

**PRESS RELEASE: February 2010**

## SURREY COMMUNITY ACTION CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE



Surrey Community Action was in party mood to celebrate 60 years in business as one of the most reputed charities in Surrey. Lord Lieutenant. Mrs Sarah Goad, President of the organisation, was delighted to cut the birthday cake. Trustees, staff and Volunteers, past and present joined representatives from Surrey County Council and fellow tenants to reflect on the changes over the past 60 years.

Starting life as Surrey Council of Social Service on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1950, the aim was to work with voluntary organisations principally in the rural areas furthering health, relieving poverty, distress and sickness and pursuing any objects deemed by law to be charitable. Obviously Surrey Community Action has changed over the years but Chairman Tim Prideaux said, 'We still support and develop voluntary and community activities in Surrey. This year we will have helped over 700 different groups'.

A brief history of the organisation has been produced by volunteer researcher Judith Johnson. The price is £5, available from Anne Barry on 01483 459292 ext 216.

Judith was able to look through Surrey Community Action's archives to find details of the first chair, Miss Kathleen Webb Johnson, OBE who saw active service in the First World War; photographs and references to the Village of the Year winners as well as various training programmes.

Also present were two of Surrey Community Action's longest serving volunteers, Roy and Phyllis Pike. Phyllis used to be employed as their bookkeeper until she retired in 1986, to return the next week as a volunteer to run the charity Christmas Card Fairs. Phyllis still helps each week writing cheques and helping their busy finance department.

Current CEO Jean Roberts-Jones said "It's wonderful to celebrate our achievements; we don't take enough time to celebrate our success. Let's hope our successors will be looking back on today's activities with a smile in 25 or even 60 years time."

Surrey Community Action is a registered charity which works to strengthen and support the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) across Surrey through access to advice, training, funding and advocacy. Surrey Community Action actively encourages volunteering and the details of local volunteer centres in Surrey can be found on our website at: [www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm](http://www.surreyca.org.uk/vb.htm)