



Damian Hinds
MP for East Hampshire

News release

June 2010
For immediate release

Celebrating East Hampshire's army of volunteers



Volunteering is a big activity in East Hampshire, and more new volunteers are coming forward. In the year to March 2010, the Community First East Hampshire Volunteer Centre responded to 666 volunteering enquiries from individuals and local organisations, and 78 volunteers were placed in local organisations. If you value an hour of volunteering just at the minimum wage rate (probably an under estimation in real terms), the equivalent economic value of these volunteers across the district was at least £89,000. Of course their human, caring value is much greater.

East Hampshire's MP, Damian Hinds, was one of the 50 MPs from around the country who gathered last week to say 'Thank You' to Britain's thousands of volunteers as part of the national Volunteers' Week celebrations.

Damian said: "We are immensely lucky in East Hampshire to have so many dedicated volunteers who do so much good work. They deserve a lot of thanks. I hope Volunteers' Week will also encourage even more people to get involved, and I'd encourage them to contact Community First locally on 01730 710017 or have a look at www.do-it.org.uk."

Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England, said: "I am pleased to see that so many MPs recognise the importance of volunteering and have taken the time to come here and thank the volunteers in their local communities. The country faces many challenges in the current economic climate and volunteering will have a central role to play in ensuring that we emerge stronger and more resilient"

Volunteering England co-ordinates Volunteers Week in England; the Week celebrates the millions of volunteers who regularly contribute to society, whilst inspiring others to get involved too. More information about the Week can be found at www.volunteersweek.org.uk.

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Notes to editors:

- Volunteers' Week is an initiative of the volunteer development agencies working across the UK: Volunteering England, Wales Council for Voluntary Action, Volunteer Now and Volunteer Development Scotland.
- Volunteering England is an independent charity and membership organisation, committed to supporting, enabling and celebrating volunteering in all its diversity

Photo attached: Damian with Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England

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For media enquiries about Volunteering England, contact Kimberley Rowley on 0207 520 8932 or email Kimberley.rowley@volunteeringengland.org

Picture to follow separately by email

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