



Volunteer Centre

Warwick District

VOLUNTEER CENTRE – WHO'S WHO

The Volunteer Centre supports, promotes and develops volunteering in the local area but who does what in the Volunteer Centre to meet these objectives?

Chris Lancaster is the Volunteer Centre Manager, and has been in post for nearly 10 years and her passion is best practice in volunteer management. If you want to know something/anything about volunteering, Chris probably knows the answer!

So, if you have a problem, contact Chris for a one-to-one appointment.

Chris is supported by an Admin worker, Gill Jones, and a team of volunteers.

Gill Jones, who until September was a Volunteer Team Leader, has responsibilities that include maintaining all your volunteer opportunities on our database and liaising with volunteers looking for opportunities.

Lee Taylor, Volunteer Team Leader, supports everything “techy” with the Volunteer Centre. He also wrote the Faith Resources Directory website Fair – which can be accessed via www.cvswd.org.uk.

Margaret Bailes, Volunteer Recruitment Advisor, supports organisations who are having issues with recruitment of volunteers.

Edie O'Brien, Volunteer Display Assistant, arranges all volunteer recruitment displays in the district.

Sue Simmonds, Admin Assistant (Marketing), collates all volunteer recruitment literature from organisations.

In the next issue Gill Jones will be publishing the results from the Impact Questionnaire that she devised and many of you completed.



RISK TOOLKIT AVAILABLE FOR FREE

By popular demand, Volunteering England have reprinted the Risk Toolkit and are offering a maximum of ten copies per organisation. ***The Risk Toolkit: How to take care of risk in volunteering - A guide for organisations*** is a comprehensive guide to risk management in relation to volunteers.

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Projects+and+initiatives/volunteeringandriskmanagement/Risk+Toolkit/Risk+Toolkit+order+form.htm>





SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE VOLUNTEERING FORUM (SWVF)

The next meeting followed by workshop of SWVF will take place in the New Year on **Tuesday, 15 January 2008** from 9.30 am -12.30 pm (followed by lunch) and will take place at the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre in Leamington.

The meeting, followed by the workshop, is open to the full membership and is entitled "Lone Working". Being safe is paramount in this day and age and lone working can happen to anyone.

***If you would like to attend the meeting and workshops please contact
Chris Lancaster on 0845 051 1172.***

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE VOLUNTEERING FORUM (SWVF) Membership Benefits

If you are a Volunteer Coordinator/Organiser (*or just happen to have managing volunteers tagged onto your job description!*) this is your chance to:

- meet with other people bi-monthly working in South Warwickshire facing similar challenges/issues
- share experience and expertise in volunteer management and related issues
- get up to date with latest volunteering developments
- focus on specific volunteering issues through regular training and or workshops chosen by the members
- find out more about CVS and Volunteer Centre services and how you can access them
- access support for organisers, who in turn, will provide support for their volunteers

*If you are interested in becoming a member of this Forum
or would like more information please contact:*

**Chris Lancaster, Co-ordinator of SWVF,
(C/o CVS – Warwick District Volunteer Centre)
Tel: 0845 051 1172 Email: clancaster@cvswd.org.uk**

“LOCAL PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE LOCALLY”



Val Chambers

My name is Val Chambers and for the past two years I have been a volunteer at the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre (BHLC) in Leamington Spa. I am unable to work due to ill health and see this as my way of putting something of myself back into the local community.

I enjoy volunteering very much because at BHLC there is a real sense of belonging, it is a very comfortable and volunteer orientated place to be, but also community focused.

The staff and other volunteers here are very friendly and BHLC itself is warm and welcoming creating a very relaxing atmosphere.

When I first started as a regular user of BHLC some three years ago I could not use a computer, and had little or no confidence in myself at all. However the IT manager who was here at the time took me under her wing so to speak, and helped me to overcome my fears, and anxieties. I have since achieved three levels in Computer Technology with Learn Direct courses, this I have found to be invaluable in today's computer generated world, I am forever grateful to her for believing in me and my abilities.

I have gained in confidence so much since I first plucked up the courage to walk into BHLC.

Due to my new found confidence and knowledge I am now able to help support other volunteers who may turn to me for help and advice. I believe that I am very approachable and completely committed to supporting my fellow volunteers. I am never intrusive but the volunteers seem to be at ease with me. My proudest moment has been to become a volunteer at BHLC and be part of a close team that has developed there.

There are many different ways to become involved in volunteering and the one part I enjoy is the fundraising. We have held various activities to help promote BHLC and all that it has to offer to the local community. We have raised money with various raffles and also a parachute jump. I would recommend that anyone who has a few hours to spare consider becoming a volunteer as it is such a valuable and worthwhile occupation in which to become involved in.

My motto would be “never quit no matter how hard or how bad things get, take one day at a time and live for today”.

Val will be undertaking community development training over the next few months and we will return in the summer to find out how she is getting on.

