland).
- ◆ The average trustee in England and Wales is 59 years old, and 55 in Northern Ireland.

As part of Trustees' Week 2017 we published new research about charity trustees in England and Wales. Find out more about [Taken on Trust research on GOV.UK](#)

*Volunteer Centre Dorset are looking to expand its board of Trustees, to find out more about the skills we are looking for and how to get involved contact Marie Waterman at the Volunteer Centre*

[m.waterman@volunteeringdorset.org.uk](mailto:m.waterman@volunteeringdorset.org.uk)





**A**utumn is a wonderful season for *change*. We've *changed* our Summer wardrobe for our warmer woollies, the leaves are *changing* to a riot of colour, even the winds of *change* are picking up. So, what better time than now is there to consider the changes we could make in our own lives to improve them? Volunteering has a host of benefits for the individual giving up their time and skills, but also to the communities that benefit from them. Below is just a small selection of local organisations,

## Volunteer Vacancies.....

### ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION:

ICA continues to recruit befrienders to support older people on the Island and across Wyke, who are lonely and in need of some regular companionship. Most roles include visiting someone in their home for a cup of tea and a chat, but others revolve around a practical activity such as reading a newspaper to a client with poor vision, writing letters for someone with poor dexterity, playing a game of scrabble or chess or accompanying a client on a small, local outing. Amongst our current waiting list is an older lady with poor vision and dexterity, who would love it if a volunteer would be willing to push her wheelchair a short, internal distance each Wednesday afternoon. The role would also include being her 'eyes and hands' for an hour, so that she were able to participate in a game of bingo with the other residents of Foylebank Court.

### SAVE THE CHILDREN:

Currently recruiting people to help in their Easton charity shops during a variety of shifts. The role includes sorting through donations, keeping the store tidy and serving customers. All training will be provided. Money raised from the shops is helping the charities life-saving work providing medical assistance, food, water and shelter in

some of the most disadvantaged communities in the World including Syria, Africa and even 'The Jungle' in Calais.

### ISLANDERS CLUB FOR YOUNG

**PEOPLE:** With the demise of local authority run youth provision Islanders provides an incredibly valuable, much needed local 'safe space' for our children and young people to meet, engage in positive activities and access support around a range of issues if needed. Volunteers are needed to keep this facility operational in a range of roles from fundraising, to session leaders, activities coordinators or even committee members.



**Katy Pascoe Island Community Action (ICA)  
Unit 13 The Easton Centre, Portland.**

**DT51EB T: 01305 823789 E: [office@islandcommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:office@islandcommunityaction.org.uk)**

# Volunteer Development ...

Summer 2018 was certainly a busy time for the development team, with our numerous trips out made all the better with the fantastic weather!

**W**e were honored to be asked along to the Sue Ryder shop in Sherborne to meet the fantastic volunteers who demonstrated such amazing commitment. The volunteers were presented with long service awards, which recognised five years of service to the organisation. This contribution of volunteer time meant that overall, the Sue Ryder Shop had reached a monumental **99 YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING** altogether! We believe this to be a real testament to the wonderful work volunteers do and to be able to join in with the celebrations for this was something we were extremely pleased to be a part of.



**A**nother journey took us to Alderholt in East Dorset to visit the wonderful team from Coach in the Community and to look round their amazing converted bus. The bus has facilities including a flat screen TV, games consoles, café and lots of comfortable seating. This is a great feature for the local community and enables young people to socialise and relax in a happy and safe environment. The Coach also works in partnership with other local groups to provide a facility for services and also to help new projects launch and get off the ground. It can be transported to various locations to enable the great work to be carried out. This charity is supported by volunteers and there are numerous opportunities available for anyone interested in getting involved with Coach in the Community.



With the winter season fast approaching, have you thought about volunteering to brighten up your day? Contact us at the Volunteer Centre, visit our website or call in to the office to find out more about all the wonderful opportunities available!

**Nicola Whitehead**

**[n.whitehead@volunteeringdorset.org.uk](mailto:n.whitehead@volunteeringdorset.org.uk) 07552122710**



# Together **EuCAN** achieve!

***Ask any EuCAN volunteer what's the attraction of volunteering and you will hear the same answers: fresh air, healthy exercise, learning new skills and camaraderie. Oh ... and cake. Never underestimate the importance of cake to a volunteer!***

**EuCAN** (the European Conservation Action Network)

has a thriving group known as the Dorset Midweek Volunteers, who meet every Wednesday, come rain or shine, to work on a variety of countryside management projects across the south of the county, from Purbeck to East Devon.

