



VOLUNTEERS' WEEK 2003 1-7th JUNE

Volunteers' Week is a UK-wide celebration of volunteering that provides a high-profile platform for volunteer - involving organisations to recognise the UK's 21 million volunteers.



Now in the 19th year, Volunteers' Week is the major event in the UK's volunteering calendar. Volunteers' Week is a national celebration of volunteers and volunteering, which takes place in June of each year.

We will be out and about, publicising the many voluntary opportunities available and the benefits of volunteering. Our first venue will be Morrisons Supermarket, in Dukinfield, on Monday 2nd June. If you ever thought of volunteering now is your chance to find out more.

Our newly refurbished Volunteers' Shop, on Penny Meadow, Ashton, will be officially opened by the Mayor, Councillor Margaret Downs, at 1pm on Saturday 7th June. Anyone interested in volunteering and the work of the Centre will be very welcome to come along on the day.

INCLUDE DON'T EXCLUDE

Volunteer Centre Tameside recently hosted a conference at the Village Hotel in Hyde, which enabled Volunteer Organisers to look at ways of involving disabled people in volunteering.

There are many barriers to volunteering, both real and perceived, and during the day 25 volunteer organisers looked at these and found many solutions.

Project Worker David Sharples said *"To deny disabled people the opportunity to volunteer not only denies lots of people the chance to become involved, it deprives the organisation of a percentage of the population with skills and experiences which can be a great benefit to the voluntary sector."*

A conference report has been produced with details of the workshops and lots of the ideas that came out of the day. So, if you are interested in encouraging a more diverse workforce contact David Sharples on the above number and he will visit your organisation or send you a conference report.

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CONGRATULATIONS COUNCILLOR DOWNS

Councillor Margaret Downs has been chosen to be the next Mayor of Tameside - taking up office as Civic Mayor of Tameside at the Annual Ceremonial Meeting of the Council on Friday May 16th.

Margaret has been a supporter of Volunteering and the Volunteer Centre Tameside for many years and we would like to wish her a successful year.

Councillor Downs was first elected to Tameside Council in a by-election in February 1992 and has since represented Denton South.

Councillor Downs took early retirement from her job as an administrator in the Transport Resource Unit, Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations (formerly GMCVS) to devote more time to her duties as Councillor. She is a governor at two schools in her Ward - Corrie Primary and Two Trees Community High.



Councillor Downs is also heavily involved in voluntary community work. She is a founder member and Chair of Haughton Green Community Forum and hopes to continue to be involved with the Haughton Green Community Centre.

She is chair of the Tameside Senior Forum and is a committee member of numerous

organisations including the Haughton Green Young People's Centre.

Councillor Downs has also been nominated to Chair the Denton and Audenshaw District Assembly for the coming Municipal Year.

"Formal volunteers put in some 90 million hours of voluntary work a week"

Councillor Downs will be supported throughout the year by her husband Walter, who takes on the role of Civic Mayor's Consort. She has been married to Walter for more than 32 years and has three children and two grandchildren. She also has a dog which is very much part of the family.

Councillor Downs was born in Prestbury, Cheshire in 1941 and was the fifth child in a family of six. She lived in Droylsden from 1958 and moved to her present home in Haughton Green, Denton in 1981.

Councillor Downs says: "I am very much a people person, and my passion is to help all people to achieve their potential. I value the people I meet and they help shape my life to serve others"

Councillor Downs was Deputy Mayor of Tameside in 1999-2000 and is looking forward to her year as Civic Mayor. She hopes to share this office with voluntary groups across the Borough and - needless to say - during her year of office wishes to support local voluntary and community groups.

The Deputy Mayor will be Councillor Jacqueline Forth and the Deputy Mayor's Consort will be Mr Dawson Lane.

FRIENDS OF GORSE HALL

Look out for the Friends Information Board on the Canal path at Caroline St. Stalybridge funded by GTM Ltd. Stalybridge.

A new disabled access will be available soon for wheelchair users to visit Gorse Hall and see the magnificent views from the Viewpoint.

Join the Friends on our famous Murder Walk on the 3rd June 2003. Meet at the Bus Station, Waterloo Road, Stalybridge (near to Bingo Hall) at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

The DIG for HISTORY project with schools starts 9-13th June and 23-26th June, followed by an exhibition of the children's work at the Portland Basin.



