



GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW VOLUNTEERS' SHOP

On 7th June Tameside's Mayor, Councillor Margaret Downs, officially opened our new One Stop Information Shop for Volunteers. Representatives from many Tameside organisations, prospective and long-serving volunteers attended on the day to wish us well.



Left to right: Les Hankinson, Councillor Margaret Downs and her Husband - Walter Downs

Tameside residents who would like to volunteer can now call in to search the vacancies board or surf the internet to find voluntary vacancies which appeal to them in a pleasant and welcoming environment. They can then discuss their options fully with members of staff so that their chosen voluntary opportunity will be enjoyable, fulfilling and, most importantly, successful.

This refurbishment has only been made possible thanks to the decorating skills of Philip Fox, one of VCT's volunteers, and members of our own staff who contributed by wielding paint rollers and brushes at every opportunity.

It was thanks to the Greater Manchester Community Trust, who largely funded our new security shutters that VCT was able to go ahead with our long awaited refurbishment programme for the ground floor.

For many years the Centre has experienced break-ins and vandalism, which placed a huge drain on our resources and staff time, and only now have we been able to find the necessary funds. Additionally, our thanks go to Government Office NW, who donated office furniture, which has greatly improved the working environment.

As Les Hankinson, Chair of VCT's management committee said at the opening ceremony, "we can now look forward to the future with confidence and give a truly warm welcome to everyone".



The contribution made by the ten million people who volunteer in Britain every week should not be underestimated. They make a huge difference to the society we live in.

Volunteers week allows us, as a nation, to recognise and reward the invaluable work done by volunteers and hopefully inspire more people to give time in the future.

Rt Hon Tony Blair, Prime Minister

Inside...

Refurbished VCT training room for hire

Could you be a magistrate?

Tameside Multi Sports Project

Volunteer Vacancies

LOCAL LIBRARIES AVAILABLE FOR INFORMATION AND ADVICE SESSIONS



Tameside Libraries would like to offer your organisation the use of various library venues free of charge, for information, advice and guidance sessions.

Libraries are neutral, non-threatening public buildings at the heart of communities. We feel that these qualities would make our buildings suitable locations for regular sessions, and may attract new clients to your services.

We can offer a desk and an area to display publicity material at all libraries. Five of our libraries also have private meeting room facilities that we would be happy to let you use. We would envisage sessions taking place once a month for up to half a day, though we are able to be flexible and would consider other arrangements that may be more suitable for your organisation, however, there may be a small charge associated with this.

Libraries with public desk, publicity area and private meeting facilities:

Hurst Library, Hurst Cross, Ashton-under-Lyne

Mossley Library, Wyre Street, Mossley

Haughton Green Library, Mancunian Road, Denton

Dukinfield Library, Concord Way, Dukinfield

West End Library, Windsor Road, Denton

Libraries with public desk and publicity area:

Tameside Central Library, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne

Audenshaw Library, Manchester Road, Audenshaw

Denton Library, Peel Street, Denton

Droylsden Library, Manchester Road, Droylsden

Hattersley Library, Hattersley Road East

Hyde Library, Union Street, Hyde

Stalybridge Library, Trinity Street, Stalybridge

Please contact Rachel Symonds on 0161 342 2232 if you require any further information, or would like to arrange a visit to any of the locations listed to check for suitability.

DATA PROTECTION 'SCAM'

There is a 'scam' doing the rounds with regard to the Data Protection Register.

Various organisations pretending to be the official Data Protection Register are sending out forms to be completed and returned with a fee in the region of £117.25.

The best advice we can offer is:

- * It may not be necessary for you to register - check out your own situation.
- * The correct fee for the Data Protection Register is £35 for three years.
- * The official Data Protection Register is based in Wilmslow.
- * NO VAT is due when you register.

If in any doubt contact the Data Protection Register at www.dpr.gov.uk.

TAMESIDE MULTI SPORTS PROJECT

A small group of people are putting together 'The Tameside Multi Sports Project'. All are either being Police checked or are currently Police checked. This will be a non-profit enterprise that will initially look at starting a Junior Netball Club, that will lead into Seniors, outdoor basketball and amateur athletics - all with Tameside names and connections. We are also looking into starting a Resource Centre.



We have registered with The Volunteer Centre and also with the youth organisation TAVYO in Ashton. So far we have put together a child protection policy, an equal opportunity policy and a health and safety policy and we are receiving assistance in completing a constitution. In addition to that we are seeking support from the various MP's and Councillors in Tameside.

Sport has been proven time and again to help reduce juvenile crime in areas where affordable sport is introduced and this is exactly what we are proposing.

We need people to get involved; they do not have to be experienced - just ordinary people who care for the welfare of our children. We are in the position where we can go no further until we get more people involved, we need you on the ground floor, with some involvement we can get the project off the ground and apply for grants which will in turn provide for expenses. At present all set up fees are coming from the writers pocket.