Dry stone walling, hedge laying, wood and grassland management and restoration, the removal of invasive flora and good old "scrub bashing" are among their tasks. With an average weekly turnout of 17, the volunteers come from a wide mix of backgrounds and abilities, but all are united by the sheer pleasure of working in the beautiful Dorset countryside.

"Just look at the view," says Jim, at 76 the oldest member of the group, while the volunteers worked on Morden Heath in bright autumn sunshine. "We all need to take more exercise as we get older and it's also a great social occasion."

Another volunteer, Wendy, was taking lessons in stone masonry when she heard that EuCAN was rebuilding a dry stone wall on the South Dorset Ridgeway. "For me it's all about the camaraderie and the chance to see some of these wild places you'd never normally go to on your own."

The group's leader, Dave Searle, says EuCAN is especially proud that a partnership with the lottery-funded South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership has enabled the volunteers to attend training courses on chain sawing, brush cutting and first aid.

"We now have a sizeable team of fully equipped machine operators, so we can undertake more challenging work. None of us has any formal background in countryside conservation, but we are guided by and learn from reserve

managers.

"We provide opportunities for the retired, the unemployed and those with ability issues,

including learning difficulties, to join a fully inclusive and happy team, regardless of background."

The youngest team member, Matt, aged 25, said: "I've made new friends, I've learned new skills and I work in the fresh air. It's great." Another volunteer, Steve, a reserve driver for the team's minibus and a recently-qualified chainsaw operator, said: "What I like is the sense of achievement at the end of the working day."

Recently the EuCAN volunteers were rewarded with evidence of their labours while helping to restore a water vole habitat in West Dorset. The distinctive "plop" sound on the water and a fleeting glimpse of a fast swimming creature proved that the voles were back.

***It was tea and cake all round after that.***

For more details of how to become involved, please e-mail: [euCAN.dmv@gmail.com](mailto:euCAN.dmv@gmail.com)



**THE VETERANS HUB  
COMMUNITY  
CAFE**

A cafe at the heart of the community run by veterans and their families for everyone. Come in and meet the team, have a brew and a slice of homemade cake in relaxing surrounds that tell the story of the veterans living in your community.

**OPEN**

Tuesdays - Saturdays 9am - 5pm  
114B Portland Road, Wyke, Weymouth, DT4 9AD  
01305 777788

~ FAMILY FRIENDLY ~ DOG FRIENDLY ~  
**VETERAN OWNED - VETERAN MADE - VETERAN BAKED**

## New Guide Dogs video highlights positive impact of intergenerational volunteering

A new video released by charity Guide Dogs shines a light on the positive impact of its volunteer service, My Guide. With reports of isolation and loneliness at a crisis point, and recent studies revealing that young people are the loneliest age group, the sighted guide service My Guide plays an important role in combatting

social concerns for people of all ages.

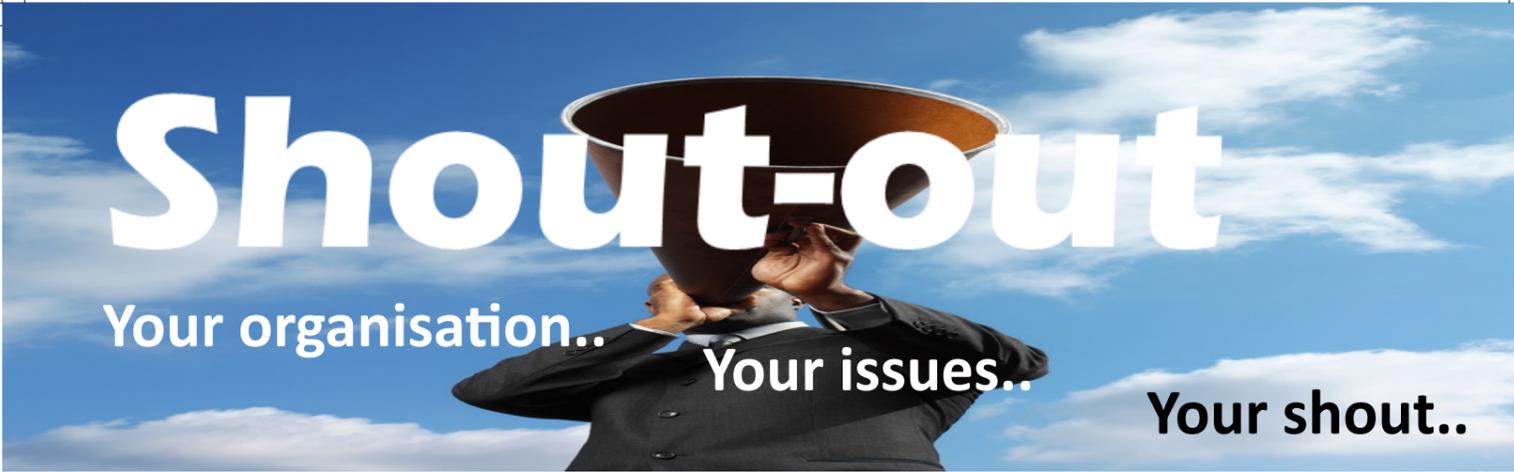
The four-minute film features Agatha MacFoy, 62, who began losing her sight nearly 20 years ago, and volunteer guide, Hannah

Gibson, 27, who was looking for a rewarding way to spend the time she gets off from work.