National Archaeology Day - 20th July 2003
Meet local Archaeologists and volunteers excavating on site, 12-4pm. Come and see the work the children have done on the "DIG" with a conducted walk of the Gorse Hall site at 1pm.

Bramble and undergrowth clearance, tree maintenance plus other conservation tasks:

Saturday June 21st 2003 10am -1pm.

Saturday and Sunday 19th & 20th July 2003 10am - 1pm.

Saturday 26th July 2003 10am - 1pm.

Saturday 20th September 2003 10am - 1pm.

Meet at the top of the steps on the coach road on Gorse Hall. At High Street, Stalybridge turn into Forester Drive, Gorse Hall school is on the corner. Carry on until you reach the Unitarian Church, turn into the street at the side of the church. At the end of this street is the steps.

Please bring gloves. Drinks & biscuits provided.

Contact Christine Clough on 0161 666 0639 or Bruce Poole on 0161 342 6767 for further information.

TAMESIDE LOCAL HISTORY FORUM

The HISTORY SHOP EVENT on the 14th & 15th February of 2003 was a huge success with over 2,000 people visiting the 22 Local History Groups stands.

Mike Neville, author of the Tameside Books, Head of Heritage Councillor Frank Robinson, and the mayor Councillor Pauline Harrison came to support the work done by volunteers in helping to conserve the Heritage in Tameside.

Harry Lever and Lena Slack were there to sign their books of memories of Flowery Field and Audenshaw.

Heritage Open Days.

12-15th September 2003 look out for details of buildings and sites open to the public.

If you would like to help in research and recording your local history, contact 0161 666 0639.

The Forum would like to thank The Community Foundation for Greater Manchester for their support in funding IT courses for members. We would also like to thank Age Concern & Ashton Sixth Form College for their support in helping to put the course in place.

A laminator and information boards have also been purchased with money from CFFGM. These will be used to promote local history.

ADVERTISING FOR VOLUNTEERS? READ THIS FIRST!

The Restaurant Ad Exercise

The banner in the window of a corner restaurant reads in broad, bright letters, "We have this food we have to sell!" Your first thoughts are, "Why? What's wrong with it?"

And that, my friends, is what potential volunteers are also thinking - in the back of their minds - when they read traditional recruitment ads. They think, "Volunteers desperately needed. Why? What's wrong with what they want volunteers to do?"

1) Why are restaurants in business?

If you said something about providing good food to customers, you need to dig deeper. Restaurants are in business to make money. The food is just how they make it.



2) If the restaurateurs wrote their ads based on their need to make money alone, what might these ads say? And how effective would they be?

One answer might be "We have food we have to sell." And it would no doubt scare people away.

3) What do diners value about a favourite restaurant?

Some of your answers might be: good food cheerful, attentive service; pleasant atmosphere; good prices.

4) What other information will you find on a good restaurant ad?

Possible answers: type of cuisine offered; location; family-friendly; specialities; hours of operation; home delivery available.

5) Find real examples of effective restaurant ads. Why are they effective?

This was just one example I came across:

If you find delight in the taste of authentically prepared Thai cuisine, find your way to Thai Ginger.

**"Six out of ten volunteers
said volunteering gave
them an opportunity to
learn new skills"**

6) What qualities of a volunteer programme might match the main attractions of a restaurant?

Possible answers:

- Good food = good, satisfying, meaningful volunteer work.
- Cheerful, attentive service = collaborative, responsive staff, the right tools or quick answers to questions.
- Pleasant atmosphere = pleasant workspace or accessible building.
- Good prices = genuine recognition or not-too-high expenditure of emotions.

7) What about your answers in Question 4? Think about what other features would be important to highlight in order to advertise your specific volunteer opportunities?

Enjoy the exercise! Hopefully it should help you to think about how to shift the focus of your volunteer recruitment ads to make them more effective.

Ads in a nutshell

First principles: Before you advertise, think about why someone would want to volunteer for you and who you need to attract. Being clear about how volunteers fit into your organisation and what their role is will inform your whole recruitment strategy.

Short but sweet: Provide enough information to interest people but keep it short enough to maintain their attention.

Explain the need: Start with a "statement of need" that tells people about your work and why it's important - rather than focusing on your need for volunteers, this makes potential recruits stop and think "somebody should do something about that". For a volunteer working for a community farm, for example, you could say "some children growing up in this area have only ever seen cows and sheep on TV".

