Volunteers Week 2011.
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Find out about our forthcoming Volunteer Week events
Office Space Available at Sefton House

Save money, cut costs, share resources? Sound familiar?

We have two large, accessible and fully furnished rooms available for rent in our lovely spacious offices. In addition, if you wish, you can share some or our resources i.e. reception, kitchen and copiers. We have two large training rooms available that can be used for events/training. There is a lift to the upper floors. We can even provide administration, accounts and payroll services at a small extra cost. The prices will be inclusive of heating and lighting.

Come and see what we have to offer.

Contact: Pam Young on: 01928 592405 or email: pyoung@haltonva.org.uk

Runcorn Carnival to return in the summer of 2011

Saturday 9th of July 2011 brings the return of the Carnival to Runcorn. The festivities will begin at 11am with a Grand Parade starting in Mersey Road, with bands, colourful costumes and lots of surprises.

Then on to the Town Hall Park, Boston Avenue where there will be lot’s of entertainment including: Children’s Rides, Bouncy Castles, Charity Stalls, Marching Bands, Morris Dancers, Birds of Prey, a Dog Display by the Cheshire Search and Rescue Team and a Craft Marquee to name just a few of the attractions. Food, drinks, ice cream and candy floss will be available to purchase.

The theme for this years Carnival will be “The History of Runcorn’s Canals”. Local schools and voluntary groups will be taking part in the parade and workshops will be held in the spring and early summer to help these groups to prepare for the carnival.

The towns shop keepers are being asked to decorate their shop windows for the day and a prize will be awarded to the best dressed shop.

We are also currently running a competition to design a mascot for our carnival. Details of this can be found on our web site.

The carnival will be a great day out for all the family.

If you think you would like to take part in the carnival in some way please contact the group.

For further information please call: 01928 500521 Email: runcorncarnival@talktalk.net. Website: www.runcorncarnival.org.uk.

Carnival Queen Competition

We have extended the closing date for applications for our Carnival Queen Competition to 31st March 2011.

The application form is available online at http://www.runcorncarnival.org.uk/PDF/CarnivalQueenEntry.pdf.
Halton Haven News

Halton Haven Hospice on Barnfield Avenue will this year celebrate a new milestone as the Hospice reaches its 30 year anniversary. Staff say this year will be the most exciting to date.

With 30 years experience in specialist palliative care, local charity Halton Haven Hospice has looked after thousands of patients and their families since the early 1980’s. To mark the occasion Halton Haven will be holding their normal annual events along with some special anniversary events over the year. The Twilight Walk will take place on the 2nd July 2011 and Light up a Life on 2nd December 2011. Along side this, two new events already planned are a fabulous Black Tie evening event on 5th March at the Stobart Stadium in conjunction with Widnes Rotary Club and a race night with a St Patrick’s theme on the 12th March at Frodsham Community Centre. The Hospice is also planning a series of sponsored parachute jumps with over 90 people signed up so far and planning is starting for a Zip Wire from Runcorn Bridge. The Hospice is looking for as many local businesses to get involved as possible by adopting them as their charity for the year. Please contact the Hospice events team on 0151 495 2111 for more details about how to get involved.

As well as major events taking place, Halton Haven’s four charity stores are proving a big success and things are sure to continue into 2011. As well as providing furniture, clothes and books at fantastic prices thanks to the generosity of the local people who donate them, the shops are also centres for recycling and have teamed up with Halton Borough Council and local housing associations to provide full packages of furniture for new tenants who were formerly homeless.

As the Hospice’s redevelopment continues into 2011, new improvements will be made to ensure the patients’ stay is as comfortable as possible. The redevelopment which includes a new environmentally friendly solar heating system, new disabled toilets, an extension to the rear of the building to include a new state of the art patient bathroom, new doors and windows throughout, and improvements to patient rooms, will be completed in February 2011. The redevelopment is primarily funded by the Department of Health as well as generous contributions from local people and has not cost the Hospice a penny!

The Hospice now has a team of 4 doctors leading its clinical care and it is anticipated that a consultant will join the team early in 2011 to continue to enable the very highest quality of care to be provided. In addition, new Patient and Carer support groups will be starting once a month from January which offer patient support, help and advice to anyone diagnosed with any life limiting illness and their carers. For further details contact Jan Grey on 01928 712728.

Halton Children’s Trust

The development of the Halton Children’s Trust website is almost complete.

To enable you to preview the site, and the information contained within it, please go to http://www.haltonpartnership.net/childrenstrust/.

In addition to this we will also soon be producing a Children’s Trust e-newsletter, which will be used as an information sharing vehicle between partners, and to promote success stories across the partnership. Once available this will also be promoted via the website.
**Young at Heart Afternoon Tea Dance**

Ditton Community Centre, Dundalk Road, Widnes WA8 7QF. Every Friday 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Grangeway Community Centre, Grangeway, Runcorn WA7 5HA. Every Thursday 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Why not come along, meet new people and support each other over light refreshments.

If you're feeling up to it maybe even have a dance.

This group is open to people with dementia and their carers.

Information and support on hand from a member of staff or volunteer if required.

For more details contact: Lorraine Dutton on 01928 574384 or Halton@alzheimers.org.uk

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**West Bank Club Official Opening**

**Amateur Rugby League Football Club set up for the future**

After many years of fundraising West Bank ARLFC have moved into their new facilities with the official opening performed on 2nd November 2010.

The facility has been built at the Ted Gleave Sports Ground in Hutchinson Street; the ground being named after the local councillor who did so much to attract the funding for the ground’s remediation. The building provides additional playing and training facilities for the club’s 15 teams.

David Gent Director of Participation and Strategic Partnerships at the Rugby Football League said, “We are delighted to have supported the project through the RFL Facilities Trust and would also like to thank Sport England who helped fund the work through the Community Club Development Programme.

West Bank are a thriving Rugby League club in this area and we hope that these new facilities will serve to strengthen them and encourage more people in the area to get involved in the sport.”

Landfill Tax grants were awarded by Waste Recycling Group Ltd, administered by WREN through the landfill communities fund and from Biffaward secured through Groundwork Merseyside.

The club also secured funding from the Foundation for Sports and the Arts and from Halton Borough Council as well as the club’s own funds.

Paul Farrell, Chairman of the West Bank ARLFC said, “We have been working hard for a long time to get where we are today – but this building promises to be a fantastic resource for the young people of Halton and we would like to thank the council for their ongoing support throughout the project”.

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**LOCAL NEWS**
Radio Halton

Radio Halton invited the Highfield Male Voice Choir from Runcorn to sing Christmas Carols to the patients in the wards of Halton Hospital.

18 choir members and their conductor Eric Corns went along on Sat 12th Dec. The patients were delighted and thoroughly enjoyed singing carols with the Choir.

In the Intermediate Care Unit ward the patients got off their beds, and sat along side the choir on chairs provided by the nurses, and they even did solo spots!

Radio Halton volunteers Derry Griffiths and Margaret Longworth went amongst the patients to see if they had enjoyed the singing. They all said what a wonderful tonic it was, and it really made it feel like Christmas for them.

The Choir said it was rewarding for them, to have cheered up the patients during their time in Hospital. Radio Halton hopes to repeat this event next year.

Do you know someone who struggles with some daily tasks around the home?

Halton Borough Council have developed an on-line assessment system for disabled and older people in Halton. SmartAssist is a FREE online tool available to all Halton residents. The individual, their family, friends or carers can find out about any equipment that could help people live more independently at home. It contains a catalogue of equipment available generally to make daily tasks easier and provides details of local suppliers.

SmartAssist can be accessed at: www.self-assess.co.uk/halton

Should people need help in using SmartAssist they can call in at any Halton Library or Direct Link where staff have been trained on the system.

Alternatively they can make an appointment with the Occupational Therapist at the Independent Living Centre on 01928 582920 who can show them a range of equipment to make day-to-day tasks easier.

For more information on this system contact Halton Adult Social Care on 0151 906 8306

New Sexual Health Text Helpline for Halton and St Helens

www.getiton.org.uk

For Sexual Health Clinic information text:
‘SHR’ for Runcorn
‘SHW’ for Widnes
‘SHS’ for St Helens
To 07860 002 019
Halton Nightstop - Homeless? For young People Aged 16 to 25 years.

Our Vision
Nightstop believes that all Young People have the right to access safe and secure accommodation that is appropriate to their needs. The service is committed to making this happen wherever possible through Volunteer Hosting and Family Mediation.

What is Halton Nightstop?
Nightstop is a simple yet dedicated concept which remains true to the vision of the founding scheme set up in Leeds in 1987: to provide safe, secure accommodation for single homeless young people, for up to three weeks at a time in the homes of approved volunteers, until such time as permanent and appropriate housing is secured. The value of the Nightstop model of locally provided emergency accommodation in the homes of volunteer hosts has not gone unnoticed. The 1999 report on rough sleeping, Coming in from the Cold, recognised the invaluable contribution that the Nightstop model can make by allowing young people a breathing space to consider their option in their own time within their local area. As the report observed, Nightstop schemes “have a crucial role to play in giving young people an opportunity to take stock without gaining the label homeless”.

Who is eligible for the Halton Nightstop and Mediation Service?
- Young people between 16 and 25 years of age who need the provision of safe and secure emergency accommodation.
- Young people who are suffering as a result of family conflict and breakdowns in communication.
- Family members who are concerned that the behaviour of a young person may result in them being made homeless.

Mediation - What is Family Mediation?
Family mediation is a planned process, voluntarily entered into, in which young people and their families are empowered to talk, resolve family difficulties and find a way forward. It is a confidential, non-judgmental and independent service. The aim of the mediation service is to prevent homelessness. This can be done in two ways:
- By providing mediation to families whose relationship has become chaotic, but which has not yet resulted in a young person becoming homeless.
- Or to a family whose relationship breakdown has led to the young person becoming homeless already, and where mediation can be used to try and encourage the young person to go back home, or to repair the relationship and give the young person the support network they may need to develop in their new environment.