The two were connected through My Guide, a free service that helps people with sight loss get out of their homes and into the community with a volunteer as their sighted guide.

Despite Agatha and Hannah's 35-year age gap, their partnership has now developed into what they regard as a life-long friendship, with shared interests including everything from football to politics. Together they visit the cinema, go shopping and chat over lunches.

Research by Guide Dogs revealed that a third (33 percent) of My Guide users felt more confident as a result of the service and that volunteers experienced the same boost in confidence and self-esteem.



## Shaftesbury Car Link

The Shaftesbury Car Link scheme covers Shaftesbury and surrounding villages in the SP7 postal area. It takes people with transport problems to medical appointments,



e.g. hospital, surgery, dentist, opticians and also non-medical for social events, vets, shopping etc. (please ask if you are unsure). There is a one-off fee of £5 to join the scheme and a 'donation' of 50p per mile is asked to cover the volunteer driver's car expenses (one-way trips cost the same as a return journey – day surgery cases, etc. may require two trips and, therefore, two donations).

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 the scheme is changing co-ordinators. We would like to thank Debbie Simmons for setting up and running the scheme successfully over the past 5 years - thousands of car trips have taken place in the Shaftesbury and surrounding villages community by the volunteer drivers. The baton is now being passed to Martin and June Hull to continue the excellent work which Debbie has already done. To book or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver please phone Martin or June on 07763 426664 and leave details on the answerphone; we will get back to you asap.

## Are you identifiable?

One of the services the Volunteer Centre offers is the production of Identity Cards. We are able to produce bespoke cards with Lanyards. These start at £4.50 and can include photos and your organisations own logo. They also contain holograms to deter copying and are quick and easy to produce



## GIVE SOMETHING BACK IN SHERBORNE

### This Christmas...



National healthcare charity Sue Ryder is recruiting volunteers to its shop in Sherborne to help maximise sales in the lead-up to Christmas.

Volunteers are required on weekday afternoons and on Saturdays to help process an increased number of donations at the shop, which stocks a wide range of high quality second-hand clothing, books and homewares.

Volunteering at a Sue Ryder shop is an ideal way to give something back to the local community, with the added benefits of gaining new skills and meeting new people. Money raised at Sue Ryder shops supports the charity's palliative, neurological and bereavement care.

Kim Macinnes, Sue Ryder Sherborne shop manager says: "Our shop on Church Lane is always thriving and the couple of months before Christmas tend to be busy as we're lucky enough to see a rise in the number of donations we receive. For that reason we would love a few more pairs of hands on deck to help maximise our sales and in turn support Sue Ryder's care for people facing a terminal illness, complex neurological condition or the loss of a loved one.

"We're looking for volunteers to help with a range of tasks, from sorting donations and helping on the sales desk, to creating festive window displays. No previous experience is needed and volunteering is a great way to pick up new skills and confidence.

"Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to call in at either shop for a cup of tea and a chat with our friendly staff and volunteers to find out more, or contact us as below."

The Sue Ryder Sherborne shop is located at 4 Church Lane, Sherborne, DT9 3BP, United Kingdom. For more information ring the shop at 01935 815323 or email [sherborne1043@sueryder.org](mailto:sherborne1043@sueryder.org).

Can you solve this science riddle and help us?

23	8	71	7	52	68
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Find the answer on the back page, elemental my dear Watson!!  
Puzzles by 'Chris'



TRUST

Trust us with the details;  
spend more time with  
your thoughts

At times like these, with arrangements to be made – and where little details just add to your burden – it's good to have someone you can trust. Whichever way you want to say goodbye, you can rely on us to help you say it well.

FUNERALDIRECTOR.CO.UK  
7 LEIGH ROAD, WIMBORNE, DORSET BH21 1AB  
OFFICE@FCDOUCH.CO.UK



## Tecan wins Best Long Standing Business Award.

The Dorset Echo Industry Awards took place in June this year and Tecan won the award for best long-standing business. The awards ceremony took place at Weymouth College Hix Academy on Friday 15th June 2018.

