

Community Matters

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Bobby Scheme 'here to help'

A charity that helps elderly and vulnerable people to stay safe in their own homes wants people to know it's still here to help, despite the challenges of COVID-19. Find out more on page two.



Supporting young people

ExxonMobil Fawley has pledged its support for young people and small enterprises across the Solent area by joining the Transfer to Transform initiative. Read more on page three.



Online applications open

Fawley's 2021 apprenticeship programme opens for online applications this month. Turn to page three to find out what you need to do to register your interest.



Equipment boost for group

An inclusive exercise group is hoping to expand its numbers with the purchase of a vital new piece of equipment, helped by ExxonMobil Fawley. See the back page for the full story.

'We're still here to help'

"We're still here and ready to help the elderly and vulnerable." That's the message from a Hampshire charity that, like thousands of others, has had to deal with the challenges of COVID-19 this year.

The Blue Lamp Trust is a non-profit organisation established in 2010 that aims to protect elderly and vulnerable people from crime, fraud, and domestic abuse, helping them to feel safe in their own homes. The trust is based at the Eastleigh premises of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire Constabulary.

At the heart of the trust's work is the Bobby Scheme, a practical service that brings peace of mind to elderly and vulnerable people and those affected by crimes such as burglary or domestic abuse. The team of police-vetted fitters install audible glass guard alarms, locks, spyholes, and door chains. They also fit smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and carry out crime prevention and fire safety surveys. In addition, the fitters provide advice on how to recognise, and avoid, scams and computer fraud. The service is completely free.

Like most other UK charities, the Blue Lamp Trust has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, with many staff placed on furlough amid a big drop in referrals. Business Administration Manager Emma Burt said: "The Bobby Scheme was significantly affected as the virus began to take hold in March. Even before the lockdown was announced a third of our appointments were cancelled by concerned clients. Sixty-six per cent of the people we see are vulnerable due to their age or health and were understandably worried about having people visit their homes."

Senior Bobby Scheme Fitter Mark Scovell was one of the staff able to carry on working through the pandemic. He said: "It's been a tough few months for everyone and the lockdown and restrictions have had a big impact on the Bobby Scheme. During April we carried out 29 home visits and 44 telephone assessments compared with 192 visits in April 2019. We've also seen a big difference in the type of referrals we've had. For example, domestic abuse usually makes up approximately 16 per cent of our visits. Since April, however, this has increased to 39 per cent."

Mark said there was a noticeable increase in scams during the pandemic, although the number of burglaries fell. He said: "With more people at home, there has been a decrease in break-ins. However, what we have seen is an increase in people trying to take advantage of the pandemic to trick people into handing over money either in person or over the phone. That's why an important part of our job is to provide the advice and guidance people need to keep themselves safe and remind them that the risks are still there."

Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, the message from the Blue Lamp Trust remains resolutely clear. Mark said: "We really want people to know that we're still here to provide the practical support and reassurance that is so important to elderly and vulnerable people. We still want people to pick up the phone when they have a problem or access our online referral service. The virus may still be here but so are we."

- To find out more about the Blue Lamp Trust and the Bobby Scheme, visit **bluelamptrust.org.uk** or call **0300 777 0157**.

Fawley reinforces its support for Bobby Scheme

ExxonMobil Fawley is a long-time supporter of the Blue Lamp Trust, having made its first contribution in September 2014. Since then, the site has donated about £35,000 to the charity, primarily towards the Bobby Scheme.

Alison Jones, ExxonMobil Fawley Community Affairs Manager, said: "Our association with the Blue Lamp Trust goes back many years and we are proud to continue to offer our support in these difficult times, including with our most recent contribution of £5,000 towards the Bobby Scheme. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on society and particularly on elderly and vulnerable people, and so it's vital now more than ever that they have access to the help they need to keep them safe."

Below: Mark Scovell with Fawley Refinery Manager Simon Downing and Fawley Chemicals Manager Richard Henderson.



Pictured from left: Bobby Scheme Fitters Kevin Lloyd-Spencer, Peter Lemon, and Steve O'Halloran with Senior Fitter Mark Scovell.