Can You Help? Do you want to help your community?
If so, this project could be just right for you. Nightstop and Halton YMCA in conjunction with Halton Borough Council Homeless Team and Supporting People have joined together to help provide a nightly accommodation scheme for vulnerable homeless people in Halton, with the intention of future funding enabling progression to Supported Lodgings.

Have you got a spare room for the night?
If you have then we need to hear from you now, if you are willing to let one young person stay the night at your house. All we ask is for you to provide a room on a nightly basis for up to 3-6 weeks, with washing facilities and if possible a meal. All volunteer hosts will have access to ongoing training and excellent expenses are provided.

Contact details:
Terri Kearney (Co-ordinator, Ship Canal House, Percivial Lane, Runcorn, Cheshier WA7 4UX
Tel: 01928 238420; email: nightstop@haltomymca.org.uk; Website: www.haltonymca.org.uk
DePaul Nightstop UK Limited NE Regional Office, The Resource Centre Oxford Street, Whitley Bay NE26 1AD Tel: 0191 253 6161’ email: info@nightstop-uk.org; Website: www.depaulnightstopuk.org
Norton Priory - Events Listings 2011

March
Sunday 6th March - 2.30pm-3.30pm - The Walled Garden in Winter
A special Sunday tour of the historic Walled Garden.

Sunday 27th March - 12-4pm - Plant Sale
The ever popular spring plant sale at the Walled Garden.

April
Sunday 10th April - 1.30pm-2.30pm - Halton Castle Tour
A special guided tour of Halton Castle. Booking Essential.

Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th April - 1pm-4pm - Bees, Bunnies and Bugs
Spring Half Term family activities.

May
Sunday 1st May - 12pm-4pm - Plant Hunters Fair, Bluebell Walk and Walton Lea Farmer's Market
Sale of unusual and interesting plants from specialist nurseries. Free entry to the fair and market, £2 special entry price to the Walled Garden and Bluebell Walk.

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May - 1pm-4pm - May Day Family Fun
Sunday 8th May - 1.30pm-2.30pm - History Highlights Tour
Enjoy a special guided tour of the Museum and Undercroft.

Sunday 29th May - 6pm - Let's ABBA Party!
An evening of music at the Walled Garden in aid of Halton Haven Hospice.

Bank Holiday Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st May - 1pm-4pm - The Big Bear Hunt!
Bears are loose in the woods! Help the Rangers find the bear, enjoy stories, games and crafts. A great family day out with free admission for under 5s!

June
Saturday 4th June - 10am-5pm - BioBlitz - FREE ENTRY!
Where natural meets history - Join the wildlife experts as they find out what lives at Norton Priory. You can help count and record everything from bus and beetles to bats and birds.

Sunday 12th June - 1.30pm-2.30pm - Garden Highlights Tour
Enjoy a special guided tour of the Walled Garden.

Saturday 25th June - 6pm - 60s and 70s Night!
Music in the Walled Garden with tribute band Fourtunes, in aid of Age Concern Cheshire. Call 01606 305000 to book tickets. A 20% discount is available for parties of 6 or more.

Normal admission prices apply unless otherwise stated. No extra charge for activities.

Centre 8 Theatre
Formed 1966
Meet at the Brindley every Wednesday from 7pm - 9pm
New members welcome
For details phone Sue on 01928 569306
WALK YOUR WAY TO A NEW LEASE OF LIFE IN 2011

Organised walks for the people of Runcorn and Widnes are taking place on Windmill Hill and Spike Island

The walks which have recently been accredited by Natural England are short and gentle as they are aimed at people with lower levels of fitness.

Not only do they provide the perfect opportunity to participate in a healthy activity, they also allow you to meet new people and to enjoy the splendour of the gardens of Norton Priory or the Mersey Estuary.

The Windmill Hill group meet at Priory View, Southwood Avenue, every fortnight at 2.00pm (1st, 15th and 29th March) and the Spike Island group also meet every fortnight at 2.00pm at the Catalyst Museum Car Park (10th and 24th March). All walks are free and there is no need to book, just turn up.

One of the regular participants said, “I always look forward to the walks, because it’s a chance to have a chat and a cup of tea with new people, as well as keeping healthy and fit.”

The walks are organised by environmental charity, Groundwork Merseyside, as part of the Wellbeing programme which is funded through the Big Lottery Fund.

For more information on the Windmill Hill and Spike Island walks, please contact Dan Ellis at Groundwork Merseyside on 0151 726 2777 or email dan.ellis@groundwork.org.uk

Come and join Murdishaw nature detectives club

Saturday 12 March 2011 - 10.30am - 12.30p

Meeting at Vale Community Church, Murdishaw Avenue
Every month on the second Saturday

All Children welcome if they bring an adult

Murdishaw Nature Detectives Club is free and you can join at any meeting. Nature Detectives is for families with children who would like to explore, enjoy and find out more about nature. We will meet at Vale Community Church, then venture into Murdishaw Wood for wildlife activities. If high winds or torrential rain keep us inside, craft activities will keep us busy.

Please let us know if you are intending to come

If you would like more information, please ring Gill Dobson on 01352 742143 or email gildobson@woodlandtrust.org.uk

To find out more about the Woodland Trust’s woods close to you, or to find out how to get involved in the Woodland Communities Project visit www.woodlandtrust.or.uk and www.naturedetectives.org.uk
Halton Miniature Railway

The Halton Miniature Railway is a 7¼ gauge railway, opened in 1979. Trains depart from Mousetrap Hall Station, for a journey of almost 1 mile through the landscaped Town Park. Trains run most Sundays from 1.30pm until 4.30pm. (Also bank holidays Easter - September) Town Park, Palacefields, Runcorn, Cheshire, (off A533 Widnes - Northwich Road) (follow signs for Ski Slope)

The Halton Miniature Railway is operated entirely by volunteers, members of the Halton Miniature Railway Society Limited. New members to assist with the running and maintenance of the railway are most welcome.

Further information is available from the Chairman, Mr J Doyle on 01928 701965

Run the Bridge

Halton 5 Mile Road Race - Runcorn Bridge to Hale Village

Sponsored by: Halton Borough Council & Hale Parish Council

Easter Sunday 24 April 2011- Start Time: 9.30am prompt

Postal Closing Date: 13 April 2011

Limited entries will be accepted before 8.30am on the day of the race on payment of late entry fee

Entry fees:

Club Runners: £10 (£13 on the day)
Non Club Runner: £12 (£15.00 on the day)

Cheque/Postal Order payable to: “Halton Borough Council”

Events and Leisure Services, Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5TD
Phone: 0151 471 7624/5 or Email: runhalton@halton.gov.uk

Online entry available via our website: www.runhalton.co.uk

Part of entry fee will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support

Information at www.runhalton.co.uk or www.visithalton.com


Tuesday 8th March 2011 - 10am Runcorn Hill
Tuesday 15th March 2011 - 10am Phoenix Park
Tuesday 22nd March 2011 - 10am Wigg Island
Tuesday 29th March 2011 - 10am Phoenix Park

Meet at Visitors Centre’s

Regular weekly walks in Widnes, Victoria Park - 12.30pm Monday and 9.30am Wednesday

For more information or to request somebody meets you on arrival call: Paula Parle on 0151 906 1530
Halton HELPS - (Home Equipment Low Price Scheme)

Current Price List
Baby Monitor 10.00
Multi Dan Safety Gate 7.50
Fire Guard 6.50
No Trip Safety Gate 5.50
High Visibility Reflective Vest (each) 2.50
Bath Mat (each) 2.50
First Aid Box (each) 2.50
Changing Mat (each) 1.50
Baby Harness/Reins 1.50
Window Lock (each) 1.00
Video Lock (each) 1.00
Forehead Thermometers (each) 1.00
Door Jammers (each) 0.50
Socket covers (per pack) 0.50
Fridge Locks (each) 0.50
Cupboard Catches (per pack) 0.50
Corner Cushions (per pack) 0.50
Plasters (per pack) 0.50

How do I buy HELPS equipment?
You must have a Halton address and be registered with a Children’s Centre to buy HELPS equipment. (If you’re not registered - no problem - you can fill the form in when you go to buy your equipment).

Runcorn Outlets
Direct Link, Rutland House, Halton Lea
9.00am - 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am -1.00pm Saturday

Direct Link, Church Street
9.00am - 5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am - 1.00 Saturday

Halton Brook Children’s Centre, Fernhurst, Halton Brook - Tel: 01928 573265
Mondays 9.30am - 11.30am

Murdishaw Community Centre, Barnfield Avenue, Murdishaw - Tel: 01928 718285
9.00am - 5.00pm or later if the centre is open for evening activities

Castlefields Community Centre, Chester Close, Castlefields - Tel: 01928 563839
1.00pm - 4.00pm Tuesdays

Play Resource Centre, 10 Mersey Road - Tel: 01928 574087
9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am - 4.00pm Friday

Wicksten Drive Christian Drive, Wicksten Drive
Friday 10.00am - 11.00am

Payment is by cash or cheque only please (Direct Links will also accept Credit/Debit cards)

For further information please contact: Carolyn McAuley, Halton HELPS, Warrington Road Children’s Centre, Naylor Road, Widnes WA8 0BS - Tel: 0151 424 4686
New Shoot Community Food Clubs

New Shoots objective is to get fresh, local, affordable and seasonal fruit and vegetables into the heart of the community. We will signpost those interested in healthier eating, cooking etc. New Shoots does this by supporting Communities and their volunteers, to open their own Food Clubs, both locally and in workplaces. After the launch of Lowerhouse Community Food Club pilot in March 2010, we have just opened the 6th Food Club in Halton Brook Children’s Centre, Runcorn.

New Shoots sells family sized mixed bags of vegetables, mixed bags of fruit, mixed bags of salad and free range eggs. The produce bags are £3.50 each and the eggs are £1 for 6. Following a recent evaluation, we are introducing £2, smaller produce bags, from 9th February 2011, to meet the requirements of small families. To keep the prices competitive, New Shoots orders in bulk, to customer order (by produce type bag) and prepayment. This ensures that there is no waste. Service providers assist with venues, transport, packing, all at no cost to New Shoots, keeping the prices low.

