



Mayor and Guildford Borough Council recognise Community Angels with award

For the second year running we are thrilled to have been awarded the Mayor's Award for Service to the Community. Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Richard Billington introduced the award, now in its 18th year "which recognises the contribution of people who have gone out of their way to improve the lives of others, foster good relations and encourage positive community spirit."

"The one thing which links the majority of the winners who are based in our borough, is their voluntary work, and how they have achieved so much by giving their own time so freely and selflessly." Mayor Billington said he was "delighted to announce our group recipients as The Community Angels Project, run by Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy, which offers support to vulnerable people to reconnect with their community and saw a 300% increase in demand for their services during the pandemic."

Leader of Guildford Borough Council Cllr Joss Bigmore said award winners showed "Their selfless dedication to helping others has been inspiration to us all and kept the borough going through this unprecedented times. They deserve the thanks and gratitude of everyone in the borough for everything that they have done. One of the qualities which has shone through in many of our award winners has been their humility - their surprise at being honoured. They see it simply doing their bit to help their community but it's far more than that".

Following the award Community Angel Coordinator Anne Thorton said "We are delighted and honoured that our Community Angels project has been awarded the Mayor's Award for Service to the Community 2021. Community Angels couldn't exist without our fantastic, committed and caring volunteers, and we are so grateful for the time that they have given (and continue to give) to support and encourage people who have really struggled with loneliness and isolation over the past year."

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COMMUNITY

CARE

COMPASSION

for people in our town

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Community Angels awarded the Mayor's Award for Service to the Community 2021

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Congratulations to all the other nominees and winners honoured at the online award ceremony on 10 May. You can watch the ceremony, including songs from music group, the Barricade Boys on this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_p5zHCjKM with our award coming at around 1hour and 57 minutes in. As the Mayor said that evening "your stories confirm the wonderful sense of community that we have here in Guildford"

Our thanks also go to the awards sponsor the County Club represented at the ceremony by General manager, Kevin Lorimer. Thank you to all our amazing Angels who have generously given their time this year to serve the community and for the Mayor in honouring us in this way.



GTCC HQ moves to Christ Church

In April 2021, GTCC moved to a new office location, leaving the YMCA after a long lease of around 10 years. Our new home is with Christ Church on Waterden Road in Church House. The move is felt across the staff team and the board of trustees as a good and exciting development. The wonderful Chris Church staff team have welcomed us very warmly and we are all thoroughly enjoying the new situation. A huge thank you also goes out to the GTCC staff, board members, and volunteers that helped out with the move, giving their time to ferry office furniture across Guildford town centre.

Parallel to this, Street Angels have a new permanent base of patrols at St Mary's church, and are thrilled to be out on the streets of Guildford once more, though in smaller numbers than usual. We have once again been welcomed back to the busy streets with open arms by our local partners as well as the public. Our first night back out was May 22nd and spirits were high in the town centre with many happy lollypop recipients amongst the students and young folk.



WANTED

GTCC are looking for some camera equipment to make some promotional material. Particularly looking for a DSLR camera, and a gimbal. If you may be able to help, please email ben.pitt@gtcc.org.uk or call him at 07717 876 853

Our new IT system is in place and staff will be receiving on going training from Alok Agarwal, managing director of 3rd sector IT, as part of their charity support work.

Things are beginning to look more 'normal' as there are no curfews upon the town centre venues this time around and queues into some places are being seen again. The local organisations in Guildford are once again working very hard to ensure the necessary COVID requirements are being met, and the Police continue their ongoing efforts to keep Guildford safe for the public.



Community Angels: back to face-to-face befriending – at last.

After a long winter in lockdown, a chilly wet spring did little to dampen the enthusiasm of our Community Angels to resume face-to-face befriending. The weather didn't favour outdoor visits and springtime walks, but thanks to vaccinations and the easing of social restrictions, people are at last able to meet, talk and enjoy one another's company. Anne and Susanna have been busy visiting clients for in-home assessments and matching them for support, and many volunteers and clients who have been talking by telephone over the past months have finally met. We are glad to see various community activities starting up again and offering opportunities for some of our clients to engage with longer term sources of support and friendship, with the encouragement of their Community Angel.