Fawley supports Transfer to Transform initiative

ExxonMobil Fawley has pledged its support for young people and small enterprises across the Solent area by becoming the most recent large employer to join the ever-growing Transfer to Transform initiative.

Led by the Solent Apprenticeship Hub, Transfer to Transform encourages large employers to make a pledge using their levy funds to cover the costs of new apprenticeship training for smaller businesses. This support is more crucial than ever following the COVID-19 pandemic, with the campaign hoping to bring a major boost to apprenticeship activity across the region.

Having supported the Government apprenticeship programme for decades, ExxonMobil is pledging £85,000 of its apprenticeship levy funding to Transfer to Transform. The funds will be distributed to smaller, non-levy paying businesses across the Solent region in a wide range of sectors, including business administration and engineering. This results in a huge savings opportunity for small businesses in the community and provides a much-needed investment in young people and skills.

As one of the largest employers in the region, ExxonMobil has joined the Solent Apprenticeship Hub's Transfer to Transform initiative as a "pledger", joining B&Q, Coopervision, Utilita, National Air Traffic Services (NATS), Southampton City Council, and Portsmouth City Council. ExxonMobil Fawley's pledge brings the total Transfer to Transform pledge money to £850,000, to be used for apprenticeship training throughout the Solent.

Southampton City Council is the lead partner for the Solent Apprenticeship Hub. Councillor Darren Paffey, Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, said: "Through Transfer to Transform we expect to see a much-needed boost to apprenticeship provision across the region, and this will strengthen the 'bounce back' of our businesses after lockdown. It makes absolute sense to ensure that apprenticeship levy funds go straight to building up our local businesses and apprentices. I commend every employer that has supported the campaign to date."

Beth Varndell, ExxonMobil Fawley Training Manager said: "ExxonMobil Fawley is thrilled to be able to support the Solent Apprenticeship Hub with the Transfer to Transform Scheme. We very much hope that our pledge will help put young people on the ladder to a successful career by offering them the opportunity to begin a brand-new apprenticeship.

"In addition, we are delighted that Transfer to Transform will give much-needed support to local businesses and educational providers such as Southampton Engineering Training Association (SETA), and Brockenhurst College, which we hope will deliver some of these new apprenticeship opportunities. I look forward to seeing how the funding is implemented and the benefits it brings for people and companies."

- To find out more about Transfer to Transform, go to solentapprenticeshiphub.com/transfer-to-transform.



The 2021 Apprenticeship Programme opens for online applications this month.

Apprenticeship programme opens for applications

Fawley's 2021 apprenticeship programme opens for online applications this month, despite the challenges brought about by COVID-19.

Kristina Thompson, Maintenance Apprenticeship Supervisor at Fawley, said: "As we all know only too well, the pandemic has changed the way we do things at home, in the community, and at work. Because of COVID-19, holding a large-scale apprenticeship open evening is just not an option this year due to the virus. Instead, our focus will be on making sure we can provide as much information and support as we can for the 2021 programme online."

The apprenticeship programme typically receives between 250 and 300 applications each year and Kristina expects a similar number for 2021. She said: "Becoming an ExxonMobil apprentice is a fantastic opportunity; lots of our employees began as apprentices and have gone on to have long and successful careers. Although we can't meet potential applicants for the apprenticeship programme at one of our open evenings this year, we hope there will be just as much interest as there has been previously."

- The 2021 ExxonMobil Apprenticeship Programme will open for online applications on 25 November. The closing date is 14 February 2021. More details about the programme and the application process can be found at exxonmobil-fawley.co.uk.



Equipment boost for inclusive group

An inclusive exercise group is hoping to expand its numbers with the purchase of a vital new piece of equipment, helped by a financial contribution from ExxonMobil Fawley.

The Gang Warily Inclusive Group caters for people with a variety of disabilities and helps them to take part in exercise in a friendly and enjoyable environment. The group is based at Gang Warily Recreation and Community Centre and, prior to COVID-19, ran for two hours on a Monday and Wednesday.