Please contact Mike Ogden on 0161 368 9773 or 07717316724 (mobile) to volunteer or for more information.

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Could you spare a few hours of your time to help hurting children?



When our warehouse opens for only about a six-week period around November, we expect to collect, check, pack and dispatch over 50,000 gift filled shoeboxes.

Several hundred volunteers help in this task each year but we are desperately short of able helpers (ideally men), who are capable of carrying out the more physical work of unloading shoeboxes from cars/vans, moving them around the warehouse and packing them into cartons.

The warehouse will be open from 10.00am to 9.00pm Monday to Friday and 10.00am to 2.00pm on Saturdays.

Please give thought to joining us, if only for an hour or so, for it is all the small contributions which allow OCC to distribute over a million shoeboxes each year from the UK to needy children around the world.

OCC is a Christian Charity taking love to families and children in countries torn apart by war, poverty, ill health or natural disaster.

If you like to know more please ring Alan on 0161 336 8060.

The Volunteer Centre is a drop off point for the shoe box appeal, so if you have filled your box please call in with it. Any member of staff will be happy to take them from you. We are pleased to be assisting in this good cause.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE?

Earlier this year the management Team and staff at the Volunteer Centre decided the time was right to implement a programme of refurbishment. With the help of the Building Bridges Project we set out what we wanted to achieve with a very vague timescale. We set about transforming the old training room to become the new volunteer shop. This one time drab and dreary room is now a bright and welcoming area that exists for the benefit of our visitors. Along with this, Sue Vickers, the volunteer shop manager, has moved into the office attached to the Volunteer Shop and is supported by our team of volunteer receptionists.



The new meeting/training room is also located at the front of the building and has been redecorated and refurbished with new carpets and furniture. The room is available for hire at the competitive rate of £12 per morning, afternoon or evening. This is the cost to voluntary and community groups if you are a statutory organisation the cost is £24 per session.



Private room
 Private access
 Board room layout for 14
 Theatre style for 40
 Accessible venue
 Disabled toilet
 Kitchen, including drink making facilities and fridge
 Overhead Projector
 Flip chart
 TV/Video
 Power Point Projector
 Laptop computer
 Screen
 Access to VCT resources during the meeting
 Whiteboard
 Contact details for lunches etc.
 First floor small meeting/board room for 12 (no disabled access)

Please direct all enquiries to Irene Platt on 0161 339 2345 or email: irene@tamesidevb.org.uk

BUILDING BRIDGES

The Building Bridges project has also relocated into a new office on the ground floor, giving more space to David Sharples, the Project Worker, and the volunteers who work alongside him. The office is located adjacent to the Volunteer Shop and ground floor meeting room, making another accessible service for anybody who feels that they would like to volunteer but think that they need support to enable them to do so. The office is equipped with computers and laser printers along with 2 desks and space for visitors.



Why not visit us and use our new resource area, we have an array of equipment to assist you in the organisation and running of your groups. We can offer:

- Colour photocopying
- Black and White photocopying
- Paper cutter
- Guillotine
- Electric Comb Binder
- Stapler

All are available at a very competitive price or at cost. Some work can be left and completed by volunteers, however please confirm the availability of this service.

A special thanks must go to everybody who had any involvement in the work and especially to Philip Fox who has done the bulk of the decorating.

Please call and see us you will be most welcome to look around, remember the Centre is a resource for the benefit of volunteering in Tameside. Please use it

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COULD YOU BE A MAGISTRATE?

Justice in the magistrates' court in England and Wales relies on volunteers. Perhaps you have already thought about becoming one but were unsure about applying; perhaps it is something that you have not thought about before.

What exactly do magistrates do?

Magistrates, also known as Justices of the Peace, carry out their duties locally and deal with most criminal cases. They consider the evidence in each case and reach a verdict. If a defendant is found guilty, or pleads guilty, they decide on the most appropriate sentence. Magistrates deal with the less serious criminal cases such as minor theft, criminal damage, public disorder and motoring offences. When sitting in the Family Proceedings Court they deal with a range of issues affecting families and children, and on special committees they deal with licensing application from public houses, betting shops and gaming clubs.

What sort of people become magistrates?

They are people with common sense and personal integrity; they have a good knowledge of people and their local community and have the ability to listen to all sides of an argument and contribute to fair and reasonable decisions.

Will it be very time consuming?

You will be required to sit for a minimum of 26 half days each year and to be available for full day sittings. The Lord Chancellor hopes that most magistrates will sit for about 35 half days. Arrangements for sittings are worked out well in advance on a rota basis and it is usually possible to make changes in an emergency. Training and meetings are an additional commitment, but are often held outside working hours.

What does the selection process involve?