Since March 2010 New Shoots has sold 3,250 bags and has gained 400 members. Come and join us.

The Community Food Clubs open to you on Wednesday afternoons are at
· Stadium Fitness, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes 3-5.30pm
· Upton Community Centre, Hough Green Rd, Widnes 3-4.30pm
· Churchill Hall, Cooper St, Runcorn 2-4pm
· Halton Brook Children’s Centre, Runcorn 2.30-4pm

Also available to their staff only are, New Shoots Community Food Clubs at O2 and Kingsway House.

For further information regarding New Shoots, what the produce bags contain, as a member or opening a Food Club in your Community or workplace see www.newshoots-halton.co.uk or ring Isabel on 07547 745947. Email newshoots-halton@hotmail.co.uk

Looking for somewhere to be based or to meet

Halton Community Partnership Trust (The Old Police Station), Mersey Road, Runcorn has first class office space to lease to voluntary and community groups in Halton.

These centrally located offices are secure and pleasant to work in and are supported by well-equipped training and conference areas, which can be hired on an ‘as and when’ needed basis.

The Partnership Centre is a focal point in the town for the voluntary and community sector and is easily reachable from all points of the Borough.

If you are interested please contact the Centre manager, Sandra Hannan on: 01928 577494 or email hcpt@btconnect.com
Respect Halton
Are you experiencing any of the following?
Noisy neighbours, Rowdy and nuisance behaviour, Verbal and physical abuse, Criminal damage,
Violence/threat of violence, Hate crime and Drug dealing

There are a wide variety of actions that the Police, Council and Housing Associations can take against those causing anti-social behaviour including: Acceptable Behaviour Agreement/Contract, Fixed Penalty Notices, Anti-Social Behaviour Order, Parenting Orders, Seizure of Equipment, Injunction or demoted tenancy and Prosecution

It is important that you report anti-social behaviour that you experience so that the agencies can deal with the situation:

Cheshire Police: 0845 458 0000
Halton Housing Trust: 0800 074 3074 or 0303 333 0100
Liverpool Housing Trust: 01928 796000
Riverside Housing Association: 0845 111 0000 or 0345 111 0000
Cosmopolitan Housing Association: 0151 224 0203 (during office hours) or 0808 1000 2578
Arena Housing Association: 01744 670221
Plus Dane: 0800 169 2988
Halton Borough Council: 0303 333 4300

Support Service
There is also the victim and witness support service that provides independent and confidential support to anyone experiencing anti-social behaviour. To access this service you need to be referred by an agency so ensure that you report the anti-social behaviour to either the Police or your housing association.

Safer Halton Partnership is successfully tackling anti-social behaviour and crime in your community and your continued support is essential in helping us deal with anti-social behaviour and crime in your area.

Community Payback is a punishment given to offenders as part of their sentence when they are convicted of a crime. They literally pay back the community for their crimes by carrying out hard, physical work.

It is compulsory work that involves projects such as street clean-ups, building maintenance, graffiti removal and improvements to park and community facilities.

Projects can range from litter removal or clearing dense undergrowth, through repairing and redecorating community centers’, to removing graffiti.

Whatever the work is, it must: **Benefit the local community, not take paid work away from others, not make a profit for anyone, provide sufficient work to fully occupy a group of offenders, be within the capabilities of the local Community Payback Unit to undertake and satisfy Health and Safety requirements**

Community Payback projects benefit everyone including local schools, faith groups, churches, charities and community organisations and partnerships.

If you have a scheme or project which you think would be suitable as a Community Payback project please go to [www.cheshireprobation.org.uk](http://www.cheshireprobation.org.uk) or phone 01244 394594.

The Safer Halton Partnership is made up of Halton Borough Council, Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire and Rescue and a range of other agencies that work together to help make Halton a safer place to live, work and visit. [www.haltonpartnership.net](http://www.haltonpartnership.net)
Could you use an extra pair of hands or two on Wed 1st June 2011?

To start Volunteers Week 2011, the staff at Halton and St Helens VCA would like to come and volunteer for you.

- Do you have anything special happening on the 1st?
- Do you have a particular piece of work you think we could do?
- Maybe we could help out with your regular club or meeting?

If you think we can help please email: agleave@haltonva.org.uk or call: 01928 592405

The Next Volunteer Managers/Co-ordinators Forum will be on Wednesday 6th April 2011 11.30am - 2.30pm at Sefton House

The Forum meets six monthly to share information, discuss issues, monitoring and anything else to do with volunteering.

One of the items for discussion will be how organisations recruit volunteers. Please bring along a copy of your volunteer registration and reference form to share with the rest of the group if possible.

The meetings are informal and enjoyable. We hope you will feel able to participate.

Should you feel it would be helpful or appropriate for your role as a Volunteer Manager/Co-ordinator, please come along to Sefton House, Public Hall Street, Runcorn on the above date.

Lunch is not provided, so please bring along your own. Tea and coffee will be provided.

For more information or to confirm your attendance contact: Linda Goodier on: 01928 592405 or email: lgoodier@haltonva.org.uk.

Help to free volunteering from red tape

Volunteering England believes that nothing should be easier than giving your time to help other people. The truth is 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.

The aim of our Free volunteering from red tape campaign is to cut through some of this red tape - real and imaged - and let people know how easy it is to help out in their community.

You can join the campaign on Facebook and find out more about our work to free volunteering from red tape on our website: www.volunteering.org.uk/whatwedo/policy/free+volunteering+from+red+tape, where you can also read about our latest initiative to remove barriers for volunteer drivers.
Future of Youth Volunteering

Regrettably from April 2011 the vHalton Team will cease to exist. The vTeam have been present in Halton for the past 3 years and have done so much work to promote and provide young people with voluntary opportunities. Volunteering is a hugely beneficial activity for young people to engage in and we hope that youth volunteering continues to be promoted and driven even without the dedicated vTeam here to do it. The purpose of this article is to say a massive thank you to those of you that we have worked with. Together we have made a difference to the lives of young people in Halton.

Hopefully more money will be signposted in the near future for youth volunteering but in the mean time the Volunteer Centre will continue to do it’s best to assist in these matters. vinspired.com will continue to be available to refer young people who want to find out about voluntary opportunities. They will still be able to apply for them here too. Volunteering awards will continue to exist and remain in the same format as they do currently, simply log onto www.vinspired.com to find out how young people can obtain these awards. It is at times like this, when resources are reducing that we should encourage young people to be proactive and self determined – just because the vTeam won’t be here doesn’t mean that the opportunities won’t! The internet has always been one of the best places to find out about volunteering. Not only can you find out about what volunteering is and how to get involved but also to see the actual opportunities available in your area. Useful websites include www.do-it.org, www.volunteerengland.com, www.vinspired.com, www.worldwidedevolunteering and many more.

The chopstick challenge

A huge well done must go to the Youth Action Team from Halton and St Helens VCA for raising over £330 in a fundraising event for Children in Need and Save the Children. During the final months of 2010 we invented a new world record: how much popcorn can you eat in 60 seconds using only chopsticks? The idea was to have fun and raise as much money as possible by asking people to pay a small donation to “have a go at the challenge” or to gain sponsorship from friends and family to take part. Many people and organisations from across Halton got involved in the challenge including the YMCA, the Youth Service, Riverside College and Halton and St Helens VCA. A special mention must go to Elisha Loftus who raised a staggering amount of money with the help from her mum. Kevin Lambert currently holds the record at 58 pieces of popcorn in 60 seconds (and he promises he’d never used chopsticks before!).

Looking for a New Home!!!

The Youth Action Team, which was set up at the start of the project is a dedicated group of young people who promote healthy and happy communities by organising community events, fundraisers and generally helping out. They are looking for a new home now that the vTeam in Halton, who accommodates their meetings and gives them a house to operate from will no longer exist as of April this year. Is your organisation looking for the expertise of a youth action team or do you know someone who could accommodate them to allow them to continue with the outstanding work they do?

For more information contact Ceri or Tom: 01928 592405
Have you thought about your volunteer application process recently?

An application process is for potential volunteers to decide if they want to volunteer with you, and you to see if they will fit into your team. Many organisations just adapt the application forms and interview techniques used to recruit paid staff. Organisations put effort into recruitment, the wrong kind of application process can build barriers and put off potential volunteers before they even start.

Initial enquiries - consider what to do when people respond to your recruitment campaigns.

- Many potential volunteers make initial contact by phone. Does the person answering the telephone know what to do and who to pass the call on to?
- Avoid asking people to call back - the chances are that they won't. If no one is available, take a contact number. **If you say you will call back make sure that you do.**
- Potential volunteers may not call in office hours, if possible include something about volunteering in your answerphone message, - so that they know they are at the right place!
- Only ask essential questions, it is not an interview. eg if you only need volunteers on Wednesday afternoons, asking when people are available could save them wasting their time.
- Have an information pack to send out. This pack is an extension of your recruitment materials, to help people decide if your organisation is right for them, avoid including formal policies.
- If possible ask potential volunteers to visit and talk to existing volunteers before deciding whether to apply - if they don't know quite what to expect it may put them at their ease.

Application forms - A fair selection process should allow potential volunteers to show their best.

Application forms do not let everybody do this, many ask for more information than is needed or appropriate. Most volunteer application forms are based on those for paid staff - designed to help select the strongest person. If you need several volunteers, will you be choosing one over another?

- Decide what information do you need and why? Why ask a volunteer's date of birth, if all you need to know is if they are within a min or max age eg for insurance purposes.
- You may need to ask for dates of birth if you need to monitor your volunteers by age eg for a funder, as monitoring forms can use different age ranges.
- If in doubt about the information you need to gather, the Information Commissioner’s Office website contains further information. [http://www.ico.gov.uk/](http://www.ico.gov.uk/)

Filling in the application form - Complex forms can be a barrier to people

Think about people with visual impairments, low levels of literacy or don’t have English as a first language - all of whom may have lots of other skills and experience you would not want to miss! Could you get the information you need when you meet the volunteer?