Steve Postlethwaite, Clerk to Fawley Parish Council, explained: "Both sessions were well attended but, unfortunately, we had to limit numbers due to the equipment we had. With the majority of our clients wheelchair based, one of the main pieces of equipment that they come to use is our THERA-Trainer. This can work both arms and legs providing as much assistance as necessary to help maintain strength and coordination while also strengthening the user's weaker side. We used to have two pieces of this equipment but one of them is now extremely old and is not fit for purpose."

Now, thanks to £5,000 community funding secured by Josh Bond, Centre and Sports Development Manager at Gang Warily, and a further contribution of £750 from ExxonMobil Fawley, the inclusive group is closer to being able to purchase a new THERA-Trainer ready for when members can hopefully return to exercise later this year. Josh said: "This project has been part funded by Sport

Clockwise from top: Gang Warily Recreation and Community Centre; Josh Bond, Centre and Sports Development Manager at Gang Warily; The new THERA-Trainer will give members of the Gang Warily Inclusive Group a much-needed boost when they return to exercise.

England's Toyota Parasport Fund and, with ExxonMobil Fawley's contribution towards the remaining shortfall, we should now be able to proceed with purchasing this new equipment.

"Due to the current COVID-19 situation and the restrictions, a second THERA-trainer is needed now more than ever to ensure all our wheelchair users have access to the equipment they need. We are excited to get the Gang Warily Inclusive Group up and running again and, when we can do that safely, this equipment will be vital towards restarting and expanding the group. I would like to thank ExxonMobil Fawley for this kind donation, it will give the group members an extra boost when they come back to Gang Warily."

Angharad Vaughan, ExxonMobil Fawley Community Affairs Adviser, said: "The inclusive group provides a particularly important service to the community, both in terms of physical fitness and on a social and wellbeing level. We are delighted to make this contribution towards a new THERA-Trainer and hope that it won't be long until the group is operating once more."



Alarm testing

Last month saw the annual testing of the public warning alarm that would sound in the event of an emergency at ExxonMobil Fawley.

The alarm is tested every year on the first Tuesday in October at 2.30pm and again at 7pm. Alison Jones, Community Affairs Manager at ExxonMobil Fawley, explained: "Like many other UK industrial and manufacturing sites that deal with hazardous substances, ExxonMobil Fawley must follow guidance set out in the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015. In line with this, we have a public warning system that would be sounded in the unlikely event of an emergency on site.

"The COMAH alarm is regularly silently tested on site, but it's important that we also test it audibly every year. This is advertised in local newspapers, on local radio, on the Fawley Online website, and on social media so that, as far as possible, we can make the local community aware of what to expect. The alarm is tested in two sections – a two-tone warble for one minute and then a continuous siren that signals the all-clear has been made. The weather conditions and wind direction may mean that the alarm can be heard outside of the designated public information zone, but members of the public should not be concerned."

The Fawley site also has other alarm systems that are sounded internally from time to time. These may sometimes be heard outside the fence line but do not require any action from local residents. Alison said: "The internal alarms sound different to the public warning system and will not be as loud. However, anyone who is unsure can always call us on 02380 892511. To listen to a recording of the public warning alarm, call freephone **0800 1693 597** or go to **fawleyonline.org.uk**."

Esso, ExxonMobil Chemical, and Nalco at Fawley, regularly issue safety information to local householders and businesses that fall within the Fawley South Public Information Zone (PIZ). An information pack is distributed to residents living within the PIZ containing an Emergency Instructions Card as well as a brochure providing a description of the activities on the Fawley site. You can find out if you are in the Public Information Zone and see a copy of the information pack contents at **fawleyonline.org.uk**. Any updates about operations at the Fawley site will also be posted on the website. In addition, you can follow ExxonMobil Fawley on Instagram at **ExxonMobil_Fawley** and also via **twitter.com/exxonmobil_uk**.

Please note that simultaneous with the testing of the ExxonMobil Fawley COMAH alarm, Fawley North Industries, which consist of Tradebe and GEO Specialities, will also test their alarm.

One of the public warning alarms at ExxonMobil Fawley.



You can see what is happening at Fawley and across our organisation

exxonmobil.co.uk - Our UK website

Visit **fawleyonline.org.uk** for information on COMAH and operational updates

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