Neil Walker, Managing Director of Tecan said: "We are delighted to win the award, it represents the significant efforts of the team over the past 40 years." Tecan is proud of its longstanding roots in Weymouth, and it has seen continued growth over recent years to now employ circa 110 valued local residents. The workforce remains consistent with average length of service greater than 15 years thus enabling the development of a highly skilled and competent workforce. Jo Windell, Customer Care Coordinator was also nominated for Best Woman in Business after having completed 41 years service with the company.

Tecan is a member of the Veco Precision Metals Group which solves customers' design challenges with the micro fabrication of high precision metal parts. Tecan applies electroforming and chemical etching technologies to produce sophisticated and advanced components for customers in defence, aerospace, printing, healthcare, food and the electronics sectors



# COMMUNITY C

Supporting people with lea

## The Green Fingers Group

in Weymouth received an award at the Volunteer Awards evening on 24th October 2018 for their outstanding work in their local community. They have cleaned up the area around the Ten Pin Bowling Alley, planted fruits and vegetables and also planted up an area of St Johns Park with incredible edibles. Last month they supported an elderly gentleman with his allotment area because of the dedication he has given to his community for years. Well done all of you.

### Shirley's Story

Hello there, my name is Shirley I have been volunteering via the Volunteer Centre in Dorchester for a long time. When I started I was very scared of other people that I had not met before. When I first attended the office, I came across a lady called Siobhan and was introduced to a volunteer mentor called Marlene. Since volunteering I have helped out at the mencap shop in Dorchester and when I first started there, Marlene was there as my mentor as well as a friend to help me stay calm. In 2017, I started to help out on a group called 'the green fingers', where we planted some flowers, fruit and vegetables and some small trees. I have come out of my shell more and am more

self-confident in the things I do. I still need support at times and that is where Marlene comes in as she is not only my mentor but also my buddy – perhaps even my best buddy. My partner Mick also supports me in day to day living, but volunteering has just given me the oomph to get up and go every day, instead of just staying at home day in day out. In October this year, the green fingers group was recognised at the Volunteer Awards evening at the Dorford Centre in Dorchester, where the group all received certificates for our efforts, and it was nice to be recognised. Many thanks **Shirley**



### Meet Natalie

My name is Natalie and I moved to this area 2 years ago. I have always enjoyed voluntary work in my community so my mum and me quickly discovered the Volunteer Centre in Dorchester. I met Siobhan and gave her my CV and she thought I could help out at the cafe in the town Museum. After an interview I started volunteering for a few hours on a Friday. Siobhan explained that I would receive community credits which I could spend in the area. After a few months I heard about 2 more places that needed volunteers; the fire station cafe on Tuesdays and Shire Hall on Wednesdays. I love being a volunteer as I meet and greet all visitors on the front desk. This is a picture of me. So far I have spent my community credits at the Sea Life Centre, Sandworld and with Weyline taxis. I am so pleased to volunteer at lots of different places and I enjoy spending my credits in the area. **Love Natalie x**



LOTTERY FUNDED



  
Dorset County Council



Telephone : 01305 269214

Email: [communitycredits@volunteeringdorset.org.uk](mailto:communitycredits@volunteeringdorset.org.uk)

Twitter: @DorsetCCS [www.facebook.com/DorsetCCS](http://www.facebook.com/DorsetCCS)



# CREDIT SCHEME

Learning disabilities into volunteering

## The Community Chest

At Sturminster Newton is a fresh take on charity shopping with a boutique feel and selling not just any old stuff but a really nice line in donated by-gones, clothing and bric-a-brac, We even have a rail of branded ladies wear for the discerning currently featuring a couple of Victoria Beckham tops! We are already building a loyal customer base who keep track of us on Facebook and Instagram.



The shop has already generated funds for supporting work experience for older children with learning difficulties and has recently gone into partnership with Colten Care (also of Sturminster) financing and managing a project accredited by the Alzheimer's society that we hope will see the majority of the town's shops become Dementia friendly retail outlets

The Community Chest is run by the Sturminster Community Benefit Society. We aim to generate profits that can be reinvested into the town's strategic assets and infrastructure with the aim of playing a small part in helping our lovely market town maintain its community feel and attraction to visitors.

