

## Community First - Annual Review and Celebration Video

The Community First Annual Review 2022-2023 is now available to view and download on our website. The Annual Review contains a summary of our work with people and communities over the last 12 months. This includes updates from our programmes and services, a general outline of our priorities and a summary of financial information for the year ending 31 March 2023.

<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Annual-Review-2022-2023-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>

Alongside the Annual Review, we have also produced a Celebration Video with a summary of our work in 2022-2023 which you can view using the following link:

[https://youtu.be/l\\_7JRAxZJGE?si=ueZugKZJx4hwWb6u](https://youtu.be/l_7JRAxZJGE?si=ueZugKZJx4hwWb6u)

## Community First AGM & Awards Celebration 2023

The Community First Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Awards Celebration took place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Devizes Town Hall. Thank you to everyone who attended the event as we celebrated our achievements in 2022-2023. The Community First Awards recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements of groups, organisations, individuals and young people who give so much of their time and enthusiasm to support our charity and its services.

### Full List of Winners

We are sure you will join us in congratulating our winners for their well-deserved awards, many thanks also to Community First President Sarah Troughton for presenting each of our winners with a trophy and certificate.

Award Name	Winner
The Michael Jones Award for Inspirational Link Scheme or Community Minibus Volunteer	Janice Vincent (Malmesbury Link Scheme)
Community Project Funded through the Landfill Communities Fund	Roger Baker (Ashbury Village Hall)
The Martin Hamer in Special Recognition Award	Alan Fox
Most Innovative Community Run Project or Service	Darry New (Community Bus, Haydon Wick)
Robbie's Endeavour Trophy	Winterslow Youth Club
Young Carers Achievement Award - Under 12 years	Charlie
Young Carers Achievement Award - Over 12 years	Hannah

Project Inspire Achievement Award	Edward
Splash Achievement Award	Sam
Splash Volunteer Award	John Wyeth
Community First Young Leader’s Achievement Award	Will
Building Bridges Outstanding Achievement Award	Dorcas Obeney
The Arthur Laflin Volunteer Award	Jacquie Henly (Hilmarton Parish Council)

## Youth Action Wiltshire - Carols by Candlelight

Youth Action Wiltshire invites you to Carols by Candlelight to celebrate the 25-year anniversary of Wiltshire Young Carers Service. The event will take place on Friday 8th December 2023 (7pm) at Malmesbury Abbey. Drinks and canapes will be served following the service.

Proceeds will fund a programme of exciting and fun respite activities for Wiltshire Young Carers, including music and songwriting, workshops, art, wildlife and adventure activities.

To request tickets, please complete the ticket application form using the link below (a copy is included with this briefing pack) or email Ginnie Keen: [ginniekeen@gmail.com](mailto:ginniekeen@gmail.com).

Ticket prices are as follows:

- Adult ticket - £20
- Child ticket (14 years and under) - £10

Ticket application form: <https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Carol-2023-application-form-v2.docx>

## The Big Give Christmas Challenge - Wiltshire Young Carers Service



This year Community First is participating in [The Big Give Christmas Challenge](#) in support of our Wiltshire Young Carers Service.

We currently hold open cases for Wiltshire young carers, of which 14% are recognised as the most vulnerable with some in the safeguarding system. As well as the pressures of their caring role and having to balance their own school and relationship pressures alongside the additional caring role, the recent pandemic has increased stress and worry. A national survey carried out by Carers Trust showed 58% of young carers were caring for longer and 40% said their mental health was worse.

Funds raised through The Big Give Christmas Challenge campaign will provide respite activities and support plans for 15 young carers, 30 Young Carers will access remote group webinars and a further 15 young carers can access structured one-to-one mentoring and coaching programmes with our Young Carers Support Workers. This will help them with their mental health and wellbeing. With increased investment, we can receive up to 15 new young carer referrals from our partner agencies.

Your gift will help more young people feel less alone in their caring role, they will see that home life has improved, they will feel included, be better at attending school, and feel happier.

Through this national campaign, we are aiming to secure up to £4,000 in pledges from supporters and donors which will be match-funded for 7 days between **28<sup>th</sup> November to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**. This is a fantastic way to help make a difference for young carers in Wiltshire and one small donation e.g. £5 will have *twice* the impact during this period.

More information about our how to support our Big Give Christmas Challenge will be available on our website and social media channels from mid-November.

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## Landfill Communities Fund - Wiltshire and Swindon Highlights 2022-2023

Community First manages and administrates the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) in Wiltshire and Swindon. The LCF offers capital funding for local community, heritage and environmental projects in areas where local landfill operator sites or depots are located.

Funding for the LCF in Wiltshire and Swindon is received from landfill operators The Hills Group Ltd and Crapper & Sons Landfill Ltd. Over £5.5m of funding has been distributed through the LCF since 2002.

Entrust is the regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund and has produced statistical highlights for the LCF in Wiltshire and Swindon in 2022-2023. A copy of the PDF is included with this briefing pack and is summarised below.

- £329k - total LCF funds invested.
- 31 projects completed.
- 45 jobs were created as a result of funded projects.
- 298 people volunteer due to funding offered through the LCF in Wiltshire and Swindon
- 124,720 public visits.
- £5.77 of additional economic value for every £1 invested through the LCF.

For more information about the Landfill Communities Fund in Wiltshire and Swindon, please visit the Community First website: [www.communityfirst.org.uk/grants](http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/grants)

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## MiDAS - Minibus Driver Awareness Training

Community First offers accredited MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness) Training for organisations and groups, led by our fantastic Training Co-ordinator Martin Carter.

MiDAS is a membership-based scheme designed to enhance both driving and safety standards for drivers of minibuses. MiDAS is a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers. Community First is now taking new bookings for MiDAS minibus training with our Training Coordinator Martin Carter. Martin is a retired Police Advanced Driver with over 35 years' experience of driving minibuses.

The MiDAS training course includes a session on how to operate a minibus safely. This is followed by a 30-minute multiple-choice assessment with 20 questions. Trainees will need to answer 16 questions correctly to pass the theory test. Finally, there will be a practical test which incorporates a driving skills training session and an assessment drive which will last just over an hour, with the assessment taking 30

minutes. Upon completion of the theory and practical test, trainees will receive a certificate which is valid for 4 years.

Pricing is based on a minimum group size of 3 drivers per booking and starts at £105.00 per person. We are now taking new bookings for Winter 2023, early booking is recommended to secure a training place.

Please contact [mcarter@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:mcarter@communityfirst.org.uk) for more information and how to book training.

A leaflet about MiDAS training is included with this briefing pack.

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