Monitoring and evaluation - keep diversity monitoring information separately from personal details.

Clearly state, why you need the information, how it will be used, where and how long it will be stored.

Analysing, monitoring and evaluating the recruitment aspect of your volunteer programme can identify your most effective methods of advertising for volunteers, and can help you plan future recruitment campaigns. If you just file it why do you collect it?
Volunteer application process continued

Volunteer Informal interviews/ chats - should be informal, structured and organised, not daunting.

Think about how you can make the experience least like a job interview, room set up, tea and coffee?

Before the interview/chat - Successful volunteer interviews/chats need preparation

- Check on support or accessibility requirements and make any appropriate arrangements.
- Be fair and consistent, use a list of questions, get a fuller picture through additional questions.
- Prepare the relevant paperwork eg application form, other information from the candidate, information about the organisation/volunteer role that you wish to provide the candidate with.
- Arrange a quiet room and enough time to set up the room and for the informal interview,
- Arrange the furniture to look less like a job interview eg two armchairs and a coffee table, or sit on the same side of the table as the potential volunteer.
- Offer them a drink (such as tea, coffee or water), and if for some reason you can’t begin the meeting straight away, don’t keep them waiting longer than necessary.

In the interview/chat

Check you have right personal info and say why you are meeting.

You may want to tell them about:

- The aims of the organisation, its service user/client group
- The volunteers role/task description
- The days and times they could potentially perform the volunteer role. If there is a time limit on the role (eg for the duration of a specific project), then you should explain this too.
- Training, support and resources available to volunteers
- Your expectations of volunteers (including organisational policies that impact on volunteers, such as health and safety and codes of conduct, commitment to Equal Opportunities)

At the end of the interview check

- If the potential volunteer has any further questions or information to give you
- That they have the necessary information to take away
- They know what will happen next and when you expect to be in touch again
- If you need to reimburse their expenses for attending, such as their bus fare

After the interview

- Make sure that you follow up anything that you’ve agreed with the potential volunteer, within the timescale that you’ve indicated.
- Not following up an interview is frustrating for the volunteer, even if you’re unable to recruit them straightaway eg if CRB Disclosure is needed, keep in touch, keep them updated.
- To stop a potential volunteer from getting frustrated think about ways you could get them informally involved. You could invite them in for an induction or to attend a Volunteers’ Meeting, to get a feel for the organisation, and get to meet the other staff and volunteers.

Volunteer Centre Halton can help you with your volunteer recruitment processes and practice. If you need help or advice please call 01928 592405
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. You can find out more below.

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.

Useful contacts

EU EYV Task Force team members:
john.macdonald@ec.europa.eu
jutta.koenig-georgiades@ec.europa.eu
ekaterini.karanika@ec.europa.eu

Volunteering England: john.brookes@volunteering.org.uk

Media Trust
A new Media Trust guide written by i-volunteer is now available to download. The guide contains some great tips and case studies that will help organisations, volunteers and social action groups to communicate and recruit volunteers.
www.i-volunteer.org.uk

Compact Knowledge Bank
The Compact Knowledge Bank is a Compact Portal for Compact related research documents. You will be able to view all the Compact research documents, but also upload a document (Compact related) yourself which you think people may find useful.
Website: http://www.thecompact.org.uk/homepage/100016/home/
Volunteering while getting benefits
The Department for Work and Pensions has updated its booklet on how volunteering works while individuals are claiming benefits.
Visit the website: www.dwp.gov.uk for more information

Cutswatch.org.uk Launches
Cutswatch.org.uk has been set up to provide guidance and support to third sector organisations through public spending cuts. The site aims to provide up-to-date news, case studies, guides and information on how to positively deal with spending cuts, along with links to useful events and services.
They want to hear how they can further support your organisation. What would you like added to cutswatch.org.uk? Send them your suggestions email: carina.mckeown@acevo.org.uk
Website: www.cutswatch.org.uk

Midweek Conservation Volunteering
We are working to improve our local woodlands for both people and wildlife. Fencing, footpath construction, step building and tree felling are just some of the tasks we’ll be doing over the autumn and winter in a wood near you, including:

- Murdishaw Wood / Windmill Hill Wood
- Haddocks Wood / Railway Plantation
- Gorse Covert Mounds (Warrington)
- Seeds Plantation (Callands - Warrington)
- Halton & Warrington Conservation Group

Every Wednesday and Friday
Pick-ups available from:
9.05am Runcorn (Co-Operative Car Park, Old Town)
9.35 am Widnes Library
9.50am Warrington Rugby Stadium, Brian Bevan Gate, Winwick Road

For all these volunteer events contact us in advance:
James Kendall on 07740 899712 / 01244 300230
Practical conservation projects across Cheshire. All welcome!

What we provide:
- Fully trained leaders will give training, safety briefing, First Aid cover and introductory briefing to the work and site.
- Pick up and drop off by minibus is available in your local area from a specified pick up point. Please call BTCV Cheshire for details.
- Tools, protective clothing, such as gloves and hard hats.

What we ask of volunteers:
- Volunteers should wear old clothes suitable for outdoor activity, waterproofs and stout shoes or boots.
- Bring your own packed lunch.

For more information contact BTCV Cheshire at Trafford Watermill, Warrington Road, Mickle Trafford, Chester CH2 4EB - Tel: 01244 300230 / 07740 899712 or email: j.kendall@btcv.org.uk
Work Together Scheme

The Work together scheme has been all over the news of late. It has been hard to miss, and will have a massive impact on the local Voluntary, Community, Faith and Sports Sector, especially if your organisation uses volunteers.

It is part of the Coalition Government’s plans to ‘Get Britain Working’. Work Together, is just one of the initiatives being implemented by the DWP, alongside other new schemes such as the community Work Clubs, Work Experience, New Enterprise Allowance and Service Academies.

Work Together is for people who receive Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support or Incapacity Benefit/ Employment and Support Allowance. The DWP, is looking to work with partners to promote the values of volunteering to people with a wide range of skills right from the start of their benefit claims. This, at the moment, will not be a compulsory activity and customers will still have to meet their benefit conditions, such as being available for work and actively seeking work.

For the last two years, JobCentre plus has been promoting volunteering to the long-term unemployed and has fielded volunteering enquiries through the British Trust for Conservation Volunteering, who were funded for each opportunity filled. This stopped on 16th November 2010 and the Work Together scheme was introduced. The Work Together scheme will not receive any funding.

Although, all the details on how the scheme is to work are not yet fully clear, it is apparent that people will be directed through to the national volunteering database do-it.org, which can be accessed from the direct.gov.uk website.

Volunteer centres up and down the country, currently feed the data for 75% of all volunteer opportunities to the Do-it website, on behalf of VCFS groups. This ensures that a proper volunteer role has been created and policies and procedures are in place to protect both the volunteer and VCFS organisation. Once an enquiry is made, the volunteer centres then act as broker, filter and buffer for organisations. The Volunteer Centres match volunteers with suitable roles, offer support to both the volunteer and the organisation and ensure that the organisation is not overwhelmed by inappropriate enquiries.

Once the Work Together scheme gets going in full force, the website will be hit with an unprecedented number of enquiries and the volunteer centres will need to find a way to deal with the increased traffic, with no increase to their resources.

In the light of this, it seems something will have to give. It maybe that the Volunteer centres will need to forgo their role as a filter and upload VCFS organisations details directly onto the Do-it website, so organisations will receive all enquiries to their opportunities. This means two things, volunteer centres lose the ability to track volunteers and volunteering numbers, for which funding for the area relies and secondly, VCFS organisations will need to have the capacity to deal with the increased volume of enquiries.

We would like to hear your views on this subject. Are you equipped to deal with higher levels of volunteer enquiries? Do you want your contact details put direct onto the Do-it website? Do you want your local Volunteer centre to be able to support you? Contact Claire Jones tel: 01744 751759 email: cjones@sthelenscvs.org.uk

Work club soundbite

The DWP’s Work Club initiative will also have an impact on community groups. They are asking charities and community groups to consider setting up work clubs in the community, which would provide support and advice on things like CV writing, interview skills and basic IT skills, but as yet, it appears there is no funding available for the set up or running of these groups.

It has been reported that Chris Grayling, Minister for Employment, said, “Areas affected by unemployment often need a tailored approach to the problems they face and this is best provided locally by the experts on the ground rather than imposed from above.

“We’d urge charities, businesses and other organisations to consider the benefits of setting up Work Clubs, which can take on a number of forms depending on the needs of the community.”

However, according to the Civil society website, ‘…when asked whether there would be any money available for civil society groups to carry out the government’s wishes, a DWP spokeswoman said: “We have no details on that.”

Volunteer Centre Information
Roll Call for Ex-Service Personnel! Supporting Veteran Offenders

Cheshire Probation has launched a Veteran Support Programme which is specifically aimed at supporting offenders who have been in the Armed Forces.

As a veteran yourself, ideally, you will have recent experiences to draw on. Your valuable insight and understanding of the challenges facing veterans who return home to settle back into civilian life, could help a veteran offender stay on track in fulfilling their Probation order and ultimately, avoid re-offending.

To become a volunteer mentor on the Military Veteran Support Programme, you need to be reliable, be a good listener, have a positive outlook and have a belief in the rehabilitation work of Probation. To equip you with the knowledge and skills you need to take up your mentoring role, you will benefit from a two-day induction training course delivered by the British Legion and Cheshire Probation.

If you would like to put yourself forward or find out more, please call Rose Paul, Mentor Coordinator, Cheshire Probation on: 01244 394 538.

Sahir House, Merseyside’s HIV service, are desperately seeking day time volunteers!

After a successful World AIDS Day 2010, our recent move to new premises, increased service user needs and fundraising targets for 2011, Sahir House, the Merseyside HIV support charity, are recruiting new volunteers to help with the busy year ahead.

Sahir House welcomes interest from those who can help with our skills/availability shortage, especially from people with day time availability and car drivers. Places on the new volunteer course are limited and priority will be given to people with day time availability.

