

# Volunteering in South Northamptonshire



## Volunteering News Flash - October 2020

After just three weeks back in our office we have taken the decision to return to working from home. All of our services are still being maintained apart, of course, from being able to receive volunteers and potential volunteers for a chat. We regret this but you can still call and leave a message and your call will be returned. Our on-line volunteering database is still up and running and the brokerage service behind it is fully functioning. So please don't hesitate to start volunteering!!

We have lots of opportunities for you to help charities and voluntary groups in their work. Have a look below for some suggestions and browse our website.

Go to our [website](#) now and search for something that catches your attention!!

### Thank you to our Garden Buddies

It has been a great summer for people stuck at home and able to do their gardens but not such a good experience for those who rely on others to keep their gardens tidy. Since March and throughout the lockdown, our Garden Buddies project workers have been helping to keep on top of our clients' gardens - mainly mowing. Thankfully, some of our Garden Buddies volunteers have now been able to return and we are able to do a bit more to help keep gardens neat and tidy. It is more difficult with social distancing rules but we are doing what we can.

Wanting to do something to say thank you to those who have volunteered to mow, weed and prune her garden one of our clients has produced knitted bears in Garden Buddies colours. They are proving popular and she has had to find more wool. A very nice gesture which all of the Buddies much appreciate!!

If you would like to join the Garden Buddies team, you would be most welcome. It's a great way to exercise and help others at the same time. You can do as little or as much as you like.

[The details are on our website..](#)



We are currently looking particularly for volunteers from Middleton Cheney and Deanshanger areas.

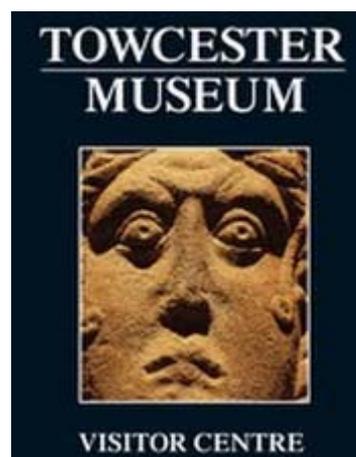
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## Towcester Museum

The museum reopened on the 15th September and is in great need of new volunteers, as 10 of the previous staff are not able to return.

Museum Development Co-ordinator Emily Bavellas said: *“This is a great opportunity for people to help provide a first class local museum. Volunteers will meet people from all walks of life, have the chance to make new friends, develop their communication skills, enjoy new experiences and both learn more of the rich history of Towcester and share their knowledge.”*

A range of opportunities is included on the [Volunteer Centre website...](#)



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## Renew169 Wellbeing Café

The Wellbeing café in Watling Street, Towcester reopened on the 14th September - 10am to 3pm - every Monday and Tuesday.

There is a booking system in place (if they are not full you will be welcome to drop in). Bookable sessions are 10 am to 11.30, 11.45 to 1.15 pm and 1.30 to 3 pm. This gives time for cleaning between sessions and to meet up safely in small socially distanced groups of six. You can book by emailing [manager@renew169.org.uk](mailto:manager@renew169.org.uk), contacting Shelagh on 07761 041203 or sending a message via Facebook.

There is a brand new Community Fridge upstairs above well-being cafe. This is to reduce the amount of food going into landfill.



Renew169 has a range of volunteering opportunities [available on our website...](#)

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## Delapre Abbey

Delapre Abbey in Northampton has been open for 3 years and is now growing as a heritage attraction. More volunteers are needed as part of the team.

There is a range of volunteering roles including Abbey Host, Front of House, Gardening and much more - [details from the Volunteer Centre...](#)

The abbey will be running a Volunteer Welcome Evening on Wednesday 14th October 2020 and they would like to see as many new volunteers as possible. The welcome evening will start at 18:00pm and finish at approximately 19:30pm and will take place in the 18th century Coach House.



If being a volunteer in a heritage environment appeals to you, now is the time to register an interest.

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## Volunteering this autumn

Many of our local voluntary organisations are now back in operation and looking for new people to help them in their work. Here is a brief sample of opportunities for you to consider.

### Life at No27

Life at No.27 provides gardening and well-being therapy for children and adults, struggling with low confidence, isolation and mental ill health. The project has an adult therapy and allotment site in Towcester. [There are several volunteering opportunities available.](#)

### Silverstone Experience

The Silverstone Experience has now reopened and are looking for more volunteers to cater for the extra work due to Covid regulations. [Details on our website...](#)

### Leonard Cheshire Disability

The lovely residents of Agnes Court, in Banbury haven't been out for months and are getting a little bored of just seeing the same old faces. What about a bit of virtual cooking or painting? They love to learn about history, or maybe you have photos of places you have visited, that you would like to share. Just think a whole new audience to entertain! In the virtual world the options are endless. [Details here...](#)

### Dogs for Good

Dogs for Good makes life-changing differences for people with disabilities, working to support people and communities through the help of a trained dog improving and enriching the lives of both.

The Community Fundraising Volunteer role involves supporting a great Charity while having fun with friends. You could organise your own events e.g. a coffee morning with friends, in your workplace or local community, or you can join the lively, active Supporter Group in the area. Details of this opportunity and others are [on our website...](#)



**Volunteering - a great way to make a real difference in your community**

**[For more ideas just browse the full range on our website...](#)**

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## Help for organisations looking for volunteers

Organisations can register on-line via our website and then add and maintain their opportunities themselves. We have found that a majority of organisations have opted to do this.

Of course, we are still here to manage the information for you if you prefer. If you have any questions just contact Lorraine at the Volunteer Centre.

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