Avoid jargon: Give details of what you want your volunteers to do in a clear and accessible way. Terms like 'advocate', 'support worker' and 'befriender' can be confusing if they're not explained. People are more likely to come forward as volunteers if they can see themselves in the role.

What's in it for me: Sell the role by describing how a new volunteer will benefit. This might include meeting people, having fun, receiving training, gaining work experience.

Dispel fears: You've got their interest this far but they still may have some doubts. All sorts of things might be buzzing round their heads: "But I don't know anything about computers" - "I can't afford to get into town every week" - "I might not be comfortable in a mainstream organisation" - "It could clash with my other commitments".

You can reassure people by explaining, for example, that you don't need previous experience, that costs of food and travel are covered, that you welcome people from all sections of the community and that hours can be flexible.

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The Volunteering Experience

Courses for volunteers.

Would you like to volunteer but aren't sure what for?

Perhaps you would like to take part in a group who will be looking at:

Team work.

Dealing with the public

Introduction to volunteering

There are many possibilities and you can choose from lots of options. The sessions will be held in local community centres near you.

If you are interested in finding out more talk to Sue Vickers 0161 339 2345.

"10 million people volunteer each week"

Volunteer Centre Tameside Payroll Service

Volunteer Centre Tameside offers a full payroll service for voluntary and community organisations, including after-school clubs and playgroups and for Direct Payments Customers.

Whether you are a well-established organisation or are employing your first paid member of staff we can help you.

The service includes: dealing with the Inland Revenue, monthly or 4-weekly payroll runs, statutory sick and maternity pay, all paperwork for you and your employees' records, including P45s, payments to the Inland Revenue and end of year returns.

For further information, including costs, please contact: Samantha Ross on 0161 339 5583 - 9:30am - 3pm, Monday to Wednesday.

DIFFERENT PLACES. DIFFERENT PEOPLE. DIFFERENT THINGS TO DO.

CSV (Community Service Volunteers) is a leading, national volunteering charity offering a new, alternative opportunity. On Saturdays for three or four hours, busy people get out of their flats, meet new people, get dirty and make an immediate impact on the area.

GO volunteers tackle different areas of social and environmental need by organising activities from planting trees to painting a mural at a primary school or even sorting clothes for a homeless shelter.

The aim of the GO initiative is to start and finish the tasks in just a few hours and a visible difference can be seen by the end of the day. Eighty activities were held in 2000 and the quality of GO volunteers' work continues to exceed the expectations of host venues.

"The economic value of formal volunteering has been estimated at over £40 billion per year"

Led either by a CSV coordinator or a volunteer facilitator, volunteers get stuck in and enjoy getting the job done!

Recruitment...

GO Volunteers and community venues are recruited on an on-going basis.

Volunteers are recruited through the Internet, free ads, business and universities email, notice boards and newsletters, the media and most importantly, word of mouth.

GO volunteers are not required to attend a certain number of events, nor are they expected to give a certain number of hours. Volunteers are

encouraged to do whatever they can and enjoy the experience.

Venues are identified and recruited as partners through enquiries, referrals, community listings and location or service specific research.



The GO initiative offers a fun and flexible calendar of events that benefit communities by mobilising volunteer energy and making a difference where it matters.

Volunteers working together for a few hours create a unique sense of community. GO is a vehicle for a diverse range of enthusiastic people from all over a city who also want to give something back.

CSV, volunteer co-ordinators and host venues drive GO forward; identifying areas of social and environmental need, fostering a bottom-up approach and remaining accessible and welcoming to the whole community.

With over 2000 volunteers nationwide the GO initiative is making a difference where it really matters - at local community projects.

For More Information Contact:

Samantha Elkailani, Project Co-ordinator, Gaddum House,
6 Great Jackson Street, Manchester, M15 4AX

Phone: 0161 833 0245,

Event Mobile: 07947 781154,

Fax: 0161 833 0371

Email: gomanchester@csv.org.uk

VOLUNTARY VACANCIES

If you would like to learn more about these or other vacancies in the area please contact Sue Vickers on 0161 339 2345 or email sue@tamesidevb.org.uk.

Phab Group

Loxley House. Various venues across borough, i.e., swimming, restaurants, ten pin bowling etc.

