

Volunteering in South Northamptonshire



Volunteering News Flash - February 2023

We are just getting ready for springtime - the daffodils are making an appearance and the sun's shining. Time to get out and about and do some volunteering in the local community.

Volunteering is something that everyone can do. Whatever your interests, wherever you live, whether you have a lot of time or a little; if you want to change the world, your street or just your CV; no matter what your background - Anyone can volunteer.

It has been a tough few years for everyone which would have been a whole lot more difficult without all the good folk in Northamptonshire who stepped up to do their bit during the pandemic. This got us thinking about a special way to say thank you, not just to our covid volunteers but to all the wonderful people who keep our communities the exciting vibrant and caring places they are. So... this year we are planning our inaugural Volunteer Awards. See below for more details.

Items in the Newsflash this time include...

- South Northamptonshire Volunteer Awards
- Appeal for volunteers to protect Northamptonshire's canal network
- Towcester Volunteer Fayre - a great success
- Garden Buddies - great for volunteering
- Volunteering this spring and summer - a selection of opportunities

So - no time to waste - get out volunteering today!

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

South Northamptonshire Volunteer Awards

The Award ceremony will take place on 6th June, during the annual volunteers week celebrations and will be an evening of presentations, performances from local artists, raffles and refreshments.

A community artist will be working with a local school or two to create all the trophies for the awards and we will be looking for nominations for our 10 categories and a special volunteer to sit on our judging panel.

Please put the date in your diaries and we'll be in touch again soon when we have more news to share with you.



Appeal for volunteers to protect Northamptonshire's canal network

A local charity is appealing for people to volunteer and be a part of efforts to protect and preserve the canals in South Northamptonshire.

The Canal and River Trust in Northamptonshire is looking for people to help with a range of activities from lock-keeping to heritage conservation. The trust said that the canals in Northamptonshire need local volunteers to help protect them for future generations. They provide crucially important habitat for endangered wildlife and vital places for people to experience nature as well as for recreation.

[Take your pick of opportunities available on our website...](#)



Towcester Volunteer Fayre - a great success

On a very cold day in December we held our Volunteer Fayre, at Towcester Town Hall. This event promoted our volunteer brokerage service, let people know who we are, and what we do.

We invited local groups and organisations to join us and chat about volunteering. We were pleased to say that 14 volunteer using organisations attended, including: Towcester Museum, Towcester Area Door to Door (TADD), Towcester Girl Guides, Northamptonshire Carers, Dogs For Good, Renew 169 Wellbeing Café & Space2Talk. It was a great opportunity for people to find out about volunteering roles and to meet with other volunteers, whilst enjoying a cuppa and mince pie (kindly donated by Waitrose), and served by our Towcester Community Larder volunteers.

Despite being the coldest day of the year we had a large number of people coming through the door. We gave each person a volunteering bag with leaflets about the projects snvb operates, including Brackley Area Volunteer Car Service (BAVCS), Garden Buddies and our Rural Information Vehicle which can be hired out to Voluntary Organisations, and other useful information.



We received some great feedback from the groups that came along.

"Excellent, networking event"

"Meeting the public and all the other volunteering groups!"

"Staff @ Towcester Volunteer Centre are lovely and very helpful we recruited 2 volunteers!"

"Good to meet people face to face from organisation"

Garden Buddies - great for volunteering

Garden Buddies is a lottery funded project where volunteers provide practical help to elderly and disabled people, who have no other means of support, enabling them to maintain and enjoy their gardens.

One of our regular volunteer says: *"I started volunteering with Garden Buddies in the autumn of 2016, it was for one day a week, Tuesday in my case. I soon discovered that the other volunteers I came across were easy going, and like myself anxious to help the people we went to see. The greatest satisfaction was seeing smiles on their faces after we had completed the tasks they had set."*

"I have been fortunate to be able to continue gardening under the supervision of the project workers over the years and feel very grateful to them for their patience and guidance, it has certainly helped me over some tough times in my personal life. They and the other Tuesday regulars, especially at present, have become friends and an important staple to my week."



This community project aims to offer support to the most needy while also providing a positive focus for volunteers of all abilities.

Volunteering this spring and summer

We have seen a big increase in organisations looking for volunteers. With better weather on the horizon, now is the perfect time to get out and see what's available. Here is a brief sample of opportunities for you to consider.

Brackley Area Volunteer Car Service

We are always looking for car drivers living in Brackley or surrounding villages who are willing to take passengers, primarily elderly, who have no other reasonable means of transport, to medical or social care related appointments. The role is totally flexible and whatever time you are able to give would be welcome.

[Register your interest here...](#)

Become a Tea Party Host

Re-engage provides vital, life-enhancing social connections for older people at a time in their lives when their social circles are diminishing, Tea parties provide a lifeline of friendship for older people, and the regular, warm, friendly chats and companionship provide a vital link with the outside world from which they have become isolated.

Volunteer drivers are also required.

[Details on our website...](#)

Towcester Community Fridge

Volunteers needed for 2 hours per week to join a friendly group helping to save food waste.

The community Fridge operate 3 sessions each week handing out Free in/ Free out food to the general public, sessions are open to all.

[Details...](#)

Treasurer - Greens Norton Scouts

Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The group in Greens Norton are currently looking for Treasurer to provide sound financial administration, support and information.

[Are you the person they are looking for?...](#)

NSPCC Speak out. Stay safe volunteers

As a Speak out. Stay safe. volunteer, you will visit primary schools local to your area to deliver "Speak out. Stay safe." workshops that teach children about the different types of abuse and how they can speak out and stay safe.

[Details...](#)

Milton Keynes Museum

The museum tells the story of Milton Keynes and the surrounding area through the 19th and 20th centuries, focusing on Victorian home life, farming, communication and transport. It is an award-winning community-run heritage site with a unique approach to volunteering.

[Lots of opportunities to volunteer...](#)



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

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

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.

snvb
Volunteer Centre
Whittons Lane
Towcester
NN12 6YZ

01327 358264

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