The Lord Chancellor appoints magistrates on the advice of local Advisory Committees; in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside, appointments are made by the Chancellor of the

Duchy of Lancaster. If you are interested you will be asked to complete an application form and the Advisory Committee may invite you to one or possibly two interviews to discuss the duties of a magistrate, your views on crime and punishment and what qualities you might bring to the magistracy.

Are there any restrictions on who may apply?

Yes. You should live or work near to the Bench to which you apply to be appointed. Very few people are automatically disqualified. An undischarged bankrupt may not be appointed or anyone who has been convicted of a serious offence. Minor motoring offences will not normally disqualify you. Work for court associated organisations (e.g. police, probation, prison service) or a relationship with someone working for them will need some special consideration to avoid any conflict of interest arising, and may debar you from appointment.

What are the age limits?

People between 27 and 65 years of age are eligible to apply. Magistrates must retire from the Bench at the age of 70.

Do magistrates get paid?

No. Magistrates give up their time for the vital task of administering justice on a voluntary basis. Many employers allow time off with pay. However, if you suffer loss of earnings, you may claim a loss allowance at a set rate. Allowances for travel and subsistence may also be claimed.

How do I find out more or make an application?

To help you decide whether you would like to be a magistrate you must visit a magistrates' court and see court in action.

For further information contact Ariene Presley on 0161 331 5639 or The Volunteer Centre.

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

Volunteer Centre Tameside

Trustees wanted to join the management team of Volunteer Centre Tameside. We are looking to expand our small but dedicated team of management trustees.

We are going through a phase of exciting development and looking for enthusiastic new members who can help contribute to the organisation.

Are you thinking about giving some of your spare time to volunteering?

Do you have some managerial experience or would you like to develop your management potential?

Do you have or would you like to develop any of the following management skills?

- * marketing and publicity
- * fundraising
- * secretarial
- * human resources (personnel)
- * health and safety

As a volunteer on the management committee you would need to be able to commit approximately 4 hours a month of your own time. Relevant training and support will be provided and all out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

For further information and to discuss this opportunity please telephone Sue Vickers on 0161 339 2345.

We have a volunteer offering free IT skills. He can offer:

Database design and development using MS Access/Excel

General office network connectivity and maintenance - PCs, printers, security, file sharing, software installation etc.

Internet connectivity.

Related IT matters.

Tuition in the use of general office software.

Please contact Sue Vickers at The Volunteer Centre for more information.

People's Places Award Scheme - Helping you create green spaces for your community.



The scheme is open to community groups in rural and urban areas across England. Awards are targeted at communities living in areas of deprivation and at disadvantaged groups. Awards of £3,000 to £10,000 are available.

Call 01772 250286 or visit www.btcv.org for more information.



Would you like to join the Social Services Reader Panel?

Social Services produce a number of leaflets informing the public about its services. It is important that these leaflets are free from jargon and easy to understand. We have a reader panel which comments on these leaflets before they are printed. Would you like to join this group?

How often?

Once every six weeks on a Wednesday morning. Refreshments provided, travel expenses paid. The venue is accessible to wheelchairs.

Who do I contact?

If you like your views to count and are interested in finding out more about being part of the Social Services Reader Panel, please contact: Virginia Scott on 0161 370 1179 or email virginia.scott@tameside.gov.uk

Building Bridges - 1 year on

What a year it has been for the Building Bridges project, the Volunteer Centre project that is aimed at supporting people with disabilities into volunteering. We have seen over 70 people placed and given support to a variety of roles with Tameside, including:

Gardening
Supporting children to read
Reception work
Luncheon clubs
IT support
Decorating
Administration
Support to people with visual impairment
Retail opportunities

The project has another 18 months funding before then we will need to secure funding to continue the work. If you or anyone you know of would like to be involved in volunteering and enjoy the benefits that this can bring but may need additional support to make it happen, why not give me a call. Who knows what you may achieve.

David Sharples.

This project is funded by the Home Offices' Time Limited Development Fund.

Friends Of Gorse Hall

Why not try your hand at the traditional skill of Dry Stone Walling?

A course to start in January. Interested?

Ring Christine Clough - 0161 666 0639

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

Call in Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm to make an appointment.

Telephone Sue Vickers on 0161 339 2345

Email sue@tamesidevb.org.uk or visit our website at www.tamesidevb.org.uk to search through the opportunities available.

Volunteer Coordinators

Why not let your New Year's resolution be to check your opportunities and send role descriptions to the Volunteer Centre.

This edition of Volunteer Centre Tameside has been edited and published by Sue Vickers, Irene Platt, David Sharples and Michael Withington. If you would like to contribute to future issues please send your information to:

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Volunteer Centre Tameside is a registered charity, number 514804, supported by Tameside MBC.

This newsletter can be provided in large print, braille or on tape if required. Please contact Sue Vickers on 0161 339 2345 for more information