We are continuing to receive a steady stream of referrals and the impact of the past year on loneliness and isolation, particularly in the areas of mental health and bereavement, is painfully clear.

We were delighted to see so many volunteers at our recent round of volunteer support sessions. As Community Angels work alone, rather than in teams, these sessions are a great opportunity for our volunteers to meet each other and share ideas and experiences. We are also excited to be launching a monthly volunteer drop-in in late June and look forward to seeing some of our Community Angels in person then. We are so grateful to our volunteers for their time, commitment and the care that they show to those in need.

Our St Saviour's Hub also continues to grow. We will be holding our next introductory training session for new Community Angels in June, and another in the autumn. We are always in need of more volunteers to help us reach out to our neighbours who are struggling with loneliness and social isolation, so if you would like to learn more about being a Community Angel, please get in touch on 07925 799309 or communityangels@gtcc.org.uk.

Pictured below staff members Susanna Hoar (L) and Anne Thornton (R)





Out & About
 We've all missed being able to go out and about with Street Angels during successive lockdowns but in May we managed to start putting teams back out on the road and we were delighted that so many people were pleased to see us there again.





GTCC staff become Mental Health First Aiders

During the Covid pandemic the staff team have taken the opportunity to enhance their training. Ben along with a couple of our Street Angels took a first aid course. Suzette Jones from Clewer Initiative took the team through mental health, Homelessness, modern day slavery and then did an online training session open to all our Street Angels on County Line. For this training we were delighted to be joined by two of our partners in Guildford, Jane Lyons the chair of Pub Watch and Pete Lambert from Experience Guildford.



Noelle, Anne, Susanna and Ben are now accredited Mental Health First Aiders. The Community Angels team have appreciated a grant from Surrey County Council to enable them to attend this training. It is designed to spot the symptoms of mental health issues, offer initial help and guide a person towards support and help tackle such problems more effectively. This training was delivered in Guildford through Oakleaf Enterprise.



GTCC volunteers man help desk

GTCC and volunteers from several churches in Guildford were able to join forces with Experience Guildford to provide a help desk at the top of Guildford High Street on Wednesday mornings during May and June. As Covid restrictions started to lift and more people were vaccinated, we were pleased to be part of this initiative. There was support for anyone who may be feeling overwhelmed. Many people have been isolating for over a year and it can be difficult to come out into a busy shopping



area. We highlighted the many safe spaces that have been offered throughout Guildford ranging from Yvonne Arnald theatre, M&S to several banks. These places provided a quiet place where people can sit down and have some support if required.

It was lovely to chat to the people passing by and also flag up our Community Angels work.

'Driving' funds for GTCC

Street Angel Peter Samuel recently pictured outside Hankley Common Golf Course where he is currently the club captain. Our thanks to Peter for choosing Street Angel/ GTCC as his Captains Charity of the Year. Let's hope donations take off down the fairway!





Fundraising news - Pilgrims to Farnham

After the challenges of 2020 when all of our fundraising plans were thrown into disarray we have had an encouraging start to 2021. We are most grateful to St Saviours Church for financial support of a new Community Angel Hub and to the many churches and individuals who continue to faithfully support our work – thank you! Our Community Angels team have appreciated a grant from Surrey County Council to enable them to attend Mental Health First Aid training (see page 5). We are also delighted to have received generous grants from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey for our Street Angel project as they return to their regular duties, and from the Loseley Christian Trust to support our work with vulnerable people in our community.

Looking ahead, we now have two events in the fundraising calendar for 2021. On **Saturday 26 June, 7.30pm, Guildford Chamber Choir** will be performing a summer concert at the United Reform Church with music from Britten and Vaughan Williams to celebrate their 40th anniversary, with a retiring collection in aid of GTCC – do join Noelle Coe and Ben Pitt at this evening event, visit <https://www.guildfordchamberchoir.org.uk/> for tickets.

We are thrilled that we have again been chosen as the **Charity of the Year for Guildford Walkfest**, an annual walking festival which takes place in September. All GTCC volunteers, staff, friends and supporters are invited to join us on a beautiful sponsored **"Angel Walk" on Saturday 18 September 2021**, taking in a section of the Pilgrims Way from Guildford to Farnham – approximately 20km. This will present a wonderful opportunity to spend time with others involved in different ways with GTCC whilst enjoying the stunning Surrey Hills, do please join us, you will be most welcome!. Please pop Saturday 18 September in your diaries – more information to follow.