We welcome people from all sections of the community. Opportunities to volunteer include: reception and admin, support work, marketing and fundraising projects, driving assistance, HIV campaigning and much more. Full induction and ongoing training, support and travel expenses provided.

**Volunteer Open Day on Wednesday 2nd March, starts at 10.30am - 2pm**

**New volunteer training course - week of 21st March**

Contact us for more information and a volunteer information pack: Sahir House, 2nd Floor, 151 Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2AH Tel: 0151 237 3989 Email: info@sahir.uk.com Website: www.sahir.uk.com

Fairbridge and the Prince’s Trust join forces

Youth charities The Prince’s Trust and Fairbridge are uniting to offer more support to disadvantaged young people across the UK. The two charities will merge on 1 April 2011 with a vision of delivering a more joined-up, wide-ranging service for an increased number of disadvantaged young people.

A full statement is available on the website: www.fairbridge.org.uk/
Call for marshals!
We are currently recruiting marshals for our 6th annual Starlight Ladies Walk. We are looking for 250 men and women who are willing to give up a night’s sleep to support St. Rocco’s Hospice by lining the route to ensure the safety of 2000 lady walkers.

The fun starts at midnight …..to find out more or to sign up please contact: the Volunteers’ Office at St. Rocco’s Hospice. Phone : 01925 575780
Website:  www.stroccos.org.uk  Email : juliakindon@stroccos.org.uk

Lymm Angling Club Juniors - 2011 Calendar

Spring Series
Sunday 6th March          Academy session 1 and Junior Section
Sunday 20th March         Academy session 2 and Junior Section
Sunday 3rd April          Academy session 3 and Junior Section
Sunday 17th April         Academy session 4 and Junior Section
Sunday 8th May            Junior Section only
Sunday 22nd May           Junior Section only

Junior Section
9am Draw, Fish 10am - 3pm. Free to members. Novice - Advance Anglers
Based on a series of matches with additional teach-in for River, Pike and Carp sessions.

Academy Sessions
Session 1 - 10.30 - 12.00. Sessions 2 - 1pm - 3pm. Free to all. Beginner - Novice Anglers.
Designed for children new to angling the ‘Introduction to Angling’ course will take you through four intensively coached sessions allow you to fish independently once completed. Spaces are limited so book in advance.

Woodside Pool
All of our sessions currently take place at Woodside Pool, Dutton.
Contact: Chris Fenneran, Lymm’s Junior Section Manager on 07525 360804 to book your place. For more information visit www.lymmanglersclub.com and follow link for juniors

i-volunteer launches micro-volunteering drive
i-volunteer has launched a micro-volunteering campaign, which will highlight how someone can volunteer with a PC or mobile phone in around half an hour.

The campaign, ‘Try Something New in the Bedroom’, aims to highlight how easy it is to volunteer by undertaking bite-sized actions known as ‘micro-volunteering’, either from a computer or a mobile phone.

Sparked – a new micro-volunteering website
Non-profit organisations can register to receive help with design, media, marketing and more. Those with professional skills can sign up to turn their spare time in to social good.
For more details visit: https://www.sparked.com/
The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation

Flag Day in Liverpool City Centre - Saturday 19th March - We had a great collection day in 2010, and this day will be just as much fun with face painters, entertainers, balloons and loads of our yellow t-shirts dotted around the City Centre, so please join us to 'shake a bucket', have a laugh and help raise money to defeat lung cancer!

Fireman's Charity Car Washes - Sunday 27th March at Wallasey Fire Station Saturday 21st May at Upton Fire Station Volunteers (not just the girls!) needed to help wash cars & collect money with the Firemen! A great fun day is guaranteed!

Bucket Collections - help us to raise money at these Asda Stores Saturday 9th April - Asda Walton, Thursday 14th & Friday 15th April - Asda Smithdown Road

Liver Birds Midnight Walk - Join in the Fun! Friday 13th May 2011
The Liver Birds is a fantastic event. Last year saw over 1100 ladies walk Liverpool's famous waterfront to raise £100,000 to help defeat lung cancer.

2011 is going to be even bigger and you can join in the fun too! As well as walkers, we need lots of lovely volunteers on the night to assist in the smooth running of the event. We need men to help steward the route to keep our walkers safe and ladies to help with registration at the start and finish, and also to help out on the merchandise and water stand, as well as a whole host of other activities.

For details on how to volunteer for these events email Rita Burke: rita.burke@roycastle.org tel: 0151 254 7202

Volunteer Centre Information

Successful Volunteering in the digital age

Volunteers as learners and promters of learning and managers of volunteers

Tuesday 29th March 2011
Renaissance House, Leicester, LE1 6TP
10:30am to 3:00pm
Event fee per person (includes sandwich lunch, tea/coffee):
£90 (Non members’ rate)
£65 (NIACE and WEA full members’ rate*)
  • The discount is only applicable to individual members and organisational members’ staff.

Reserve a place online - www.niace.org.uk

It is likely that active citizenship in the future will need confident digitally capable citizens including digitally capable volunteers.

This seminar will be relevant to Local Authority departments, voluntary and community learning organisations and adult learning providers and offers participants the forum to:
  • discuss volunteering within current government policy and direction
  • identify the opportunities and challenges related to the role of adult learning within volunteering
  • share practice in volunteering, in particular practice that includes digital learning
  • a better understanding of the elements that contribute to successful volunteering.

Enquiries to NIACE Events Team Tel: 0116 204 2833 / Email: events@niace.org.uk
Halton Integrated Bereavement Service (Hibs)

Are looking for Volunteer Listeners to join its specialist team.

Volunteer Listeners will learn about the stages of grief and will also learn to develop their own self-awareness and understanding of Bereavement.

The loss of someone close can leave feelings of sadness and emptiness, being a Listener for the bereaved can be draining, but very rewarding. Successful candidates will receive ongoing supervision and support.

If you are interested in becoming one of our Volunteer Listeners, please contact Jan Gray or Dawn Marshall for an informal chat on: 01928 791221 (24hr answering service) or email: jan@haltonhaven.co.uk or dawn@haltonhaven.co.uk

Bereavement drop in support groups

Halton Integrated Bereavement Service has two support groups within the Halton area.

Runcorn: 1st Wednesday of the month in the Day Care Unit, Halton Haven Hospice, Barnfield Avenue, Murdishaw, Runcorn, WA7 6EP, between 4-7pm

Widnes: Every Tuesday at the Widnes Fire Safety Centre, Lacey Street, Widnes, WA8 7SW. Between 4.30-7pm.

Why not come along for a cup of tea and a chat with others in a similar situation.

British Red Cross - New Year New Challenge

The British Red Cross is looking for local men and women to join the 2011 teams for the world’s biggest and most iconic challenge events.

We have a limited number of guaranteed places available for:
The BUPA Great North Run on Sunday 18 September 2011
The Great Manchester Run on Sunday 15 May 2011
The Manchester Urbanathlon on 31st July 2011
The Great North Swim (date TBC)
The Yorkshire 3 Peaks Walk on 16th July 2011

As a member of the Red Cross team, you will receive; advice and support every step/jump/ stroke of the way and a full and comprehensive sponsorship pack filled with hints and tips on how to maximise your fundraising. In the process you’ll be helping thousands of vulnerable people in crisis for the world’s largest humanitarian organisation. So whether you want to run, walk or swim your way to success in 2011 there is a challenge waiting for you!

To find out or to sign up to any of these events please call Jackie on 0161 888 8915 or 07710733196 or email: jpickersgill@redcross.org.uk
BT Paralympic World Cup 2011

The 2011 BT Paralympic World Cup (BTPWC), now in its seventh year, will see Manchester host the very best elite disability athletes from across the globe competing across three different sports from the 23-28 May:

23rd-26th May  Wheelchair Basketball. Manchester Regional Arena, Sportcity
27th May       Athletics. Manchester Regional Arena, Sportcity
27th-28th May  Swimming. Manchester Aquatics Centre, Booth Street East, Manchester

Building on the success of the 2010 team concept, the Rest of the World will defend their title as BTPWC Champions, battling it out against Great Britain, the Americas and Europe. The teams will compete for the honour of lifting the prestigious BTPWC trophy awarded on the last day of competition. In addition to the event’s three core sports of athletics, swimming and wheelchair basketball, 2011 will feature a series of exciting International matches, including sitting volleyball and boccia. The event also welcomes John Lewis on board for the first time as official sponsor of the volunteering programme.

Volunteers play a vital role in the delivery and success of the event which could not take place without their help, support and enthusiasm throughout the competition. We are looking for friendly, outgoing and competent volunteers to fulfil a variety of roles. As a volunteer you will be provided with a fantastic opportunity at this prestigious multi-sport event, preparing the athletes in the run up to London 2012.

Why should you volunteer?
Benefits: All volunteers will be provided with a full information pack, event uniform accreditation, water, tea/coffee and a meal during shifts*. You will also be eligible for four tickets for you and your family/friends to one of the sports (where available).

Training: You will be expected to attend a mandatory training session on Saturday 21 May in Manchester which will ensure that you are fully prepared for your role and responsibilities.

Roles: We are looking to recruit volunteers for the following roles: Event Services Assistants (including Programme & Ticket Sellers), VIP Assistants, Competition Management Assistants, Media Assistants and Transport/Accommodation Assistants. The latter roles include Driver and Airport Liaison whose shifts may be outside of the above dates due to athlete arrival times.

How do I apply/get involved?
Recruitment: We will recruit approximately 50 volunteers for the BTWPWC (with volunteers ideally working an average of 2-3 shifts over the week of the competition).

Application Process: For more information, please visit the official website: www.btparalympicworldcup.com before the deadline on Wednesday 30 March 2011

* Unfortunately volunteer travel expenses cannot be covered in 2011
RSPCA Warrington, Halton & St Helens
Charity shop helpers are required for their new shop in Widnes.
Duties to include:
- Till operation and serving customers
- Sorting and steaming donated stock
- Merchandising of shop and window displays

Action for children
A new website for young people in Halton has been launched and now needs young people aged 13-19 to develop it further and keep it live, vibrant and up to date

Guide Dogs
Are you at home most of the day (part time workers considered)?
Over 18 years old?
Must have secure garden/yard. Commit a year of your time and enthusiasm to rear a puppy the guide dogs way.
Guide dogs meets all expenses for the puppy

Halton Nightstop
Volunteer Hosts are required to provide safe emergency accommodation for single homeless young people (16-25) for up to 3/6 weeks (maximum stay), until such time as permanent and appropriate housing is secured.