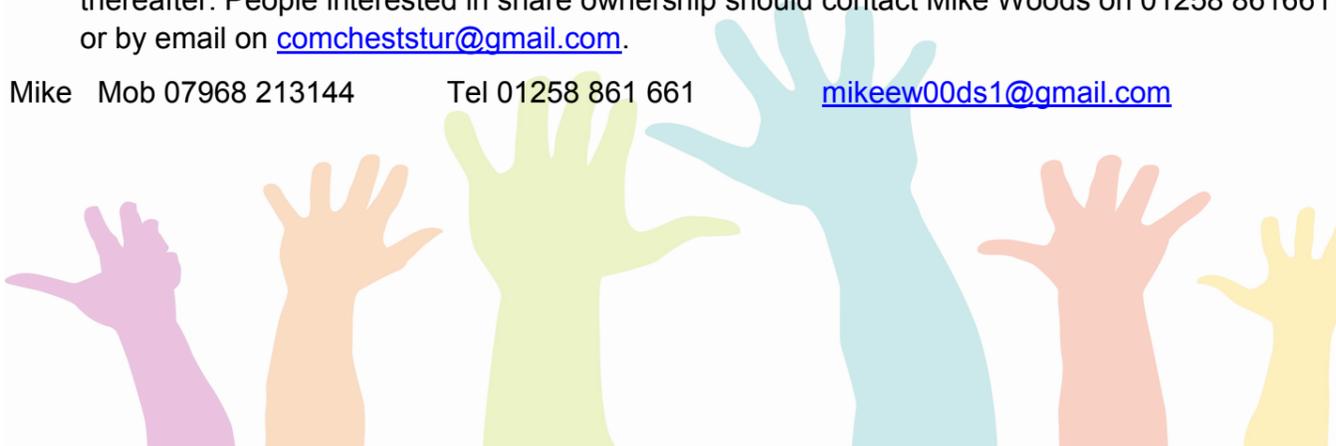
A Community Benefit Society is a new charitable form of organisation whose ownership comes via shareholding. Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, it is a new form of quasi charity that is owned by shareholders and can act as a business in many ways provided always that its aims and objects are charitable in nature. There are two important features of share ownership;

- 1) 1 person owning 1 share has the same voting power as an institution owning 1000!**
- 2) We are expected to sell shares to the local community.**
- 3) Our share prospectus went live in September 2018 and we will have a sales drive in the Town thereafter. People interested in share ownership should contact Mike Woods on 01258 861661 or by email on [comcheststur@gmail.com](mailto:comcheststur@gmail.com).

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**Twitter: @DorsetCCS [www.facebook.com/DorsetCCS](http://www.facebook.com/DorsetCCS)**



# SWANAGE RAILWAY

## ***About the Swanage Railway***

The Swanage Railway is a huge, volunteer run organisation, with around 500 regular volunteers giving their time throughout the year. The Swanage Railway has an amazing history, which shows the perseverance of volunteers and community spirit.

The Swanage Railway was demolished in 1972—the track was ripped up and the signals removed. There was very little left, but in 1976, the Swanage community voted on whether to try and resurrect the railway and the ‘yes’ majority won a resounding 85% of the vote. Since then, volunteers worked tirelessly to rebuild the Swanage Railway over the next 35 years. In August 1979, the Swanage Railway ran its first passenger train after volunteers formed the Swanage Railway Company. The first trains only ran on a few hundred yards, but this helped to raise the money to rebuild the line.

Since then, the line has grown to 16,720 yards long and now has four stations and one request stop.

“The Swanage Railway proves that preservation really is the art of achieving the impossible!”



## ***Volunteering at the Swanage Railway***

There are hundreds of volunteers needed to keep the railway in action and there are lots of different types of voluntary roles available. They are currently recruiting for catering assistants, who will be volunteering in the café at Swanage, the kiosk at Norden and the on-train buffet car. However, in peak season during the summer, the railway needs hundreds of volunteers working in all departments, such as the ticket office, Station Museum, and you can even train to become a signalman. The possibilities are endless when working with the Swanage railway—if you are interested either contact the Volunteer Centre, or the Swanage railway directly at [iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk](mailto:iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk)



## ***Our Visit to the Railway***

On the 30th October, Nicola, Paul and Issy from the Volunteer Centre were lucky enough to visit the Swanage railway and meet some of its amazing volunteers. They travelled to the Corfe Castle Station where they were met by Mike—who has volunteered at the Railway for 22 years. His role as a signalman is to make sure the line and the train runs smoothly. He also delivers training to new signalmen who want to join the Swanage Railway.

After seeing the signal box in action and watching the trains go through the station, Nicola, Paul and Issy jumped on a train from Corfe Castle and headed down to Swanage. Mike told them about the history of the railway and how volunteers are crucial to its success. Having seen first hand the amount of work that goes in to the day to day operations of the railway, we want to support volunteering there as much as possible to try and keep this amazing piece of British History alive.

# Home-Start South East Dorset

Home-Start is the UK's leading family support charity offering friendship and informal support to parents with young children, in local communities throughout the UK, so that every child can have a good start in life

The aim is to recruit and train parent volunteers to offer friendship support and some practical help to young families who are experiencing difficulties.

The Bournemouth scheme was set up in 1995 following two years of research and convincing would-be funders of its benefit to the local community. The scheme started in June 1995 on a part time basis, from a very small office, which contained nothing more than a telephone, and held its first Preparation Course for volunteers in September of that year with 8 volunteers.

