

Community First - AGM and Awards Celebration

The Community First Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Awards Celebration took place on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at Devizes Town Hall. Thank you to everyone who attended the event as we celebrated our achievements in 2023-2024. The Community First Awards recognises and celebrates the outstanding contribution of groups, organisations, individuals and young people who give so much of their time and enthusiasm to support our charity and its services.

Please join us in congratulating our winners for their well-deserved awards, many thanks also to Community First President and HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton for presenting each of our winners with a trophy and certificate.

Full List of Winners

The Michael Jones Award for Inspirational Link Scheme or Community Minibus Volunteer
Christopher Morgan and Ron Young (Ramsbury Flyer)

Community Project Funded Through the Landfill Communities Fund Programme
Tina Wheeler and Julian Wright - The Re-Roofing Team (All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent)

The Martin Hamer In Special Recognition Award
Hugh de Saram - Marlborough Link

Most Innovative Community Run Project or Service
Lisa Brindley - Pewsey Youth Café

Building Bridges/Inspire Swindon Outstanding Achievement Award
Keelan

Building Bridges Personal Achievement Award
Morgan

Project Inspire Achievement Award
Freddie

Inspire Swindon Personal Progress Award
Leila

Young Carers Achievement Award (Under 12 Years)
Penny

Young Carers Achievement Award (Over 12 Years)
Warren

Splash Achievement Award
Jack

Splash Volunteer Award
Carys

Community First Young Leaders Achievement Award*Mollie***Local Council Community Project Award***Haydon Wick Haven (Haydon Wick Parish Council)***Carers Together Contribution to Caring Award***Amanda***Voice It, Hear It Contribution to Community Engagement Award***Voice It, Hear It Co-production Group***The Arthur Laflin Volunteer Award***Ray White (Warminster & District Link Scheme)***Community First - Annual Review and Celebration Video**

The Community First Annual Review 2023-2024 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 2024.

<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Annual-Review-2023-2024-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>

Alongside the Annual Review, we have also produced a Year in Review 23/24 video which you can view using the following link: https://youtu.be/32_vNso8s7c

Get Out Get Active (GOGA) - Free Interactive Training Workshops

Join Community First for a FREE interactive training workshop for Get Out Get Active (GOGA) volunteers. Get Out Get Active (GOGA) brings together disabled and non-disabled people, to be active through fun and inclusive activities. This training workshop is ideal for anyone engaging with members of their community, with the aim of recruiting additional volunteers or participants for their GOGA activities. You will be introduced to the foundations of Community Organising and Listening Training, which we hope will give you the tools to recruit new volunteers or create new ideas for your group. During this course, you will explore:

- What Community Organising is
- The importance of listening to build relationships and uncover barriers
- Getting to know your audience
- Taking the next steps to reach out and engage your community

Course dates and locations:

- 12th February 2025 (Tidworth)
- 24th February 2025 (Westbury)
- 10th March 2025 (Trowbridge)
- 18th March 2025 (Marlborough)
- 24th March 2025 (Salisbury)

To register your interest please email hpinney@communityfirst.org.uk. An information poster is included with this briefing pack.

Carers Together Wiltshire Roadshows

Carers Together Wiltshire is a new support service for unpaid, adult carers in Wiltshire. The service is delivered by Age UK Wiltshire in partnership with Community First, Alzheimer's Support, Wiltshire Service Users' Network, Wessex Community Action and Wiltshire Citizens Advice.

If you would like to find out more about the support available or you would like the opportunity to share your thoughts (and needs) around the type of community events you would like to see for unpaid carers, come along to one of the Carers Together Roadshows this autumn.

Dates and locations:

<https://www.facebook.com/carerstogetherwiltshire/events>

An information poster is included with this briefing pack. If you work with unpaid, adult carers, please share the poster and/or this information with them.

Youth Action Wiltshire Young Carers Service

Community First offers support to young carers in Wiltshire through our Youth Action Wiltshire Young Carers Service. We work with hundreds of young carers and young adult carers every year in Wiltshire. We are proud to support and champion their rights, helping them to feel safer in their caring role and offering opportunities for them to achieve and thrive.

Wiltshire Council's Team carry out assessments of young people who care for someone else. Anyone who thinks a child could be a young carer can refer into Wiltshire Council for a young carers' assessment. Professionals should complete a IFD request for service form (<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/IFD-request-for-service.docx>) and submit this to Integratedfrontdoor@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Children and parents can self-refer on 0300 456 0108 or mash@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Once the referral is received, it will be allocated to a member of the Wiltshire Council Team, who will contact the family and arrange a visit. The Assessment is holistic and will look at what support can be offered to the family. Further information is available on the Wiltshire Council website:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/children-young-people-young-carers>

For more information about Youth Action Wiltshire Young Carers Service, call 01380 720 671, email wiltshireyoungcarers@youthactionwiltshire.org or visit:

www.communityfirst.org.uk/yaw/young-carers.

Voice It, Hear It

Voice It, Hear It, is a new project that unifies the collective strength of its partners to support the voice and engagement of people in Wiltshire. We currently have a number of projects ongoing which offer Wiltshire residents and service users a chance to feedback on the services they use.

New projects and consultations (including surveys) will be shared on social media and our website.

To be involved or find out more visit: www.communityfirst.org.uk/voice

MiDAS - Essential Training for Minibus Drivers

Community First offers Minibus Driver Awareness (MiDAS) training for schools, groups and organisations. MiDAS is a nationally recognised scheme designed to enhance both driving and safety standards for drivers of minibuses. The Department of Education and Department for Transport highly recommend that all minibus drivers complete this training scheme and MiDAS is a recognised training programme for drivers to comply with Section 19 / 22 permits. The scheme is governed by the Community Transport Association (CTA) with Community First as an approved training provider.

Community First offers two MiDAS programmes:

- Standard: Consisting of a theory and practical assessment.
- Accessible: To follow 'Standard' training, specifically designed for drivers who will be transporting wheelchair users.

Drivers will be provided with access to the CTA website to complete the theory assessment prior to the practical assessment. On successful completion of both theory and practical, drivers will be able to print their individual MiDAS certificate through the CTA website. Certificates are valid for four years.

Our instructors:

Training is delivered by our highly qualified and experienced MiDAS Training Coordinators Martin Carter and Alan Russell. Martin is a retired Police Advanced driver with over 35 years' experience of driving minibuses. Martin completed the MiDAS Driver Assessor Trainers (DAT) course in 2019. Since then, he has trained nearly 400 drivers. Alan is a retired Police Officer with Advanced Driving qualifications. In addition, Alan has an HGV 1 license and extensive experience of driving many different classes of vehicles and testing them. Alan is also a qualified vehicle mechanic and vehicle examiner.

MiDAS Pricing:

- Standard Driver - £165 (+VAT)
- Accessible Driver - £205 (+VAT)

Weekends subject to agreement. Minimum 3 drivers per booking. Prices are per person.

Bookings:

If you would like any further information on MiDAS training, please email:

midas@communityfirst.org.uk

An information leaflet is included with this briefing.

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