Norton Priory Museum and Gardens
A wide variety of volunteering opportunities are currently available at Norton Priory including:
- Educational and Outreach volunteer
- Events volunteer
- Exhibition volunteer
- Gardening and maintenance volunteer
- Museum collection volunteer

For information on all volunteering opportunities please ring the volunteer centre on: 01928 592405 and ask for Alison or Linda.
Alternatively, you can call in any Thursday afternoon between 1-4pm when the Volunteer Centre hold their weekly drop-in session at Sefton House, Public Hall Street, Runcorn.
Heritage Lottery Fund – Your Heritage (£3,000 to £50,000)
The Your Heritage programme offers grants between £3000 and £50,000 inclusive for projects that relate to the local, regional or national heritage of the UK. They welcome applications that help people to learn about, look after and celebrate heritage in a fun and enjoyable way.

They have three aims which relate to learning, conservation and participation.

To receive a grant your project must help people to learn about their own and other people’s heritage. Your project must also do either or both of the following: conserve the UK’s diverse heritage for present and future generations to experience and enjoy, help more people and a wider range of people to take an active part in and make decisions about heritage.

Your Heritage is a rolling programme and there are no deadlines for applications. You will receive a decision on your application within 10 weeks from us receiving your fully filled in application.

You should complete the pre-application enquiry form and full application online. To do this register and apply online at website below.

Please contact our helpline if you need any further guidance: Tel: 020 7591 6042 Fax: 020 7591 6001 Email: enquire@hlf.org.uk Website: http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/yourheritage.aspx

Mark Leonard Trust
The trustees’ grant-making focuses on environmental education in the UK, particularly projects finding practical ways of involving children and young adults; sustainable agriculture and biodiversity; and sustainable transport, energy efficiency and renewable energy (some grants in this area are made jointly with the JJ Charitable Trust).

Youth work that supports the rehabilitation of young people involved in anti-social or criminal activities and helps remove the barriers to social inclusion.

The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, Allington House (1st Floor), 150 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5AE

See Guidance on Applying at Website: http://sfct.org.uk/applying.html

The Co-operative Membership Community Fund
The Co-operative Membership Community Fund awards grants between £100 and £2,000 to local groups for community projects all year round. Community groups, self help groups, voluntary groups and community charities (or local branches of national charities) are all eligible to apply.

To be successful groups must carry out positive work in the community and projects must address a community issue, provide a good long-term benefit to the community, support cooperative values and principles and ideally be innovative in its approach.

Grants can be used to fund running costs and anything from equipment to event costs, help towards rent or fixtures, sport or computer equipment.

For further information and to apply, visit: www.co-operative.coop/membership/local-communities/community-fund/, or contact 0844 262 4001, or email: community.fund@co-operative.coop
Dulverton Trust
The Dulverton Trust operate within the following main areas of activity:

Youth and Education – This is our largest category and is concerned with educational activities and opportunities for disadvantaged young people, helping them to achieve their true potential. This includes enabling young people at risk of offending or exclusion to access education and employment. They wish to encourage studies in science and technology that will open up career opportunities for young people in business and industry. They believe in the character-building value of challenging outdoor activities such as adventure training and sail training that encourage leadership and team spirit. We also wish to help children, particularly from urban and suburban areas, to value the countryside.

General Welfare – They support a wide range of activities that benefit disadvantaged people and communities, with particular interest in: maintaining active living and independence for older people, strengthening and supporting family relationships, the welfare of children in disadvantaged families and of children in care, supporting carers, the rehabilitation of prisoners and ex-offenders and help for their families to rebuild their lives, helping young homeless people to move forward, the welfare of former members of the Armed Forces, developing tolerance and understanding between faiths.

Conservation – The Trust is keen to support the general conservation and protection of wildlife habitats within the United Kingdom. We also encourage projects concerning the protection and sympathetic management of trees and native woodlands. Projects concerned with single species are rarely considered.

Preservation – They are interested in the preservation of outstanding historic artifacts and buildings of national importance. We encourage the development of craftsmanship in the traditional techniques of repair and restoration. Because we give annual grants to the National Churches Trust and the Scottish Churches Architectural Heritage Trust for churches in the United Kingdom, we are very rarely able to consider appeals from individual churches.

Peace and Humanitarian Support – this is a restricted category which embraces selected appeals concerned with: peace intervention infrastructure for disaster relief.

Africa – Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will support only a very small number of organisations operating in East Africa, or occasionally Southern Africa, which already have a long association with the Trust. These usually operate in the fields of education and conservation.

Major Grants – for charities that operate nationally or across the geographical regions of the UK. Support will normally be restricted to charities whose annual income is below £50 million.

Minor Grants - for smaller charities usually working at local or county level. Support will normally be restricted to charities whose annual income is below £400,000. A fixed sum of money is earmarked each year for these awards and the maximum grant is £3,500. Priority will be given to charities working in areas of severe deprivation or rural isolation. Trustees meet four times a year to consider Major appeals: in February, May, July and October. Minor appeals are considered four times a year at variable times between the main agenda meetings. There are no deadlines or closing dates.

The Dulverton Trust, 5 St James’s Place, London SW1A 1NP Tel: 020 7629 9121 Fax: 020 7495 6201 Email: trust@dulverton.org

Full Guidelines and Application details are on Website: http://www.dulverton.org/
ACT Foundation
ACT provides grants to individuals and other charities, principally in the UK, with the aim of enhancing the quality of life for people in need, (specifically the mentally and physically disabled).

Grants generally fall into the following areas:
**Building** - funding modifications to homes, schools, hospices etc. **Equipment** - provision of specialised wheelchairs, other mobility aids and equipment including medical equipment to assist independent living. **Financial assistance** - towards the cost of short-term respite breaks at a registered respite centre.

Projects that intend to be a platform for continuing services will be expected to demonstrate sustainability. ACT would be concerned to be a sole funder of projects that require ongoing support.

Check website below for exclusions. Applications are accepted at any time.

ACT will send an acknowledgement letter within one week of receiving an application. If the proposal is either in an unacceptable form, or ineligible, or a low priority, you will be told in this letter.

They will assess all acceptable applications and they may contact you for further information and/or make a personal visit. In the case of charitable bodies we may also ask for a presentation.

Decisions on grants of up to £50,000 are normally made within one month of receiving your application. Decisions on grants over £50,000 can take up to three months.

If the application is for an emergency a faster timescale can be requested and ACT will do their best to assist.

Full details are on Website: [www.theactfoundation.co.uk](http://www.theactfoundation.co.uk) Application form available from: [http://www.theactfoundation.co.uk/images/stories/ACT_Application-form_for-web_new-address.pdf](http://www.theactfoundation.co.uk/images/stories/ACT_Application-form_for-web_new-address.pdf)

Queen Elizabeth II Fields Fund
The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is a new campaign to protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces, including pitches, woodlands, children’s play areas, gardens, bicycle trails and parks, as a permanent living legacy of Queen’s Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Local Authorities, Parish and Town Councils, sports clubs and private landowners can apply to obtain Queen Elizabeth II Fields Fund status.

All areas that are designated as Queen Elizabeth II Fields Fund are then eligible to apply to SITA’s £1 million Queen Elizabeth II Fields Fund for grants to make improvements to the recreation area. There are two funding strands:

- **QEII Fields Volunteer Support Fund** - grants of up to £5,000 to fund projects where volunteers are extensively involved in the delivery of the project;
- **QEII Major Works Fund** – grants of up to £25,000 to support projects that do focus on volunteer involvement, but will allow major works to be carried out by contractors.

For more information visit [www.sitatrust.org.uk/news/175](http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/news/175) or [www.qe2fields.com](http://www.qe2fields.com)

For help with your application contact the External Funding Team at Halton Borough Council on 0151 471 7523 or [steph.davies@halton.gov.uk](mailto:steph.davies@halton.gov.uk).
Lloyds TSB Foundation ‘Community Programme’

The Lloyds TSB Foundation funds local, regional and national charities working to tackle disadvantage across England and Wales. Their focus is on supporting small and medium underfunded charities that can make a significant difference to the lives of disadvantaged people by helping them to play a fuller role in the community. The Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales has announced that due to a higher level of income they have increased the level of funding for 2010 and will sustain it for 2011, 2012 and 2013.

They have appointed a new Grant Manager covering the Merseyside, Cheshire and South Manchester area giving a strong presence, this enables them to respond directly and promptly to local needs.

Their grant making programmes are:- Matched Giving Scheme: For Lloyds TSB Group employees who are involved in charity fundraising. Employers can claim £500 to match any fundraising or time given to charitable work.

The Community programme: This is their main programme, which focuses on funding core work that helps disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in the community.

They make grants of one to three years that are appropriate to the size and needs of each charity. You are advised to speak to the Grant Manager to get a clear idea of a feasible amount to request.

The Lloyds TSB Foundation Website has an online eligibility checklist, which you can complete to check if you can apply. You must then contact your local Grants Office to discuss your application before you can make an application. Following this, you will be invited to apply and sent an application form.

You can apply anytime to Lloyds TSB Foundation - check with your local Grant Manager for the timescales in making an application, Michele Lester, Grant Manager, Merseyside, Cheshire and South Manchester. Tel: 07500787747; Fax: 08704111224 Email: michele.lester@lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk Website: www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust (Merseyside)

This is a charitable trust offering grants nationally and internationally, though with a strong interest in the Merseyside area. Please note that there has been a recent change in the Trust’s contact details.

Registered Charities only can apply.

