

Messages

Steve Manley, Head of Engagement for the Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group and Caroline Martinez, Engagement Officer Frimley Commissioning Group

"On behalf of the Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group we would like to wish Rushmoor Voluntary Services huge congratulations on their 50th Anniversary. The dedication of staff, volunteers and members have meant that our engagement work around local NHS services has had better reach and been more informed by the people that matter - by those who use the services.

We have enjoyed a long-standing relationship with both Greg Alexander, former CEO and more recently Donna Bone, CEO and look forward to this continuing as we work together to identify shared priorities in supporting the health and wellbeing of local people across Rushmoor. We are sorry we can't be with you but hope you have a wonderful evening"

Kind regards
Caroline Martinez
Engagement Officer

Greg Alexander – former CEO Rushmoor Voluntary Services

I joined RVS in March 2007. Working at RVS was always interesting and often challenging. During my time I was blessed by some great colleagues, good employers and a wonderful membership of truly dedicated voluntary organisations. I am proud of the services provided to the local community and am sure they will continue under the leadership of Donna.

I have enjoyed coordinating the Covid vaccination effort in Romsey close to my home and am not surprised by the sterling efforts made by volunteers all over the country during these strange times.

Congratulations to RVS on this milestone and thank you to my former colleagues and the Trustees for always supporting my work in Rushmoor.

Thank you,
Greg

Colin and Bernie Wright – Rushmoor Gymnastic Club

“Dear Colleagues,

It is now 21 years since we were welcomed into the Borough of Rushmoor and it has proved to be a fruitful union. Many thousands of youngsters have passed through our doors during these years, and we do hope that we have contributed a great deal to The Borough during this time, encouraging young people to participate in healthy activities that we do hope will stick with them for a lifetime.

While we are aware that we are just a small cog in the life of the Borough, we do hope that our contribution is appreciated by the citizens. We are already aware that our efforts are appreciated by both the Members and Officers of the Council.

Finally, can we wish all the participants a very successful celebratory party!

Best regards,
Colin & Bernie Wright
Directors Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy

John Edwards – Retired Director Rushmoor Borough Council

“50 years is quite some achievement, and (in my time) RVS did some wonderful work. Rushmoor had such a range of social groups with more people in need... this made RVS so important.”

Sir Gerald Howarth - Member of Parliament

Dear Donna
It is most kind of you to invite Lizzie and me to join you at the party to celebrate 50 years of RVS. Sadly, we are unable to join you as it is the weekend of our son's wedding - for which Lizzie is doing the flowers as she so often did for Rushmoor events! However, we shall raise a glass to you, and do please give our very best wishes to everyone at RVS. Congratulations on half a century's service to the

voluntary sector in Northeast Hampshire, such a vital part of the community offering such a broad range of support to local people. We continue to be involved - we are both Patrons of Aerobility and Lizzie is Patron of Parity for Disability - and take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful party and continuing success for the next half century.

All good wishes, Gerald

Sir Gerald Howarth

Owen Durrett – Parity

I am extremely grateful for all the support that RVS has given Parity over the years

Chris Harris and the Team at Parkside

'Here at Parkside, we understand the importance of volunteers and being part of the RVS networking community. We have over many years found RVS to be extremely supportive of our work. Having that assistance in training, access to grant funders and advertising for volunteers or trustees is of immense help to us and enables us to run a successful charity within the Rushmoor. Congratulations to RVS on 50 years of amazing community work we are proud to be associated with you.'

I hope the celebration is a great success.

Chris

Ken Thorpe – Age Concern Farnborough and Farnborough NeighbourCare

My life with RVS.

Fifteen years ago, I decided to retire from my Plumbing work.

One of my customers was Cllr John Debenham. So, I contacted him asking about voluntary work, he told me to contact RVS. That was the best thing I ever did, met a charming lady who explained everything and gave me a list of organisations requiring help. I chose Age Concern Farnborough and Farnborough Neighbourcare.

I was quickly put on the Midas course and never looked back; it was like being a member of a big family. Then Viv started to get me driving with many other clubs, so ended up going to many places of interest and the seaside. The office was always open to me and I got so much help from Greg and the team when we had to vacate the Community centre. Now they have moved into the Council offices, I am no longer allowed to visit. I miss you all.

RVS have been a great help with restarting the Age Concern Lunch Club, supplying me with a driver and a Minibus.

So, a very big thanks for making the last fifteen years so wonderful.

Long may you continue.

Ken Thorp

Beverley Jones, Operations Manager, RVS

I joined RVS in January 2021 just as Pfizer and Astra Zeneca were becoming more than just words we couldn't spell (or say) but a future promise to lead the UK hopefully out of the pandemic. Donna, Heather and the community development team were working tirelessly to recruit, support and train a huge number of volunteers to support the NHS with the vaccine rollout locally. Across the UK, the success of the rollout is in part due to the volunteers who have given up their time, stood in the rain, wind and cold and also had too much sun (although rarely!).

I am also in awe of how much support was provided by the RVS volunteers during 2020 especially during the dark and difficult times of the lockdowns. Getting shopping, collecting prescriptions and making essential befriending phone calls to give just a few examples – the volunteers all stepped up and supported those most vulnerable, so that they could stay safe during the unprecedented early lockdown. Volunteers are still providing support today for those who have not been able to return to a 'normal' pre-pandemic life and we thank them all.

Those highlights demonstrate the tremendous Covid response by Rushmoor Voluntary Services as an organisation, led by an incredibly hard-working team and supported by the fabulous volunteers. Great job.