Home-Start Bournemouth & Poole successfully secured funding to purchase, refurbish and equip its own premises to provide a multi functioning base to recruit, train and support volunteers as well as providing much needed office space in addition to continuing its Family Group work. Home-Start was delighted to have secured funding to expand its service into Christchurch and East Dorset during 2005 and adopted a new name Home-start South East Dorset.

This year has seen further changes within the staff teams and have welcomed new management and an administrator, as well as 2 posts specifically dedicated to securing funding and widening profile and awareness of what Home-Start does in the community. All have shown great enthusiasm and commitment in the short time they have been with the scheme.

Funding over the years has come from many sources such as Barnardo's, BBC Children in Need, Dorset Local Authorities and many more other smaller grants and donations. This all sounds very positive, which it is of course, but a great deal of work, sweat and toil goes into securing this funding as any hard working charitable organisation knows only too well!!

Volunteers are people who have practical experience of the up and downs of family life, regardless of age, social background, education and experiences, and Home-Start welcomes all enquiries and informal chat from people thinking about becoming a volunteer.

Home-Start offers Preparation Courses for new volunteers. The courses run over 4 or 8 weeks, covering 40 hours, either 1 or 2 days per week 9.30 am - 2.30 pm. Volunteers are then asked to commit 2-4 hours per

week to help support a family who will usually have at least one child under five years living within the family home.

Support is offered on a weekly basis in the family's own home with clear aims and objectives to help provide the right support for that particular family.

**Anyone can volunteer, as long as they are a parent or grandparent or have parenting experience thus understanding the stress and strains involved in raising a young family.**



Contact us for our latest training dates..

To find out more

please contact the scheme: tel 01202 574877

Or email: [office@homestartsoutheastdorset.org.uk](mailto:office@homestartsoutheastdorset.org.uk)

[www.homestartsoutheastdorset.org.uk](http://www.homestartsoutheastdorset.org.uk)

# Volunteer Awards October 24th 2018



*What an night , what an occasion this year's Awards Evening proved to be!*

**W**ith our largest ever attendance (250 Volunteers and guests) we are quickly outgrowing our usual venue, The Dorford Centre in Dorchester.

**So is it important?** we think so but it's you! Dorset's own volunteers, who contribute hugely to its success and of course its existence. We believe recognition is important and this comes in many ways. Sometimes formally, others quieter and more personal. The ethos of the event over many years has not changed, we don't pick individual winners, it's open to all, and you, as groups and organisations, nominate your volunteers and hopefully in this way it remains inclusive.

We are honoured to have Lady Fellowes as our wonderful patron, and VIP guests willing to support the night. We also provided a variety of entertainment appropriate to our guests. It was a mixture of emotional, heartfelt stories and a truly inspiring occasion, as we all heard what Dorset's very own volunteers have achieved. The diversity of volunteering across the county increases every year as the sector is asked to do more. So Yes! It is important that Volunteering is recognised formally and informally, especially

for those that make the decisions.

With over 20 groups nominated, 16 individual volunteers, and 5 young people, we had the pleasure of meeting some very special people who received special prizes from Rooms to Reward, as well as donations from across the county. (See our website for full list of winners) We were honoured to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, and our very own 'volunteer team' produced a very professional event. For many this was their first attendance as guests and we hope you enjoyed it . **Please enjoy some of our images, many more are available online as is the short film we have produced.**

**Our event is annual so please support us and nominate your volunteers. Nominations will start in June 2019.**





**The Aster Group**

**Winners of the Community Award for Volunteering**



**Reel Dorset**



**Groups of the Year**



**Young Volunteers**

**MC. Allen Knott**



**Volunteers of the Year**



**Barbara Gasior**

**thankyou to all our sponsors**



## Volunteering for the first time..

My name is Tahne Howard and I'm seventeen. I was born in Dorchester but have spent most of my life in Spain. This summer I came back to the UK to study for a BTEC in Sport at Thomas Hardy School. One of the preparatory tasks THS set me was to volunteer in a sporting environment and keep a log of activities.

Having never volunteered before, I was a bit apprehensive and wasn't sure where to start but Craig, deputy manager of the Volunteer Centre in Acland Road, was very helpful. He contacted Mike, who arranged for me to participate in some weekday early evening coaching sessions on the THS campus.

Over the next four weeks I worked with several different coaches and with students aged anywhere between 10 and 17, taking part in outdoors classes on sprinting, endurance running and javelin throwing. I turned up on the first day knowing very little about athletics and came away feeling I'd learned a lot - and had a lot of fun at the same time. The coaches and everyone there were really friendly and extremely helpful.

