

A Unique Concert for Wiltshire

A Unique Concert for Wiltshire will be held at the historic Salisbury Cathedral on **Thursday 8th February 2024** to raise vital funds for key Wiltshire charities Youth Action Wiltshire, Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

Tickets are now on sale with prices starting from £15. More information about the event can be found in our blog post about the event:

<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/news/a-unique-concert-for-wiltshire/>

Seats can be booked online from <https://tinyurl.com/uniquewiltshire> or by calling the Salisbury Cathedral box office on 01722 656 555.

We look forward to welcoming you to this very special event.

New website for Community Insurance

Community Insurance is a specialist insurance agent service from Community First. We work with leading provider Zurich to offer comprehensive insurance for village halls, community buildings, playing field associations and local councils.

We have recently launched a new website for Community Insurance with more information about insurance policies, claims information and online forms to request a free, no obligation quotation.

The website also features a series of useful guides.

For more information visit: www.communityinsurance.co.uk, telephone 01380 732809 or email: communityinsurance@communityfirst.org.uk.

Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre

Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre is now taking new bookings for 2024. The centre is fully equipped for day and residential bookings for schools and groups with a variety of adventure activities including archery, canoeing and climbing. Our Outdoor Education Team can also design and lead a bespoke heritage learning day for your school or group. This is a truly unique learning experience that everyone will enjoy! Some recent examples of heritage learning days designed and delivered by our team at Oxenwood include:

John of Gaunt School

Students from The John of Gaunt School recently attended a 'Living History Day' at Oxenwood. The students learned about British Army recruitment in 1914 and handled artefacts from the era. Some students were also kitted out as a soldier. The students formed battalion and learned how to fire a rifle and use a bayonet. The battalion then crossed 'no-man-land' whilst being fired at by the enemy (using a gel gun). The 'Living History Day' was delivered by the Oxenwood Outdoor Education Team who provided the trained re-enactor and led the safe handling of weaponry. Feedback was very positive:

"The days provided an enrichment opportunity for Year 9 students who have been studying the events of the First World War and how these shaped our island's history. An event like this really brings History alive as the students don't just learn about events but experience them. It's the next best thing to having a time machine!"

Cricklade Manor Prep School

Students at Cricklade Manor Prep School attended a learning day at Oxenwood, led by our Outdoor Education Team. The team designed an immersive experience which taught the students about life in the Stone Age. The school said:

“We were all blown away by your immersive experience and the children have been thoroughly inspired by their trip. Thanks must also go to Emily and Mo who led our group capably and who extended the warmth of Oxenwood to us all! We look forward to coming back and visiting again soon.”

We are delighted to hear that schools and groups are benefiting from the amazing opportunities for learning and adventure offered by our team at Oxenwood. A full list of pricing for 2024-2025 is now available on our website. For more information or to design your bespoke residential, day or learning experience contact: enquiries@oxenwoodcentre.com.

Oxenwood - First Aid Training Courses

We are now offering a range of first aid courses at Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre, led by Deputy Centre Manager & Outdoor Education Instructor Mo.

A list of available courses is included with this briefing pack.

Please email Mo: dmaloney@oxenwoodcentre.com for more information.

Vacancy - MiDAS Training Coordinator (Driver Assessor)

Community First is recruiting for a MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) Training Coordinator/Driver Assessor to support the delivery of our MiDAS training service.

- **Hours:** Flexible, in response to demand for training, including some evening/weekend working.
- **Salary:** £14.50 gross per hour. (Actual hours will vary by month according to training delivered).
- **Base:** Home-based, with hot desk at Community First as required. Will be expected to travel to venues across Wiltshire, Swindon and other areas as required to deliver MiDAS training (mileage expenses paid).

More information about the role, including a job description, person specification and application form can be found on our website: <https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/vacancies/>

If you would like to find out more about this position, please contact Harry Tipple, Head of Community and Partnership development on: 01380 732 824 or htipple@communityfirst.org.uk

Closing date: Midday on 15th of January 2024

Interview dates: 24th of January 2024

To download a job description, person specification and an application form for this post, please visit the links below. Please note we are unable to accept CVs for this position.

Community First is an equal opportunities employer.

Link Schemes and Community Transport

The Community Development team are currently involved in a project that will offer support to the Link Schemes to help with the recruitment of volunteers. The team have spent 5 days on the ground in 5 different areas across Wiltshire engaging with the community.

All primary schools in Wiltshire have been emailed with a flyer and many have been kind enough to share the recruitment flyer on their school newsletter. We have managed to recruit 16 volunteers. We have another 5 days available to offer to the Links, so if you would like help with volunteer recruitment, please do get in touch.

There are 42 Link Schemes in Wiltshire with approximately 1,600 volunteers who help to keep communities connected to vital local services by offering door-to-door transport to shops, lunch clubs and medical appointments. Volunteering with your local Link Scheme is a great way to meet new people, make friends and give something back to your community.

You can find your local Link Scheme by using our Community Transport Directory and there are several ways to be involved, including as a Link Driver or Link Coordinator. Link Drivers use their own cars and a mileage allowance is paid.

For more information or to enquire about volunteering with Link, please email: linkproject@communityfirst.org.uk

Building Bridges and Inspire Swindon (Employability Programmes)

Community First will soon launch a refreshed website for The Building Bridges and Inspire Swindon Programmes. We aim to have this online as soon as possible. In the meantime, please continue to use the referral form on the holding page (www.buildingbridgessw.org.uk/coming-soon) or contact the lead team by email: hello@buildingbridgessw.org.uk or telephone: 01380 732821.

Our two current employability programmes (Building Bridges in Wiltshire and Inspire Swindon for young people in Wiltshire) which started in July are both delivering strongly. Across the two programmes we are currently supporting a total of 75 participants with another 58 referrals currently being allocated out to Support Workers. The programmes are both already delivering fantastic outcomes - in Autumn 2023, 17 of the NEET/At Risk young people that we had been supporting moved on to college courses and with our support have sustained their attendance. We have also supported 6 participants into work and are currently supporting them to sustain their roles.

We are in discussions to build additional capacity into our Wiltshire programme to support more refugees and people affected by homelessness - we hope to be able to start this in early 2024.

We are pleased to announce that with funding from The National Lottery Community Fund we will be able to start a new programme to support adults in Swindon in mid-January 2024.

Briefing prepared by:

Ellie Ewing

Marketing and Communications Manager (Community First)

eeving@communityfirst.org.uk