



CCP is a charity working with individuals, charities and agencies to improve the opportunities available to Christchurch residents.

Christchurch Community Forum Newsletter: Jun 2017.

The recent **Christchurch Community Forum** meeting was held at St Joseph's Parish Centre in Purewell, a lovely setting with plenty of parking. We can recommend this venue to everyone and hope to use it again ourselves.

The refreshments provided by Bailey's Cafe were delicious!
Again well worth considering if you have an event. *Thank you, Jane!*

Scottie Gregory introduced **Christchurch Helpful Neighbours**. This scheme, though not befriending is certainly neighbourly, with volunteers making themselves available to do small one off tasks when needed. These can include changing a light bulb, helping to fill in a form, sweeping the path etc. for people who would have difficulty in doing so themselves.

From **Monday 7th August**, clients can ring the contact number, which will be answered by a person any time of the day, seven days a week. The request is passed on to the co-ordinator who aims to find a volunteer within 48 hours. Volunteers may not always be able to help, but they will do their best.

Volunteers indicate, on their application form when they might be available and in which areas. They are then offered the opportunity to undertake the task and are at liberty to turn it down if it is not convenient or not within their comfort zone! All volunteers have to be DBS checked, undergo training and carry an identity card.

A minimum donation of £2 is requested from clients for each task to cover running costs.

Attached you will find an A5 handout (2 on A4) and an application form. The next training takes place in mid August, so apply soon if you are interested.

Following difficulties in securing funding to pay the salaries of the **Christchurch Angels** part time staff, Angel volunteers met recently to decide on the best way forward. Reluctant to terminate this well respected service, the Angels have decided to transition into a volunteer led service, in line with all the other CCP projects. Thanks to the willingness of Glenys Brown to offer two days a week leadership, aided by Philippa's admin skills, the service will continue.

Glenys introduced herself and outlined the new structure. She has been an Angel for three years and has substantial professional experience as Associate Nurse Director at Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals and Associate Dean of Practice Education at Bournemouth University, with experience as Project lead for inter-professional placement audit with the Strategic Health Authority and since retirement has been a Public Governor at RB&C Hospitals NHS Trust

Thanks for their service, over the years, were expressed to Jan Childs and Renate Dowdey, who were unable to join us at the Forum. There will be a thank you event after the holidays, to which everyone will be invited.

Stefan Morawiec of POPP introduced the '**Social Prescribing**' Pilot at Highcliffe Medical Centre. Based on the SAIL (Safe and Independent Living) form, it is envisaged that volunteers will spend time with some patients, referred by the medical staff, considering the questions on the form under Security and Safety, Health and Wellbeing, Living Conditions and Income and Finance.

The forms will be processed by Age Concern in Dorchester. The patients are signposted to appropriate support through various organisations including POPP Wayfinders, Dorset Fire and Rescue, Telecare, Healthwatch, CAB and the Benefits Team.

It is anticipated that by improving the quality of life in a practical manner, this initiative will make a difference for local residents and ease some of the time pressures in GP surgeries. After the initial period it is expected that this pilot will be rolled out to other surgeries.

Stefan is involved in other initiatives including walking team games and share my table. More on these to follow! Get in touch if walking football, hockey etc is of interest to you. Four teams in Christchurch make a league

We were delighted to welcome **Lea Hampton of Sovereign** and **Cecelia Wilson of the Family Partnership Zone**, both new to post, who outlined their roles and what can be done to help others.

Feedback from discussions indicated the ongoing need for partnership working, volunteer publications and the opportunities for signposting. Practical help was offered, with volunteers signing up for various projects. Participants were reminded that service users can be referred into local services, there is seeding for collaborative working and the importance of getting information out to families and individuals of what is available to help them. The opportunity to attend the Forum for networking and regular information by email was valued.

My apologies: Again I have not been able to include everything, as I am up against a deadline!

I am attaching the requested forms for volunteers for the Christchurch Helpful Neighbours scheme and the handouts outlining how the service works for clients – after 7th August. Please do not distribute these to clients until after this date. THANK YOU!

You are able to sign up straight away to be a volunteer by returning the form by email or post.

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