Mike suggested I might also like to take part in some Sunday morning sports training sessions for young people with disabilities, organised by Lindsay. Again, I was a bit apprehensive at first but these indoors classes turned out to be great fun too and it was really rewarding to see how much the children enjoyed themselves.

I'd like to thank all the friendly people and the coaches for all the help they gave me.

*Speaking for Dorchester Athletic Club, Mike said that it was a real pleasure to help someone as enthusiastic as Tanhe. She threw herself wholeheartedly into all the coaching opportunities we offered her and used the experience gained to meet her educational objectives. Our club welcomes volunteers of all ages and particularly those who would like to help with, and learn more about, athletic coaching.*

**Dorchester Athletic club have a range of current opportunities including ..**

- ◇ **Athletics Coaches,**
- ◇ **Coaching helpers**
- ◇ **Co-ordinators,**
- ◇ **Fundraisers**
- ◇ **General helpers**

## Centre supported events 18/19

	<p><b>Dorset Community Action– Conference</b> 9.00 am to 1.00 pm at the Dorford Centre, Bridport road, Dorchester. Come and join the conversation, and voice your questions to our panel of cross sector experts from VCSE and statutory sectors. <b>7th December 2018</b></p>	<p><b>Dorset Community Action</b> <b>01305 250921</b></p>
  	<p><b>Emergency First Aid at Work Course</b> -The Corn Exchange, Sturminster Newton <b>19th November 2018</b></p>	<p><b>Nicola Whitehead</b> <b>07552122710</b></p>
    	<p><b>Company at Christmas</b> This is open to elderly local residents in the Dorchester area who may be alone on Xmas day , get together to enjoy Christmas lunch <b>25th December 2018</b> contact the Centre to book a place</p>	<p><b>Toni Guyton</b> <b>01305269214</b></p>
	<p><b>Community Credits Volunteers Development Group meeting-</b> January 2019 VENUE TBC</p>	<p><b>Siobhan Davis</b> <b>07918639014</b></p>
  	<p><b>Sunday Lunches 2019</b> The Volunteer Centre is continuing to provide a subsidised Sunday lunch facility for elderly and disabled local residents at Dorset County Hospital. Contact the centre to register <b>Sunday, January 27, Sunday, February 24, Sunday, March 31</b> <b>Sunday, April 28, Sunday, May 26, Sunday, June 30</b></p>	<p><b>Issy Mc Gowan</b> <b>01305269214</b></p>
	<p>The Volunteer Centre will <b>close for Christmas 24 December</b> and will re open <b>January 2 2019</b>. Wishing all our readers a Happy Christmas and successful new year</p>	<p><b>01305269214</b></p>
  	<p>The Community Credits Scheme is arranging a social <b>visit to Longleat</b> for all its Community Credit volunteers and members . This is scheduled to take place in <b>June</b> Date to be confirmed contact us in the New year for More details</p>	<p><b>Siobhan Davis</b> <b>Tony Lees</b> <b>07918639014</b> <b>07918639012</b></p>



## Empowering Tanzanian Women through Motorcycling.....

**B**ack in February 2017 we told you how Claire Elsdon rode her motorcycle solo from London to Cape Town, after which she decided to set up Pikilily in Mwanza, Tanzania, to train local women in new skills, give them employment opportunities and to reduce both road accidents and maternal mortality. Ambitious indeed!

With support from around the world, Claire successfully funded a fully-fitted out workshop for training purposes and motorcycle maintenance. Five local women, some of whom had never even ridden a bicycle, were trained to ride safely and to pass the motorcycle licence test. They also learned basic maintenance, self-defence, first aid and are now learning English. All vital skills for the next stage.

The local project has been renamed Mj Piki (or Mama jasiri ya Piki in Swahili); roughly translated, this means "Brave women on motorcycles", or "hero lady bikers." It has also been officially registered as a CBO or Community Based Organisation.

The first female-only operated motorcycle taxi service in Mwanza (and Tanzania, not to mention Africa) has just been launched with the trained women offering safe passage to mothers and children, as well as other locals and ex-pats. Riding properly maintained motorcycles, and wearing helmets and full safety gear, and with a strong sense of what constitutes safe road use, these women are setting an example to the hundreds of other boda-bodas (motorcycle taxi riders) in the city as well as earning themselves a living.

Our project has another equally important focus. 24 women a day die in Tanzania from maternally-related causes, partly because of lack of transport to hospital and

about 5 years ago, 400 motorcycle ambulances were shipped to Tanzania to help deal with the problem. However riders were untrained and the motorcycles were not maintained, so they ended up rotting in the sun. Claire and her female apprentices renovated two derelict motorcycle ambulances in the workshop and they will soon be back in service, operated by Claire's trained riders, with more coming on stream as funds allow.

