



## e-Newsletter – Spring 2017

**We're 20!** This year the Rendezvous is celebrating its twentieth anniversary as a charity working with young people in the Sherborne area. We're very proud of the work we do and the real difference we have been making to young peoples' lives and the community since 1997. We don't like to shout about the work we do but hope you'll join us and help us celebrate our achievements. With a small team and an ever-growing demand for support, there's not much time for play but we are going to be celebrating little and often. We hope you'll be seeing a lot more of us and our new 20<sup>th</sup> century motif\* in the months to come at:

- **Picnic in the Park** – Purlieu Meadows - Saturday 17 June
- **Health and Wellbeing Week, Sherborne** – Friends of the Rendezvous @The Post Office - Thursday 22 June – pension day.
- **Summer outreach** - Skate park – Evenings, July – August
- **Young People's Picnic** – Skate park – Saturday 16 September
- **Founders Open Afternoon & Exhibition** – The Rendezvous and Cheap Street Church – Friday 13 October
- **Community drop in** – The Rendezvous and Cheap Street Church – Saturday 14 October
- **Christmas Quiz** – Digby Memorial Hall - Friday 1 December

More details will be available in the future and invitations.

### **Our work with young people...**

**Young Parents in need** – 25% of young parents under 25 in the Sherborne area are vulnerable and isolated and have needs that go beyond the remit of the health visitor team. To address this, we piloted a programme of home visits made in collaboration with the local health visitors. From resolving housing issues and benefits problems, enrolling young mums onto our learning programme and an illiterate partner into one to one tuition so he can read to his young daughter the results have been outstanding. We will resolve immediate problems and then encourage them into our Young Parents Group where they can receive ongoing support and build their own social networks. We are currently looking for funding for our outreach programme.

**Gryphon School** – more and more of our work is now being done outside the centre and we are now providing five hours of individual support to young people at that Gryphon School. The decline in young people's mental health across the country is well known and we are pleased to be welcomed into the school and recognised as being part of the local solution.

**Building self-esteem through the arts** - Thanks to funding from the Rotary Club we commissioned drama professional, Ali Enticott to develop and delivered a programme of workshops to build self-confidence and self-esteem. The first tranche were delivered to Year 10 girls at the Gryphon School and were so successful that a second set have been organised for the summer term.

**English and Maths** – we're delighted that two young people have passed both their Level 2 Maths and English qualifications which meant that one was able to immediately start an apprenticeship.

**Young Volunteer Guardian Trip** – Sherborne Girls alumni and current Oxford University student, Lottie Hayton, has been working with us for over a year. Keen to develop a career in journalism we were delighted to help her build a network of media contacts by taking her to visit the Guardian newspaper in central London to meet war journalist and instigator of the End FGM Media Campaign, Maggie O'Kane, and the inspiring team of journalists and programme managers working with her.

## **Other News**

**The Sherborne Town Mayor** – we were delighted this month to be nominated by Jill Hogben, the new Mayor of Sherborne, as one of the three local charities to benefit from fundraising activities over her term.

**Tom Gibbs' Mammoth Achievement** – Tom Gibbs gave his feet a pounding in May when he ran 101km in hot and hilly, Valencia. He successfully completed the ultra marathon and raised funds for the Rendezvous in the process. For those of you who are local to Sherborne, you may know Tom as Christine Gibbs' son. Christine has been involved with the Rendezvous since the beginning and it's wonderful to see that she has passed on a generous community spirit to her son. Thank you! If you would like to make a retrospective sponsorship donation you can visit Tom's fundraising page on BTmydonate. Donations are accepted until 17 June.

**Looking at numbers** – we haven't yet compiled all our data but can tell you that over the last year we have again worked with over 350 young people. We've achieved some fantastic outcomes keeping young people safe, building resilience, resolving family problems, securing housing; helping them gain Maths and English qualifications that get young men and women to college and in some cases university, as well as supporting others into work and helping them learn to stand on their own two feet. More information will be available through our annual report to be published later in the year.

## **News from the Friends of the Rendezvous**

**Wessex String Orchestra – Sunday 25 June at 3pm at Cheap Street Church.** The orchestra are very kindly raising funds for the Rendezvous – do support it if you can. They will be performing Parry, an English Suite, Handel Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 1, Satie Gymnopédie No 1 and 2, Mahler Adagietto. Tickets (including tea) - £9 in advance from the TIC or £10 on the door.

**October Jazz** – do make a note in your diary for the ever popular Café Stompers who will be performing another concert on our behalf in Cheap Street Church on **Friday 27 October**.

**Coffee Mornings – Tuesdays and Fridays, 10-12noon** – don't forget to drop in for coffee and cake when you're next in town. The coffee mornings are an important source of income for us raising an average of £5,000 every year.

**Charlton Horethorne Churches Together Lent Lunch** group made us their beneficiary for the second time and raised the sum of £435. This is an indication of the widespread support we have in the local community and we're grateful to Christine Gibbs for talking to them about the difference the Rendezvous makes to young people's lives.

**Do you want to make the Rendezvous the beneficiary of your event?** If so, we can help you with things like promotion, the loan of donation boxes and of course information to share. Do get in touch with Bob Eccleshall ([robert.eccleshall@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.eccleshall@btinternet.com))

Alternatively you would like to make an online donation to the Rendezvous then visit [BTmydonate](#) and search for the Rendezvous and you will find all the information you need to make a regular online donation.

**For more information contact:**

**The Rendezvous** – Helen Da Silva Wood – 01935 814496 / [hdasilvawood@therendezvous.org.uk](mailto:hdasilvawood@therendezvous.org.uk)

**Friends of the Rendezvous** – Prof Bob Eccleshall / [robert.eccleshall@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.eccleshall@btinternet.com) or drop in and see him at the Tuesday and Friday coffee mornings (10-12)

\*designed for us by local design agency, the Wordshop.