

## Rushmoor Celebrates Volunteering 2017

Volunteers who give their time and commitment to local voluntary groups and charities in Aldershot and Farnborough were celebrated at a special awards ceremony on Wednesday, 15 November.

More than 50 volunteers from 30 different groups and charities attended the event, which was hosted by Rushmoor Voluntary Services and Rushmoor Borough Council at the council offices in Farnborough.

The ceremony is organised annually by the RVS and the council to thank local volunteers for the major contribution they make to the community.

The event was hosted by the Deputy Mayor of Rushmoor, Councillor Steve Masterson, who gave each of the volunteers a certificate of thanks. Councillor Masterson said that he was delighted to be able to present the certificates to the volunteers because this highlighted the wonderful work of the volunteer sector across the borough.



The Leader of Rushmoor Borough Council, Councillor David Clifford, also paid tribute to the volunteers for the work they did with so many different organisations to support the community in Rushmoor.

The volunteers nominated provide important regular help and support to a wide range of organisations ranging from the Mayfield Community Partnership and Farnborough Neighbourcare to Aldershot Guiding and the Parent Action Group.

The Chief Executive of Rushmoor Voluntary Services, Greg Alexander, said: "Volunteering in Rushmoor continues to thrive, with people supporting many causes to help people from all walks of life. The contribution of local volunteers cannot be underestimated. We have willing and skilled people who are regularly giving their time to work with older and disabled people, children and families and many other community projects. As services provided by Government are reduced, we in the voluntary sector are committed to working with other agencies to help fill gaps and develop new ways of working."

Councillor Gareth Lyon, Rushmoor Borough Council's Cabinet member for Concessions and Community Support, said: "Volunteers are the lifeblood of the community and it is not exaggeration to say that our borough could not function without them. We are incredibly grateful for everything they do and are determined to do more and to support them and partner with them. Anyone can be a volunteer and we would strongly encourage people of all ages and background to get involved."

"A recent volunteer survey showed that at least 3,600 people are actively volunteering in Rushmoor, making an annual contribution of over £7 million to the community – which is an incredible contribution."

Terry Snuggs, volunteer centre coordinator with the RVS, who helped organise the event, said: "Our event has shown the rich mix of volunteers in Rushmoor. We have met many volunteers today who have been involved with their organisation for over 20 years – this shows the dedication and loyalty of local people who want to make a positive difference to others."

The RVS volunteer centre places over 200 new volunteers every year. Anyone who would like to find out more about volunteering can contact the centre on 01252 540162 or visit [www.rvs.org.uk](http://www.rvs.org.uk)