



Annual General Meeting and Awards Celebration 2024 Nomination form

At the Community First AGM we want to recognise and celebrate the exceptional contribution made by groups and individuals who we work with or support. If you know someone who should be recognised, please complete and return the nomination form below, by Wednesday 11th September 2024. This can be done by post or by email to Nicky Theobald - ntheobald@communityfirst.org.uk.

The category winners will be invited to the presentation on Wednesday 9th October 2024 to receive their awards.

AGM Awards

1. The Arthur Laflin Volunteer Award
2. The Michael Jones Award for Inspirational Link Scheme or Community Minibus volunteer
3. Community Project funded through the Landfill Communities Fund programme (*or individual who has made it happen*)
4. The Martin Hamer Special Recognition Award
5. Most Innovative Community Run Project or Service
6. Robbie's Endeavour Trophy is awarded to a group or club member who has done the most for their group or club
7. Young Carers Achievement Award - under 12 years
8. Young Carers Achievement Award - over 12 years
9. Project Inspire Achievement Award
10. Splash Achievement Award
11. Splash Volunteer Award
12. Community First Young Leader's Achievement Award
13. Local Council Community Project Award
14. Building Bridges/Inspire Swindon Outstanding Achievement Award
15. Building Bridges Personal Progress Award
16. Inspire Swindon Personal Progress Award
17. Carers Together Contribution to Caring Award
18. Voice It, Hear It Contribution to Community Engagement Award

Please return by: Wednesday 11th September 2024

**To: Nicky Theobald, Community First, Unit C2 Beacon Business Centre, Hopton Park,
Devizes SN10 2EY**

Tel: 01380 732819 Email: ntheobald@communityfirst.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 288117

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Nomination Form

Nomination details:
Your Name: Laura Cutter
Your contact details: Email: deputyclerk@haydonwick.gov.uk Telephone Number: 01793 722446
Group/Organisation Name (<i>if applicable</i>): Haydon Wick Parish Council
Staff member at Community First you have worked with: Ian Nockolds
Nomination is for: Companions Cafe Name: Jo Newman Their contact details: Email: memorycafe@haydonwick.gov.uk Telephone Number: 01793 722446

Reason for Nomination: (Continue on additional sheet if necessary) we will use this to create a citation which will be read out on the evening.

Following the success of the award-winning Haydon Wick Memory Café, established in 2021 to support the elderly and those living with dementia, a natural progression led to the expansion of services. Community feedback in Swindon highlighted a crucial need: a dedicated space for carers and companions to connect, share experiences, and learn best practices in supporting their loved ones with dementia.

Through feedback and networking with external partnerships the Council decided that the newfound friendships and level of compassion that had already been created within the Memory Café setting provided the perfect foundations for launching the Companions Café.

Launched in June 2024, the Companions Café has quickly become a vital resource for carers. It offers:

- A safe, welcoming environment for companions to gather
- Expert advice on providing optimal care
- Emotional support and networking opportunities
- Guidance on navigating financial aspects of care
- Strategies for ensuring the best quality of life for loved ones with dementia

The café has fostered a strong sense of community, with participants forming supportive friendships and relying on one another for encouragement and has become an essential part of the local dementia support network, providing much-needed respite and resources for carers while ensuring the well-being of those they support.

Whilst the companions are listening to talks and networking, dedicated volunteers are hand to deliver sessions in a separate space for those living with dementia from listening to music, singing, playing games and using their creative skills. This gives the companions a chance time to relax and talk in a friendly welcoming atmosphere, knowing that their loved ones are in safe hands and having fun.

Haydon Wick Parish Council is very proud of its variety of services within the local community. The Companions Café stands as a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives and the importance of supporting those who provide invaluable care to vulnerable members of society. As it continues to evolve, it promises to remain an essential pillar of dementia support in Swindon.