Yearly residential. To support and enable disabled young adults to run their own activities by building self-confidence and broadening skills. Activities include quizzes, games, evening discos, barbeque and treasure hunts. 18+ years, younger volunteers (18-30) especially welcome.

The Wooden Canal Boat Society Diesel Fitter

Volunteer must have experience and proffered qualifications in diesel fitting, as well as basic woodwork. The volunteer would be involved with completing fittings, installing floor, lockers steps and maintaining diesel engine and transmission.

Tameside General Hospital Accident & Emergency General Assistant

Ability to communicate with people in a caring manner. Communication skills and a caring attitude a must. 16+ years, over 75 years a health review every six months. Police Check and References required.

Infopatient (Tameside General Hospital) Information Volunteers

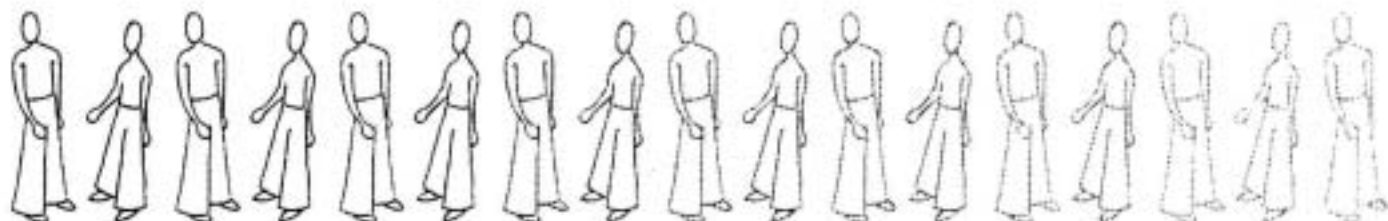
Volunteers are required to go out onto the wards to check and straighten the leaflet racks, check with ward staff to see if any patient or carers require any health, social or council information. If a patient or carer requires any information, the volunteer would talk to them to find out what they require and then return to the Patient Information Centre to collect information to answer the patient or carers enquiry.

Unicef UK. Education Education Support Service Volunteer

The Education Support Service provides classroom sessions for schools on children's rights and global citizenship, that inform and educate children about their rights and responsibilities in the UK and internationally.

ESS members work in schools to provide classroom sessions on children's rights. Members of the service contact schools in the local area. ESS present sessions to children aged 5-18.

100's of opportunities for 100's of people



VOLUNTEER VIEWS

As a volunteer having worked at Volunteer Centre, Penny Meadow, Ashton-Under-Lyne for a number of years I find the variation of work most satisfying.

Apart from getting me out of bed earlier than normal (8am instead of 9am) which I always did when working a full time job. The work I do gets me into the swing and environment I've always been used to.

When you retire and finish work altogether there is something missing in your life but I have found the replacement by doing voluntary work, which I thoroughly enjoy.

I answer the telephone and meet people of all walks of life that adds enjoyment to the working day, which is a big part of what you miss on retiring.

I enjoy the conversation and cups of tea as well, the staff treat me wonderfully - as if I am just one of them. You can also choose the hours you work.

Being very involved with the Commonwealth Games was an experience I will never forget, sending out literature and attending the area medal presentation was indeed something to remember.

There are also courses you can attend, although I haven't joined any of those yet. Things to come maybe!

Until I came to work for the Volunteer Centre I did not realise how much was involved with volunteering. It isn't just office work that you can get involved with - gardening, animals, befriending to mention but a few things.

My boss is Sue Vickers and she has given me (along with other members of staff) things to do I never would have done sitting at home.

It is a pleasure to come here every week knowing there will always be something for me to do.

Dorothy Finneran (Volunteer Receptionist).

100'S OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR 100'S OF PEOPLE

If you are interested in volunteering there are three ways to make an appointment to discuss your options:

In person - you can call in to our office between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday to make an appointment.

By telephone - on 0161 339 2345 between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Email - sue@tamesidevb.org.uk - or, visit our website at www.tameside.org.uk where you can search online for an opportunity to suit you.

**DON'T FORGET
THE OPENING
OF OUR NEWLY
REFURBISHED
VOLUNTEERS'
SHOP ON 7th
JUNE!!!**

This edition of **Volunteer Centre Tameside** has been edited and published by Sue Vickers, Irene Platt and Michael Withington.

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