NEW REPORT PROVIDES STRONGEST EVER EVIDENCE OF IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERING

A new report providing overwhelming evidence that volunteering affects key areas of government policy has been launched today by Volunteering England. ***Volunteering Works*** a publication from the Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR), brings together for the first time the best evidence that demonstrates the positive impact of volunteering in five key policy areas: development; safer and stronger communities; social inclusion; quality of life and lifelong learning.

To view the report visit

http://www.volunteering.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4D138A1D-022E-4570-9866-B8E3A4F86C20/0/Final_Volunteering_Works.pdf



VOLUNTEER MANAGERS FEEL WORK GOES UNRECOGNIZED

Most volunteer managers feel they don't receive enough recognition for their work and lack the opportunity for career development, according to new research.

The survey of 200 volunteer managers from around the UK by the Association of Volunteer Managers (AVM) was published on 1st November to coincide with Volunteer Manager Appreciation Day.

Whereas 69% say their line managers understand the challenges they face, 57% say their roles have a low status. 54% feel the element of their jobs that entails managing volunteers is an afterthought in their job descriptions.

The main cause for concern for 76% of respondents is the lack of a clear career development path. 45% feel there is a lack of suitable training and 64% say the emphasis for some programmes is on recruiting a certain number of volunteers, rather than finding the right people for the tasks.

"Most of us fell into the role by chance, but think it's a great job and would like to see it made easier for others to get into it," said Debbie Usiskin, one of the founders of AVM.

"The survey shows that most of those who are volunteer managers are not planning to move on to something else, but are in it to stay.

"We formed AVM because we felt that volunteer managers needed a voice and someone to campaign for more clarity and access to specialised training."

Justin Davis Smith, Acting Chief Executive of Volunteering England, said: "Volunteer managers play a key role in inspiring, recruiting and supporting people who want to change society for the better, but their contributions are all too often overlooked and underestimated, as highlighted in today's research."

For more information about how AVM supports people who manage volunteers visit www.volunteermanagers.org.uk.

TIMEBANK launches new website

www.volunteerGenie.org.uk is designed to help charities use the power of the media to **recruit volunteers**. The site reveals how PR and advertising campaigns are a vital tool for inspiring people to volunteer and shows how you don't need a big budget to achieve big results.

Visitors to the website can access free guides to devising a canny media strategy, a round up of the latest research on what makes people volunteer, insider tips on what journalists want from charities and a section dedicated to explaining how to reach potential volunteers. For inspiration, there are volunteer recruitment campaign case studies from the likes of the National Blood Service, Special Constables, Contact the Elderly and British Heart Foundation.

VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEER



workforce hub



find the information you need to attract, develop and keep the staff and volunteers you need.



CONSULTATION ON VOLUNTEER NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the Management of Volunteers are benchmarks of good practice which underpin both the National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQs) in Management of Volunteers.

The UK Workforce Hub is undertaking a project to review and refresh the Management of Volunteer National Occupational Standards to ensure they meet the needs of managers in the voluntary and community sector for the future. The 2003 NOS have been revised and the Workforce Hub has also been exploring a range of interesting, colourful and useful ways of presenting the standards, better to meet the needs of different user groups.

You are invited to take part in a consultation on the draft standards.

Your feedback will be collected and considered within the final standards. To take part, visit www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk/mvnosconsultation. This should take approximately an hour to complete. If you have limited time, but would like to feed into the consultation, contact rebecca.freeman@themsc.org or telephone 07958 134316 on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday mornings.

RESPONSES SHOULD BE SENT BY 18TH JANUARY 2008

Student
Volunteers
Network



A PLACE FOR YOUR STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Student
Volunteers
Network



If you have student volunteers and would like to show them a place where they can interact with other student volunteers – tell them about the new student volunteers network at www.svnetwork.ning.com.

The network is for student volunteers across the country to connect with each other by writing blogs, joining regional or interest groups to ask questions or give advice to other students. The network stems beyond the online forum too, as we have regional co-ordinators who organise volunteering events and meetings for students in your region.

The provisional dates for Know-how 2008 are now available on our website www.cvsd.org.uk

know-how

- NEWSLETTER
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- DATES & DEADLINES
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"Know-how is a bi-monthly newsletter designed for the Voluntary & Community sector in Warwick District"

NEWSLETTER

DATES & DEADLINES

We are always looking for new articles on local groups or events, if you would like to promote your organisation/event in Know-how please email information@cvsd.org.uk

2008	ARTICLE DEADLINE	FLYER DEADLINE	MAILOUT DAY
FEBRUARY	Thurs 24th January 2008	Thurs 31st January 2008	Thurs 7th February 2008
APRIL	Thurs 20th March 2008	Thurs 27th March 2008	Thurs 3rd April 2008
JUNE	Thurs 22nd May 2008	Thurs 29th May 2008	Thurs 5th June 2008
AUGUST	Thurs 17th July 2008	Thurs 24th July 2008	Thurs 7th August 2008
OCTOBER	Thurs 18th September 2008	Thurs 25th September 2008	Thurs 2nd October 2008
DECEMBER	Thurs 20th November 2008	Thurs 27th November 2008	Thurs 4th December 2008

