



Building a Better Christchurch Together

Christchurch Newsletter

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Thank you for all the nominations we received for
CHRISTCHURCH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2017

The winner was: **John Churchill**

John has been a volunteer at Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service for over 7 years and was nominated by their Volunteer Co-ordinator, as he is an inspiration to the YOS team, for his commitment and passion helping young people who are often marginalised by society.

As an Appropriate Adult, he provides support to juveniles who are detained. He ensures their welfare is paramount and all their rights are respected. John is also a Community Panel Member, helping young people to write a contract that will form the basis of their Referral Order. A colleague once reported: 'He spoke to the young person very quietly, leaning forward and looking straight into his eyes. Speaking clearly, he explained why we were there'. John is not only respected by his fellow volunteers but staff within the team and the majority of the young people he works with.

He also volunteers at Mundeford Infants School most days of the week.

The other Volunteer of the Year finalists were

Vicky Fuller, *Volunteer Manager of Mundeford Community Centre*. She was nominated as she has an incredible dedication to her role. With her team of volunteers, the Centre has been steered into becoming a highly successful and professionally run enterprise serving the community. She is always there helping others in a cheerful spirit.

CHRISTCHURCH NEIGHBOUR CARS

Can you spare one morning a week to take calls from our clients and arrange lifts for them?

Or if you can offer lifts on a regular or random basis? (DBS check needed)

Training will be given for these very satisfying roles.

Email ccp.vforum@gmail.com or ring 01202 989632 for details

Zoe and Matt Haine were nominated for their practical work in feeding homeless and vulnerable people and supporting them through washing and giving out clothes and sleeping bags. The couple were considered to be doing an amazing job helping those in need. Their nomination was supported by some of the lads helped in the car park.

Charley Lloyd was nominated for the work she has done running the Meal Card project. In the first 18 months 2000 cards were provided by the public and distributed through the whole range of partner organisations working with lonely and isolated people, who would benefit from having a hot meal in the company of others. She also volunteers at Neighbour Cars as a co-ordinator.

The Trustees were very impressed by the quality and variety of the nominations received, finding it very difficult to shortlist and then choose. You may know of other people who could have been considered.

Check www.christchurchcommunitypartnership.org.uk later in the year for the nomination form for the 2018 Volunteer of the Year.

Christchurch Community Partnership partners with other organisations to
build a better Christchurch together

Projects include Christchurch Angels, Christchurch Community Forum,
Christchurch Helpful Neighbours, Christchurch Neighbour Cars, Dial a
Bus, Homeless Help, Random Act of Kindness Meal Cards
Visit our website christchurchcommunitypartnership.org to find out more

In March, Christchurch Community Partnership, supported by Dorset Community Action and the Big Lottery, hosted the 'first ever' **Christchurch Soup Event**. The evening was a tremendous success, with standing room only for the 120+ supporters.

During the evening representatives of local community projects each made a 5 minute pitch. The projects were Life Education Wessex, Somerford ARC, Water Lily Project, John Egging Trust and Access Dorset.

Voting for the winning project was simple: after the presentations, when everyone had finished their soup and roll, their bowls were placed in the appropriate washing up bowl, the successful project was the one with the "most washing up"

Life Education Wessex, an independent, self supporting charity works in partnership with schools, parents and the wider community to help children aged 3-13 develop the ability to make positive, informed choices about their health, reducing the risk of drug misuse and helping to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to lead healthier and happier lives.

Somerford ARC was set up by local residents to open and run a much needed Community Centre. They aim to work together improving the economic, social and environmental well-being and quality of life by: Initiating and supporting a wide range of projects and events, Inspiring residents to become volunteers, taking part in the delivery of community activities

Water Lily Project provides a safe, non-judgemental haven for women, who are experiencing domestic violence and abuse, poverty, relationship breakdowns, illness, mental health issues, homelessness or anxiety: by offering support based on positive mutual relationships; providing training opportunities, where young women learn life skills, develop self esteem and to equip them with life skills to achieve independent living.

John Egging Trust Young people are inspired through aviation, teamwork and leadership, to help them overcome adversity, identify their strengths and work towards their ambitions. Accredited programmes increase self confidence, self esteem and other vital life and work skills, empowering them to become role models within their own communities.

Access Dorset makes a difference through putting disadvantaged, disabled people, older people and carers at the heart of life changing services. Self-help strategies and nurture peer support enable, empower and build self resilience to make positive change happen and with support, give people the opportunity to lead fulfilled and inclusive lives.

When the votes were counted, it was a close run decision, with the total of £660 presented to the winning project: **Water Lily Project**.

A special thanks to all the presenters, members of Swing Unlimited and all the many volunteers who helped to set up the event. We were over-whelmed with the amount of support and the feedback, many clamouring for another one.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to participate in the Soup Event, which was a huge success and although we didn't win, it was great to be able to have another opportunity to spread further awareness of JET and the work we do with local young people.

Many congratulations on this first Christchurch Soup Crowdfunding event and I do hope that it will be a regular feature as it really does give some of our local charities and organisations the opportunity to make our community aware of what they do..

It was so interesting to listen to the presentations from all the charities that evening and it was a shame that we could only vote for one of them as they were all such worthy causes who do so much to help support the more vulnerable in our community.

ASPIRE Activities for adults with learning difficulties in Christchurch has moved to Christchurch Baptist Church.
Contact aspiresharonjame@hotmail.com
Sharon 07981032619 or Jane 07834233736
to find out more about arts & crafts, games and music making

Aster Group is holding a **public exhibition** on Tuesday 15th May from 11.30-8pm at the Kings Arms Pavilion, Castle Street for local residents to view plans to regenerate the old police station/magistrate's court site.

New style tours at **Christchurch Priory**: tours start in Cloister Way at 11am
The group is limited to 10 people £5 each. Early booking advised.

April 24th **Fabrics and flags**: the contribution made through needlework

May 8th **Medieval stone and wood carvings**: the Great Quire

May 22nd **Stories behind some of the memorial inscriptions**

As a charity CCP is here to give our local charities and organisations throughout BH23 a voice. We are very grateful to **Christchurch Eye** for allowing us a monthly column, **Dorset Senior Living** for their lovely article and all our benefactors and partners who help us to help others in Christchurch. During 2017/18 we have received support from the Co-op, Michael Adam Estate Agents, the Portfield Trust, POPP, the Hospital of Mary Magdalene Trust, the Talbot Trust, Waitrose, Christchurch Borough Council, the Big Lottery and Dorset Community Action and an amazing number of super volunteers. Thank you!

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