Applications ongoing but trustees meet 3 times a year. You can apply by letter of application to Liesa Astbury, Administrator, 546 Warrington Road, Rainhill, Merseyside, L35 4LZ Email: Eleanor.rathbone.trust@tinyworld.co.uk Website: www.eleanorrathbonetrust.org.uk

Woodland Trust Jubilee Woods

This project will create woods, groves and copses across the country. Individuals, community groups and schools are all invited to get involved in planting a Jubilee Wood.

For more information, please contact the Woodland Trust on 08452 935689.
Big Lottery Fund - Awards for All - Grant Range: £300 - £10,000
The Big Lottery Fund has re-launched the new £58M Awards for All small grants scheme. This scheme replaces the old Awards for All scheme and only uses money from Big Lottery Fund. Small grant funding for arts, heritage and sports projects are now being dealt with separately under other small grant lottery schemes.

The Awards for All programme aims to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. To do this we want to fund projects that meet one or more of the following outcomes:
- People have better chances in life - with better access to training and development to improve their life skills.
- Stronger communities - with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems.
- Improved rural and urban environments - which communities are better able to access and enjoy.
- Healthier and more active people and communities.

You may be eligible to apply for an Awards for All grant if you can meet one of the criteria mentioned above, and:
- You are a not-for-profit group (including social enterprises), or you are a parish or town council, school or health body.
- You have a bank account that requires at least two unrelated people to sign each cheque or withdrawal.
- You have a governing body with at least three unrelated members.
- You can spend the grant within one year.

How to Apply: The application form is short and simple. Email us the completed form http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/apply.html

Henry Smith’s Charity - Outings for young people - maximum grant £3,000
Applications can be made for grants towards holidays or outings within the UK for children aged 13 and under who are from areas of high deprivation, are experiencing disadvantage, or those who have a disability.

Holidays or outings can be to countryside or city locations, but must be outside the children’s immediate locality.

Grants are normally limited to a maximum of two-thirds of the total cost of a trip as we would expect some local partnership funding to be in place.

Organisations may apply for funding year on year for a maximum of three years, subject to receipt of satisfactory progress reports.

Schools, youth groups, not for profit organisations and charities are all eligible to apply.

You should apply in writing in letter format (maximum of four A4 sides) providing the following information and enclosing your latest accounts: State clearly what your organisation does, who you are, and who your organisation helps; Provide full contact details including a telephone number and email address for the main contact; Details of when and where is the trip to take place, what its aims are, and what you hope the children will gain from the experience; The number of children who will be attending and their ages (if any children are aged 14 and over, they may attend but cannot be funded); A budget breakdown.

Your application should be posted to us with your latest audited or independently inspected accounts (NB: schools are not required to send accounts) to: Applications - Holiday Grant, The Henry Smith Charity, 6th Floor, 65 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 2AD

For further information please contact Jo Halpin on 0207 264 4983.
**Morgan Foundation**

Charities and not for profit organisations across North Wales, Merseyside, West Cheshire and North Shropshire that work with disadvantaged children and families have the opportunity to apply through the Morgan Foundation.

The Foundation is particularly keen to support those who have already begun to make an impact, but need a helping hand to expand their work and increase their effectiveness.

Funding is available for projects that have a positive effect on their welfare and quality of life, or which expands the opportunities and life choices for young people in this region.

Minibuses may be provided to eligible organisations. The vehicles are supplied as either standard, or fully adapted for use by physically disabled passengers if required. Recipients are carefully consulted on their needs to ensure the correct adaptations are achieved and all buses are finished with the Morgan Foundation Smiley bus logo and the receiving organisation’s name, logo and contact details. The Foundation also runs the Morgan Foundation Entrepreneur Awards, further information and how to register is available from the website.

Generally the Foundation does not support national charities or large organisations.

Though the majority of the recipients of grants are registered charities, the Foundation also consider applications from other types of organisations which are pursuing charitable causes and where aims and objectives are ‘not for profit’.

Applications can be made at any time as Trustee meetings are held regularly throughout the year. However, organisations should be aware that applications are considered in chronological order and it can take up to six months for the process to be completed.

Jane Harris, Administrator, Morgan Foundation, PO Box 3517, Chester CH1 9ET. Tel: 01829 782800; Fax: 01829 782223. Email: contact@morganfoundation.co.uk. To apply download and complete application form from website:  www.morganfoundation.co.uk

**Heritage Lottery Fund - Young Roots - currently undersubscribed**

Young Roots is a grant programme designed to engage young people aged 13-25 with their heritage. Young Roots projects stem directly from the interest and ideas of young people, who are supported by youth and heritage organisations to develop skills, build confidence, and connect with their local communities. Programme budget is £3000 to £25,000.

To receive a Young Roots grant, your project must relate to the varied heritage of the UK and; provide new opportunities for a wider range of young people aged 13 to 25 to learn about their own and others’ heritage; allow young people to lead and take part in creative and engaging activities; develop partnerships between youth organisations and heritage organisations; and create opportunities to celebrate young people’s achievements in the project and share their learning with the wider community.

Your project must also create new opportunities for young people to either: volunteer in heritage; or gain skills in identifying, recording, interpreting or caring for heritage.

Young Roots is a rolling programme and there is no deadline for applications. You will receive a decision on your application within 10 weeks from us receiving your fully filled-in application.

You should complete the pre-application enquiry form and fill in an application online. To register and apply visit the website: www.hlf.org.uk/howtoapply/programmes/pages/youngroots.aspx

Please contact their helpline if you need any further guidance: tel: 020 7591 6042 fax: 020 7591 6271 email: enquire@hlf.org.uk
Diana Awards
If you know an exceptional young person or group of individuals who have made a selfless contribution to your community then nominate them for one of our three Diana Award schemes.

If you are still wondering why you should recognise someone then look at website below. You’ll find clear information about the young people who are eligible, plus full application guides.

The deadline for nominations is 20th May 2011

Diana Award – For individuals aged 12-18 who make a sustained, selfless contribution to their community, and who demonstrate exceptional personal qualities. These young people receive our main Diana Award, which is now assessed by a quality panel of experienced and talented individuals.

Evidence required: 3 testimonials, 2 from adults who know the nominee in a professional capacity plus 1 from someone who has benefited from the nominee’s work.

Certificate of Excellence – For groups of young people aged 12-18 who have worked together to make their communities a better place to be. These young people qualify for our Diana Certificate of Excellence.

Evidence Required: 1 detailed testimonial from a young person or adult who knows the group in a professional capacity plus any relevant evidence of the group’s activities.

Anti-Bullying Award – For individuals and groups of young people who have tackled bullying in their communities and schools. Our Diana Anti-Bullying Award is for all those aged 5-18 who qualify.

Evidence required: 1 detailed testimonial from a young person or adult who knows the nominee(s) in a professional capacity plus any relevant evidence of the nominee(s) activities.

See Website for more details: http://diana-award.org.uk/nominate/award-categories

Free Tree Packs - The Woodland Trust
The Woodland Trust is offering free tree planting packs to schools, youth groups and communities. These packs are designed to encourage more people to plant trees, hedges and copses in their local shared public spaces or to provide shade and shelter for children in school playgrounds as well as offering a wonderful opportunity to engage pupils in fun, hands-on learning which links their environment to the curriculum.

Autumn 2011 - deadline for applications by August 2011.


Greggs Foundation Breakfast Club
Greggs Foundation is offering grants for healthy food and equipment to get breakfast clubs started in primary schools in disadvantaged areas of England, Scotland and Wales. Greggs also provides bread donations from their nearest shop. Greggs Foundation work with teachers to encourage parents, grandparents and other volunteers to run the clubs and serve the breakfasts. If you are interested in opening a breakfast club at your school then you must be a primary school, be able to show that at least 50% of your pupils qualify for free school meals and that you are able to attract adult volunteers to help run the scheme.

For more information log on to www.greggsfoundation.org.uk/breakfastclub.html
PC4 Recycling
Even if you do not have a formal Environmental Policy you may wish to consider the impact you have on the environment.

PC4 Recycling is a leading computer disposal and recycling company offering a nationwide IT recycling service. Whether you want to recycle 1 item or 100, they can provide safe and environmentally friendly solutions at affordable prices.

PC4 Recycling offers a one stop solution to all your computer recycling needs including collection, data wiping and the disposal or recycling of your items. All you have to do is call them with the details and they’ll do the rest!

Not only do they make it easy for you to recycle or dispose of your IT equipment but they can massively reduce your costs. Their simple pricing structure allows you to see exactly what you’ll pay for your collection and they guarantee to beat any quote for the same service.

Contact Tel: 0800 121 6045 Email: info@pc4recycling.co.uk. Fuller details and pricing are on Website: http://www.pc4recycling.co.uk.

Runcorn Carnival 2011 Community Open Stage

At the 2011 Runcorn Carnival we are providing a Community Open Stage for local artists, theatre groups, bands, singers and dancers to use throughout the day. It’s our intention to make the Carnival a great opportunity for local artists to display their talents to a larger, open air audience. If you would like to show off your talents you will need to book as early as possible to secure your spot on the stage.

What you need to do
If you are a local group or band, theatre company, solo act, singer, dancer or indeed any kind of stage performer, then we may be able to offer you a spot on the Community Stage. Please remember though, we are not able to pay for performances. We provide the opportunity for you to perform live on stage to an outdoor audience.

To perform on our Community Stage, you need to complete the application form on our forms page and submit it with as much information about your act as possible. We will let you know as soon as possible if you have been accepted. If you are, then we will give you the exact performance times nearer the event.