### Building foundations seeking volunteers

Back in the UK, we are applying for official charitable status for Pikilily so we can raise funds to support Mj Piki. We have three trustees including myself and are now keenly looking for a treasurer. Please contact me if you can help in any way [sheonagh\\_ravensdale@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheonagh_ravensdale@yahoo.co.uk) or 0780 873 9925.



**Sheonagh Ravensdale**

For more details see [www.pikilily.com](http://www.pikilily.com)

# New Vacancies.....Just Arrived

for all vacancies visit [www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk](http://www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk)

## North, East, Purbeck and Christchurch

### **1st Winterborne Valley, British boy & girl scouts**

Beaver/Wolf Cubs/Scout Adult Leaders

### **Age Concern Verwood**

Minibus escort

### **Charcot-Marie-Tooth UK**

Office Admin Assistant

### **Dimensions UK**

Volunteer Buddy, also looking for a volunteers cook buddy

### **Swanage Pier Trust**

Event volunteer  
Education volunteer  
Gate House volunteer  
Shop volunteer  
Maintenance volunteer  
Roaming volunteer

### **Blandford Fashion Museum**

Grant co-ordinator  
Stewards – reception and tea room

### **Dorset Police Authority**

Horse Watch volunteer  
Police vehicle cleaner

### **PDSA (Christchurch)**

Retail sales assistant, Stock Room assistant

### **Green Island Holiday Trust**

Holiday Support volunteers

### **Dorset County Council**

Digital champions

### **East Boro Housing Trust**

Community Cafe Volunteer

### **Age Concern Verwood**

Volunteer helper, Minibus escort

### **Dimensions UK**

Volunteer Arts and Crafts Buddy

### **Priest's House Museum and Garden**

Trustees

### **Sue Ryder (Bournemouth)**

Volunteers required

### **Art Workshop Swanage**

Workshop assistant, Advertising director and fundraiser, Resources organiser

### **Swanage Walking for Health**

Walk Leader/Helper

### **Not Just Sundaes Community Café**

Cake makers, Café Staff, Team leaders

### **Age Concern Ferndown & District**

Minibus driver, Lunch Club helper

### **National Trust – Purbeck**

Corfe Castle volunteer  
Studland Visitor Welcome volunteer  
Countryside Conservation volunteers  
Volunteer gardeners  
Handy people

### **Stour Connect**

Volunteer drivers  
Carpenters/painters/DIY people

### **The Shillingstone Railway Project**

Practical volunteers  
Café and Shop volunteers

Please log on and see the full range of our opportunities on our website



**FOR INFO ON ALL OF THE VACANCIES TEL: 01305269214 OR VISIT**  
**[www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk](http://www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk)**

# New Vacancies.....Just Arrived

for all vacancies visit [www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk](http://www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk)  
**Dorchester, West Dorset and Weymouth**

**Artsreach**

Seeks dedicated and dynamic individuals to join Board Of Trustees

**Oxfam Books & Music (Dorchester)**

Shop floor volunteer  
 Online volunteer

**Restorative Dorset**

Restorative Justice Facilitator

**Royal Mencap Society**

Volunteer Sidekick

**The Town Mill Trust**

Miller, Mill tour guide (non-milling)

**Weymouth PAWS**

Retail assistant

**Dorset County Council**

Digital champions

**Sue Ryder Care – Sherborne**

Afternoon till point & customer service staff  
 Saturday clothing stock assistants  
 Social media co-ordinator

**Allington Hill Cooper's Wood & Field Community Group**

Family activity events helper  
 Community representatives  
 Community events administrator

**1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth Scout Group**

Assistant Beaver Leader

**Volunteer Centre Dorset**

Volunteer Centre Magazine Distributors  
 Weymouth and Dorchester areas

**Oxfam Books & Music (Dorchester)**

Online Volunteer

**The Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens**

Volunteers to man event in Radipole gardens  
 Weymouth

**Islanders Club for Young People**

Youth work volunteer

**Lyme Forward**

Community Lunch volunteer  
 'Meet and Remember' support group volunteer

**Dorset Police Authority**

OPCC community engagement  
 support volunteer  
 Public contact point volunteer

**Dorchester Athletic Club**

Athletics Coach, Coaching helpers  
 Co-ordinator  
 Fundraiser  
 General helpers

**Citizens Advice Bureau,  
 Weymouth and Portland**

Advice workers  
 Administrative support volunteer

**Mosaic**

Fundraiser

**The Shire Hall Museum Dorchester** Many exciting opportunities supporting this unique facility

**Keep FM .**

Office support and administration opportunities  
 Dorchester

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**[www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk](http://www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk)**