

Worth Fete Raises £4,500 For Local Charities

It was another successful Fête in Worth on a glorious May Bank Holiday. The stalls, the games, the food and drink, chatting with friends old and new all added up to a splendid day, enjoyed by locals and visitors alike and in the process netted £4,500 for local charities.

The focus of the Fête group was to raise funds for local charities that benefitted the young, the old and those in need in addition to the residents of Worth. The five charities selected all attended the presentation of the cheques, they were:

MyTIME Outdoor Centre in Worth supporting young carers. Beverley Chiddle said that they are a young and vibrant charity whose vision is to ensure that every young carer in the UK has access to our life changing support and that young carers of the past will support the young carers of the future. She went on to say that from their Outdoor Centre in Worth Matravers MyTIME works to help heroic young carers across Dorset and the UK to take a well-deserved break and have some fun whilst learning and growing amongst others in a similar position, so that they feel less alone and not forgotten. For more information about this very worthwhile charity visit www.mytimecharity.co.uk

The Link Visiting Scheme in Swanage to counteract loneliness and isolation of people in our community. Alan Dominey said, "It is encouraging that the ill effects of loneliness and isolation are now more widely recognised with a Minister for Loneliness being appointed. And on the ground, as our work becomes better known we are getting regular requests for visitors." So his appeal is for more volunteers to visit and befriend people. In their recent Newsletter, Debbie Durnford of Purbeck Social Services, said, "It is a great relief to have this service. Befriending makes a huge difference in people's lives giving both the visited and the visitor something to look forward to; something to raise their mood." For more information about becoming a visitor or about being visited email swanage@linkinglives.uk

Swanage Foodbank is a place where donated food is distributed to those in need or in an emergency. It offers a confidential and friendly service for the less fortunate members of our community and especially those in food poverty. At the presentation Pauline Werba said that many people in Purbeck have been hit by the economic downturn and are experiencing a crisis not of their making such as changes in benefit and a myriad of debt problems through divorce, sickness, bereavement, redundancy, rising food and fuel prices and low wages all leading to a rise in people turning to the Foodbank. She went on to say that the Foodbank has helped over 500 families already this year. For donations look for the large blue donation bins in the three main supermarkets in Swanage and food collection boxes at the back of Worth and Langton Churches.

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance is a registered charity, established to provide fast relief from sickness and injury for the people of Dorset and Somerset, by the provision of an air ambulance. We bring the hospital to the patient ... quickly, wherever you are. In a competition a couple of years ago to name our mascot the winning name was DASHER. Dorset and Somerset Helicopter Emergency Rescue. That pretty much sums up what we do. At the meeting Lorraine Ottewill added some facts, "We receive no direct funding from the Government or the National Lottery and rely on the generosity of the public for support. Our operational costs are over £2.5 million a year and the approximate cost per mission is £3,000. Since our launch in 2000 we have flown more than 12,500 missions".

Isolated as we are in Purbeck and with many visitors seeking to enjoy



our wonderful coast we are very much aware of the benefits of this very special service. In Worth they were called out twice in the last year to local residents, one of whom was with us on the night, John Strange the volunteer photographer for the presentations. He explained that even though in the end after his very traumatic accident he was taken overland to hospital, the help given on the ground by the paramedics from the Air Ambulance was amazing. To learn more about this life saving operation visit www.dsairambulance.org.uk

Worth Matravers Village Hall for the installation of a new audio-visual facility to allow the residents and users of our splendid old Village Hall the opportunity to experience high quality projection onto a large drop-down screen to show complete films or make presentations or create any picture show they desire. It will be easy to operate, we are assured, using the latest technology so that if a weekend booking of walkers or Brownies want to show the pictures they have taken during their day out in the countryside, they will be able to present a really professional job. Nick Viney, the Village Hall Chair said, "Our mission is to create the best possible facility we can for the village, for our residents and our hirers and this will go a long way towards meeting the expectations of today's hi-tech users". For more information about the Village Hall go to www.worthmatraversvillagehall.org

The presentation evening began with a glass of wine whilst everybody got to learn a little more about one another and what they are trying to accomplish and they left feeling that whilst they may still have much to do in the pursuit of their goals something very worthwhile has been contributed to their journey.

From left to right – at the back Nick Viney, Chair - Worth Village Hall, Peter Handy, Chair - Worth Fête Committee, Jack Ross Fête Organiser. At the front Alan Dominey Link Visiting Scheme, Lorraine Ottewill, Air Ambulance, Pauline Werba, Swanage Food Bank, Katie Francis & Beverley Chiddle, MyTIME Worth for Young Carers.

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