Louise Kenyon - GTCC Trustee (Photos from our 2019 fund raising walk from Guildford to Dorking)





Farewell to Prince Philip

We were very sorry to hear of the passing of HRH Prince Philip in April, and sent our sincerest condolences via social media to his whole family. We are very grateful for his lifelong selfless service to our nation and the moments he took to hear about the work of our Street Angels on a visit to Guildford, a few years ago. Pictured here with former co-ordinator Lin Haynes and GTCC Trustee, Carol Clutton.

volunteerchaplains

News from Noelle

distanced meeting in May. It was great to be able to different chaplaincies have weathered during lockdown. We were joined by Rev Paul Morris (pictured right) who has recently moved to Guildford from Derby where he developed this type of voluntary work from an initial handful of chaplaincies to over 160 in a few years. Like us he had found that people are exploring spirituality but not sure what shape that takes while others really need a non-judgmental listening ear. We were all very encouraged with his input and delighted to know that he will be one of our GTCC champions with a special interest in chaplaincy.

In all our projects we seek to build up community and support for our volunteers, especially when it involves lone, confidential working. We are always open to people making enquires, not only about how we may help but also how you may volunteer. All our staff are happy to talk about any of our projects so please do feel free to get in touch.

A number of our Volunteer chaplains were able to have a face to face socially hear each other news and how the



Did you know GTCC has its own channel on YouTube? Over the years we have contributed to many radio, TV and local media productions. So we have recently launched a channel with some of these recordings. It also has special messages from our Patrons and when we led the Virtual Walk of witness on Good Friday.

To find out more go to Youtube and search on GTCCMedia to find out channel. Then please like us and subscribe.

Ways to give to GTCC

SMS Text

To send a donation by text via your mobile provider please send an SMS message starting with the word ANGEL followed by your donation amount of either 5, 10 or 20, e.g. ANGEL10 would donate £10 Text Giving to the number 70085

amazonsmile.co.uk is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected charity. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk from the web browser on your computer or mobile device each time you shop on Amazon. Choose Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy as your charity and 0.5% of purchases will go to GTCC. Full details can be found on this link [About AmazonSmile](#)

GTCC and all our projects rely on generous giving from the local church community, organisations and individual donations. However, the real support comes from people getting involved either by giving their time volunteering on one of our projects, or dedicating time to pray for our town and the work we do. We need your support in order to continue this valuable work in our community.

It will cost around £90,000 in 2021 to run all of our three community projects. Outside of our generous church donors, much of our income comes from individual supporters who have set up monthly standing orders with Gift Aid declarations, so we can claim back the tax on their kind giving.

If you can help us out in this way, have links with local businesses which might like to nominate us as their chosen charity or want to see how you can support us in other ways please visit our giving page here:

<https://gtcc.org.uk/donate/>

Gift Aided Regular giving

To find out more about how to give electronically and set up a regular gift download a Gift Aid donation form here: <https://gtcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/GTCC-Donors-Gift-Aid-Declaration.pdf>

Further information is here: https://gtcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2018_GTCC_Aid_Form.pdf

GTCC EVENT DIARY 2021

Saturday 26 June, 7.30pm, Guildford Chamber Choir concert at the URC Church, Portsmouth Road. See page 6 for details

Saturday 18 September Fundraising Angel Walk, from Guildford to Farnham

Autumn Angel Training Sessions, tbc

Sunday 7 November 6.30pm

Commissioning Service at Millmead Baptist Church

For further updates and to meet our Trustees and wonderful team please check our web site

www.gtcc.org.uk

Next issue of Hark is planned for Autumn 2021
Let us know if you have a story to share!

GTCC Registered Charity Number **1126056**

You can also help by following us on Facebook or Twitter accounts detailed below and sharing our posts with friends and family from time to time to raise awareness



Guildford Street Angels
Guildford Community Angels



@AngelsGFD
@ComAngelsGFD