



# Telford & Wrekin Volunteer Centre

News from the Volunteer Centre

April 2011

## Volunteer Organisers Forum

Being a volunteer organiser/supervisor can be a very demanding role. The aim of the forum is to give each other support, information and to share our successes and failures so that we can learn from each other. It is also the opportunity to receive informal training and updates on the world of Volunteer Management.

The forum can also be seen as a force for change as together we can influence local and national policy on issues that affect volunteers and volunteering.

If you would like specific issues covering in future forums please contact Beverly on: -

☎ 01952 291350 or ✉ [beverlyharris@tandwcvcs.org.uk](mailto:beverlyharris@tandwcvcs.org.uk)

## Notes from the April Forum

### I-Volunteer - another way of keeping in touch

The speaker for the forum was Kath Fackrell from the CVS Development Team. Kath went through the uses of social networking in attracting volunteers. She also explained the uses of I-Volunteer which is a social networking website specific to volunteers and to volunteer management. Beverly aims to use I-Volunteer to extend the reach of the Volunteer Organisers Forum as it is a way that volunteer managers in Telford can keep in touch with each other, get support and information and join in with discussions on volunteering. Currently Beverly has no one to talk to in her group! Please investigate the site, join up

<http://www.i-volunteer.org.uk/>

Find the group and say hello to Bev

<http://www.i-volunteer.org.uk/groups/telford-wrekin-volunteer-organisers-forum/>

Kath's presentation is available on request.

## **One off volunteering**

Following the forum we would like to promote your “one off volunteering” or volunteering that people can dip in and out of over a period of time. This includes helping out on charity collections, litter picking, helping out manning a stall at a fete or fun day, helping out as a steward at community events.

We intend to put up a diary of events on our website that volunteers can join in with. In order to do this we need to know any dates you have coming up over the year, exactly what you require and a contact number or email.

Let us know!

## **Free volunteering from red tape**

Volunteering England has launched a new campaign to remove some of the barriers to volunteering.

Here at Telford and Wrekin Volunteer Centre we are supporting the campaign as we are conscious that there are a number of things that often stand in the way of someone volunteering. Some of them are real barriers; others are myths and misunderstandings; some are good old fashioned bureaucracy. Some are created by government and others by organisations that involve volunteers.

In the past we have helped by campaigning against specific barriers including: -

- ❖ The 40p tax ceiling on mileage allowances for volunteers
- ❖ The 16 hour maximum volunteering myth for those in receipt of benefits
- ❖ Age limits on volunteering.

The aim of Volunteering England's campaign is to cut through red tape – real and imagined – and let people know how easy it is to help out in their community. More information on this campaign including a downloadable leaflet is available by visiting: -

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/PolicyFree+volunteering+from+red+tape>

## **Budget result for volunteer drivers**

Volunteering England has welcomed the announcement that volunteer drivers will be able to claim a higher level of expenses to cover their costs.

The announcement follows sustained calls for better support for volunteer drivers by Volunteering England, the Community Transport Association and other civil society organisations and will be welcomed by thousands of volunteer drivers across the country that provide a vital community service.

All drivers who use their vehicle for work or volunteering will now be able to claim 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles, an increase from the current rate of 40p. In addition, an allowance of 5p per passenger per mile that is already available to business drivers will be extended to volunteers.

## **European year of volunteering 2011**

The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union have officially announced that 2011 will be the European Year of Volunteering (EYV 2011).



This is an exciting opportunity for voluntary organisations across the EU to join together in a celebration of volunteering, and a discussion on the importance of volunteering on a local, national and international level.

In England, Volunteering England is working closely with other volunteering organisations and the Office for Civil Society (the UK's National Coordinating Body for the Year) to make sure that the Year represents a real opportunity to promote volunteering.

### **Objectives of the Year**

The EU will use the Year to work towards four main objectives:-

1. To create an enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering in the EU
2. To empower volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering
3. To reward and recognise volunteering activities
4. To raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering.

### **Who will benefit and how?**

- ❖ The European Year of Volunteering 2011 will enable volunteers all over Europe to meet and learn about best practices in each European country
- ❖ Public authorities, volunteer organisations and businesses will learn more about volunteering and how to make it easier for people to contribute
- ❖ People who have never heard about volunteering will learn to appreciate what volunteers do and might become volunteers themselves one day.

For more information visit: -

<http://europa.eu/volunteering/>

## **Volunteer management resources**

## Improving Support

The online community for the voluntary sector has a range of resources aimed at those working with and managing volunteers. To find out more visit: -

<http://www.improvingsupport.org>

## Help us to help you!

The Volunteer Centre is constantly updating its data base to ensure that the information we hold is accurate and reflects a true picture of your volunteer program. Please let us know of any changes. For example: -

- ❖ If you have sufficient volunteers
- ❖ If you urgently require more
- ❖ If any details change in your program – times needed, venues, training schedule
- ❖ If there are changes in your contact details
- ❖ If you have any new opportunities

☎ 01952 or ✉ [maureenwailes@tandwcvs.org.uk](mailto:maureenwailes@tandwcvs.org.uk)



Volunteer's week is fast approaching; it will be your opportunity to  
**Recognise, Reward, and Recruit** volunteers

Do you have anything planned?

Would you like to work in partnership to deliver your activity?

Tell us your thoughts!

Organisation	Name
Email	Telephone No
Preferred venue	Preferred day
Activity	

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You can find Volunteers week certificates and resources from Volunteering England

### Contacting the Volunteer Centre

☎ 01952 291350

[annettecooper@tandwcvs.org.uk](mailto:annettecooper@tandwcvs.org.uk)

[www.telfordvc.tandwcvs.org.uk](http://www.telfordvc.tandwcvs.org.uk)



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## Ideas For Celebrating Volunteer Week

- ❖ Give Your Volunteers a break – take your volunteers out for a day of pampering
- ❖ Get together with like-minded organisations and set-up an information booth in your local shopping centre
- ❖ Run a photo competition of your fantastic volunteers and display the entries in your local library
- ❖ Organise taster sessions for potential volunteers to find out how rewarding this work can be
- ❖ Run a training session – teach all your volunteers a new skill
- ❖ Display Volunteers' Week posters in a place where many people will see it
- ❖ Run a volunteer speed-dating night
- ❖ Take part in the VIP challenge and ask a local celebrity to make a guest appearance at a charity auction in your shop
- ❖ Write to your local paper and tell them about your wonderful volunteers
- ❖ Arrange a Changing Rooms style makeover of the area where your volunteers carry out their work
- ❖ Challenge a local business to have an action day and get involved in a local conservation project
- ❖ Host a clothes-swapping party and donate a selection of clothes to charity

- ❖ Inform your colleagues by inviting them to a learning lunch and tell them about the volunteering that you do in your spare time
- ❖ Boost team spirit amongst your volunteers and organise a sports day or a barbecue on the beach
- ❖ Break a world record
- ❖ Undertake a volunteer audit and release any interesting results to local media
- ❖ Get together with local community groups and put on a fete with face paints, fire-eaters and musicians to raise awareness of your organisation
- ❖ Challenge your volunteers to get out their needle and thread and organise a fashion show, maybe join up with a local college art department for tips
- ❖ Or keep it fun and simple – have a 'thank you' party and decorate the room with balloons and streamers

**Beverly Harris**  
**Volunteer Centre Manager**