Important
Runcorn Carnival is a family event and as such we do not allow inappropriate and/or offensive material on the Community Stage. Any occurrence of such material will result in the offender’s immediate expulsion from the stage. If booked, you must abide by the amount of time we have allotted you and the rules and regulations of the stage management. If you decide NOT to perform after we have booked you, then we ask that you notify us as soon as possible so we can offer your spot to another performer.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THE FORM OR WANT A GENERAL CHAT ABOUT THE EVENT AND SET-UP THEN PLEASE RING 01928 500 521 or email runcorncarnival@talktalk.net.
FREE TRAINING COURSES TO HALTON RESIDENTS

Introduction to Winter Tree Identification
Category: Trees and Woodland - Tree identification/The natural world - plants and fungi
Location: Warrington, Cheshire
Date: 26th March 2011
Duration: 1 day
Description: Find out how to identify different trees in winter. This course explains why it is important to be able to identify different trees and their value as indicators, and the different habitats involved. It covers appropriate survey methods, and techniques for identifying different trees using keys and other sources of reference. It also explains the risks and hazards associated with this type of activity and what precautions are necessary.
Prior skills or experience required: This course is open to all, no prior skills or abilities are required.
Qualification(s) offered from this course: NCFE accredited certificate through the BTCV Institute at Entry Level
Contact Details: Email Northern-Training@btcv.org.uk Tel: 01772 325362

Work with Girls and Young Women Network Present - Women Practitioner Training
Tuesday 8th March 2011 - 9.30am to 4.00pm, The Youth HUB, Grangeway Youth and Community Centre, Grangeway, Runcorn WA7 5HA
A training event for women practitioners in Halton. Looking at self esteem, confidence, anti-discriminatory practice in our work with girls and young women.
Key note speakers, workshops, presentations.
Places are FREE (However, non attendance once booked, will result in a £40 fee being charged.)
To book a place please email: Stephanie.brear@actionforchildren.org.uk or call 01928 583322

GB Sport- Business Essentials
Monday 21st March 2011 2pm-6pm at Stobart Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes WA8 7DZ
This course is for: Sports coaches; clients who use coaching services; administrators responsible for supporting coaches or running a coaching programme; club committee members responsible for the coaching programme at their club/centre.
Course Content: This course provides an essential guide to the legal and financial requirements for running a successful coaching programme with particular reference to the following key areas:
- Self employment status
- Taking on staff
- VAT
- Insurance
The cost of the course is £20 for Halton residents, £35 for non-Halton residents. This also includes resources, a CD rom and templates of written contracts etc, as well as a course handbook.
This course is being put on by Halton Borough Council. If you require any further information or would like an application form, please contact: Helen Birrell, Assistant Sports Development Officer, Halton Borough Council, Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn WA7 5TD, Tel: 0151 906 1530 (ext. 4133); Mobile: 07824 431832; Fax: 0151 907 8355 www.halton.gov.uk/sportsdevelopment
Effective Supervision Skills (2 day course)

Venue: Kuumba Imani Millenium Centre, Liverpool
Date: 4th and 5th April 2011
Times: 9.30am to 4.30pm both days

A practical, process-focused 2-day course which builds confidence, incorporates existing skills, and provides a flexible structure for managing supervision meetings. Essential training for newly- or recently-appointed Supervisors/Managers. Also invaluable for skills updating and affirming practice for those with more experience.

What do we mean by ‘Supervision’?
People will attach their own different meaning to the term Supervision. We see it as a supportive, collaborative part of the line-management process, where the supervisee is encouraged to examine and review their work in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.

It’s also an essential ingredient in quality assurance with a direct impact on service delivery - so sometimes behaviour and attitudes need to be challenged.

How to integrate and reconcile this inclusive, empowering approach with some of the tricky aspects of dealing with the less-than-perfect people who are us and those we supervise is the key task of the training.

The training and what it does
Effective Supervision Skills and its approach is proven in the crucible of real working experience across the spectrum of public service organisations - whether based in the community, voluntary or statutory sectors. It offers a simple but powerful structure, focusing on the tasks and performance of the worker while simultaneously building and maintaining the essential supervisory relationship.

The course lasts for two days, focusing on a one to one supervision session with one of its great strengths being its experimental nature. All the teaching is underlined by progressive practical sessions which use participants’ own issues in a non-threatening, safe environment to ensure everyone’s learning is grounded in reality.

What prior experience is needed?
Through its emphasis on Supervision as a process, and identifying relevant transferable skills, the course is particularly effective in building competence and confidence in recently-appointed supervisors.

It also provides an opportunity for those with more experience to re-examine their practice and acquire some fresh approaches to this essential management function.

By the end, you will have …
explored what good supervision is, and what it can do for your organisation
understood and practised the use of IDT’s simple, powerful supervision process model
raised your awareness of personal perspectives, and their effect on relationships.

For further information please contact IDT Training and Education on 01803 299049; email: mail@idttraining.com or Website: www.idttraining.com.
Qualifications available to both staff and volunteers which are delivered within the workplace/placement setting; these are funded and available to adults of all age groups 16-65. Apprenticeships 19+ (Train to Gain).

The Qualifications are tailored around the job role, already being done. They can benefit anyone who is currently in a full/part time position who would like a qualification to back up the work experience they already have. They are also of benefit to any volunteers who are currently volunteering within a certain sector, and would like a qualification that may help them on their career path.

The Qualifications available at the moment would suit any workers/volunteers in the following roles:

- Catering Assistants/Cooks
- Receptionists/Front of house Services
- Bar Staff
- Waitresses/Waiters
- Kitchen/Cafeteria Staff
- Housekeeping/Domestic Staff
- Shop Assistants

We are currently looking for First NVQ & Diploma Level 2 & 3 applicants and have 56 Placements available within your area and surrounding areas; Our Assessors live locally and will all work within a 30 mile radius of their post code area.

Anyone wishing to partake in these courses must: Be a suitable job role/volunteers position, be fully committed to training, must have been an EU Citizen for 3 Years, not be on any government funded training scheme, or be attending college etc (or have plans to do so within the next 6 months), work/volunteer enough hours to justify doing the qualification (At least 8-10 per week)

Unfortunately anyone with a degree would not be allowed to partake in these qualifications as they would be deemed as over qualified, therefore funding could not be accessed for them.

For further information contact: Sharon Roebuck, Mob: 07866 943 085, Karew, Century Business Centre, Manvers Way, Manvers, S63 9DA, www.karew.co.uk.

Be a great employer - Get the best from your Staff

Effective Managers and good employers get more from their staff - higher performance, increased motivation and improved attendance.

We would like to invite you to the second annual HR Conference we are partnering with the NCVO on Tuesday 29th March 2011. The conference aims to help those responsible for HR in their organisations to develop and strengthen HR knowledge and help to keep up to date with, and understand the implications of, employment legislation.

The conference will feature keynote addresses from: Sir Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive of NCVO, Julie Wilkes, Chief Executive of Skills - Third Sector, James Sinclair Taylor - Senior Partner of the Charity Team, Russell-Cooke LLP

Workshops being run on the day include: Cost effective learning and development, successfully managing restructuring and redundancy, resolving conflict in the workplace, manage your volunteers effectively, the value of using Equality Impact Assessments, effective employee engagement and the TUPE regulations in practice.

Booking is now open through NCVO and the Full Programme can be viewed at www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/HR11 along with information on pricing and how to book. Alternatively you can email marketing@ncvo-vol.org.uk.
Halton & St Helens VCA’s Newsletter is mailed to 750 organisations, groups and individuals. Outside of the free press and local authority it has the widest circulation locally.

Contact Linda Goodier
Tel: 01928 592405, Fax: 01928 568713
or Email: lgoodier@haltonva.org.uk
or send articles to:
Halton & St Helens Voluntary and Community Action
Sefton House
Public Hall Street
Runcorn WA7 1NG

Newsletter Team: Linda Goodier, Debbie East, Debbie Morris, Jackie Boardman and Kelly Garrett

Thank you to all the people and organisations who contribute to our newsletter.

Halton & St Helens VCA newsletter is circulated quarterly to Halton’s voluntary organisations and community groups, local authority departments, health authority, Councillors, MP’s and other organisations who have requested a copy. We aim to keep people up to date as far as possible with information relevant to the work of the local voluntary sector. Views expressed in articles in Halton & St Helens VCA’s newsletter are not necessarily those of Halton & St Helens VCA’s. Articles featured do not carry any endorsement from Halton & St Helens VCA’s.
The Volunteer Centre Staff invite all volunteers & volunteer co-ordinators to celebrate Volunteers week 1-7 June with them. We have arranged the following events for you to join in & enjoy.

**Promotion Day**  Friday 3rd June: 10.00-3.30 pm (come and see us)
Volunteer Centre staff will be at Widnes market promoting the latest volunteering opportunities available across Halton.

**Canal Boat trip** Monday 6th June: 10-4 pm (cost Free, optional lunch payable)
Come and join us on a relaxing boat trip to Stockton Heath for a pub lunch pick up from the Brindley.

**Fun Quiz** Monday 6th June: 7.30-10 pm (cost Free)
at Sefton House. Can your group get together a team of up to 6 people. One person must be a volunteer. If not let us know and we can help you join together with someone else. Sandwich supper provided, bring your own tipple.

**Promotion Day**  Tuesday 7th June: 10.00-3.30 pm (come and see us)
Volunteer Centre staff will be at Runcorn outdoor market promoting the latest volunteering opportunities available across Halton.

**Day trip to Llandudno** Wednesday 8th June: 10-5 pm (cost £10 each)
join the Volunteer Centre staff on a day trip to Llandudno. The bus will leave from Sefton House. A £5 non returnable deposit must be paid on booking.

**Theatre trip** Thursday 9th June: 6.45-11pm (cost £10 each)
join the Volunteer Centre staff for a night at the Harlequin Theatre, Northwich to see Noel Cowards’ comedy “Present Laughter”. The bus will leave from Sefton House. A £5 non returnable deposit must be paid on booking.

**Pamper Session** Friday 10th June 1.45-4 pm: (cost £5 for two treatments)
at Riverside College, Runcorn campus. You can enjoy two relaxing basic beauty treatments for only £5.

**Party Night** Friday 10th June: 7.30-midnight (cost £5 inc supper)
For Haltons’ volunteers and volunteer co-ordinators, at Pavillions Social Club, Sandy Lane, Weston Point, Runcorn WA7 4EX. Come along and dance the night away with the sensational local band Brothers Grim and disco.

To book your place on any of the above events or if you have any queries please contact:
Debbie East on: 01928 592405 or email: deast@haltonva.org.uk