



Volunteer Centre Bulletin

June 2011

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Volunteers Week 2011. More than 100 local people went to Marbles Way, Tadworth to carry out a 'Ground Force' style pond makeover organised by Raven Housing Trust. It was all hands on deck for Operation Splash which saw helpers of all ages working hard to clear the pond, leaving the water clearer and much healthier for fish and other creatures. The new Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Cllr Brian Stead, also arrived to lend a hand. He commented: "This project is a great example of people working together and I'd like to say thank you to Sure Start, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Surrey Police, Reigate and Banstead Community Voluntary Services, Community Payback and Raven Housing Trust for pitching in and making this happen. Any village would be proud of such a beautiful pond and it is a great asset for everyone who lives in this area." Later in the summer the newly cleaned and restored pond will be open for fishing. Helen and Carol from Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Services went along to represent the Volunteer Centre to promote Volunteers Week, planting seeds with the children, as well as other activities.



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Priory Park Community Festival Saturday 25th June 2011.

Organised by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council in partnership with local community group the 'Reigate Events Collective', the event promises to be a free, fun-packed day out for people of all ages featuring: community, craft and information stalls; fun activities for children; traditional fairground rides; conservation activities; a youth zone; live music and a variety of food and drink stalls. If you can help out at this event they are looking for volunteers for a variety of roles including **Stewards** and **Collection Volunteers** (you will need to be 18+ for this opportunity). This event has free entry, but certain stalls and activities will be charged for. Like last year, the Festival will incorporate Armed Forces Day, which honours our Forces past, present and future. Local TA Units, Veterans and Cadet Corps will entertain the crowds with a range of activities and demonstrations. We will be there promoting the Volunteer Centre and your opportunities if you have any new opportunities that you would like us to promote please let us know.

Mayor launches Volunteer Awards 2011. The Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Councillor Brian Stead, is encouraging all residents, community groups and voluntary organisations to nominate their dedicated volunteers to receive a Mayor's Volunteer Award, in recognition of the valuable work they do.

Closing date for nominations is Friday 29 July 2011.

Volunteers must live or work in the borough and not receive any remuneration for their time. Nominations must be received by **Friday 29 July 2011**. Please visit: <http://www.rbcvs.org.uk/award.htm> for more information and how to nominate.

Contact the Elderly is a national charity which takes out elderly people to hostesses once a month on a Sunday for a couple of hours for tea and companionship. The Redhill group is always looking for kind hearted people to host a tea party once a year, all is needed is a big teapot and downstairs toilet.



Reigate & Banstead District Citizens Advice Bureau there is an exciting

new change to their service delivery. With the introduction of an 'Adviceline', a single telephone service (0844 4111 444) at the end of May 2011, they need additional volunteers to support the increasing demand on their advice services at their Redhill offices. The roles include **Administration Volunteers** to process incoming/outgoing calls, message logging, diary maintenance, photocopying, filing & faxing and word processing etc. and **Reception Volunteers**. Times are flexible, Monday-Friday. Although the Bureau is very, very busy they have a friendly and welcoming team who will be more than happy to support new recruits during their induction and training progression.

Surrey Wildlife Trust. Tom Newman has taken over from Charlie



Dooley on the Surrey Greenspace Project in Merstham, his title is Education Officer. He is continuing to look for volunteers who are interested in nature, wildlife, getting outdoors, learning practical conservation skills, improving your local countryside areas, going on healthy walks and helping with school environmental projects. No skills or qualifications required, all tasks will be tailored to each volunteer's ability and confidence as they learn new skills.

The Redhill Youth Consortium are made up of representatives from Raven Housing Trust, Surrey Police, Hyde Housing, Surrey Youth Focus, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, Redhill & Reigate YMCA and other voluntary youth organisations, who work together to identify young peoples' needs and fill these gaps. Natasha Scully, who is the Youth Inclusion Co-ordinator at Raven Housing is new in post and is looking for Voluntary Youth Workers for a new youth club we believe will be opening in September 2011 in central Redhill on Friday evenings 7-10pm. To support this new project volunteers will be needed from 6.30-10.30pm, fortnightly (this may increase or decrease in frequency depending of level of interest). The main tasks for this role will be engaging in face to face youth work, initiate, develop and maintain positive relationships with young people, to plan and facilitate project activities for young people in partnership with the Youth Forum and to safeguard young people's welfare. Volunteers must be 18+. Application deadlines are imminent, however expressions of interest will be accepted throughout the year.

EVENTS



Gatton Park - 'Go Green at Gatton' Country Fair is happening on

Sunday 3rd July from 1 - 5pm, this is a great day out for all the family! Their will be country crafts, demonstrations, children's activities, and the gardens and grounds will be open. Cost: Adults £4.50, children free. We will also be their promoting volunteering, so come along and meet us!

Rainbow Trust Children's Charity is looking for volunteers for their upcoming event, **CAPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL** (nr. Dorking). They need volunteers to help on 21st August with setting up the venue in the morning, and have a variety of roles including bar work, waitressing, artists, stewards to help with parking, cash collecting and selling raffle tickets.

TRAINING



Reigate & Redhill YMCA are very busy over the school holidays and term time and are looking for volunteers to help out with a variety of schemes, such as their after school and Saturday clubs. They run sports schemes, playschemes, schemes for young people with disabilities and outing based schemes for youths with disabilities. No experience is needed. Their next training session will be provided at the Reigate & Redhill YMCA on the 21st and 22nd July from 10am-4pm for new volunteers. (A minibus will be running from Banstead to take potential volunteers to Redhill). Spaces are limited, so don't miss out!

Surrey Independent Visitor Service are looking for volunteers for their Independent Visitor opportunity to visit, befriend and advise children in care who are looked after by Surrey County Council and live in foster care or residential homes. They are looking for men and women who can commit to at least two years, to visit a child for their next two-day training course which will be held in October. Volunteers can go along to an Open Evening on Tuesday 20th September for all those who are interested.

The Brigitte Trust are looking for Local Community Support Volunteers, if you can offer up to 3 hours a week you could make a real difference to individuals and families facing life-threatening illness, offering emotional support, practical help or a listening ear. Timing is flexible. They will be holding an Introductory Evening in

Epsom on 12th July to promote their next training course that starts in September which will also be in Epsom.

NEWS FROM VOLUNTEERING ENGLAND



Volunteering and state benefits: some myths 'busted'. Following some concerns highlighted via their Information Service, Volunteering England have put together an article that tackles some of the myths about volunteering and state benefits that continue to circulate. **The '16 hour' myth** - The biggest myth used to be that you can only volunteer for a maximum of 16 hours a week before a benefits claim is affected. Thankfully this does seem to be coming up less, but there are still some people who aren't clear about the rules. The official Jobcentre Plus leaflet [Volunteering while getting benefits](#) (February 2010) couldn't be clearer: "you can volunteer as many hours as you like while you're getting benefits as long as you keep to the rules for getting them".

Sometimes a Jobcentre Plus customer may legitimately be asked for detailed information about their volunteering, but this is to ensure that what they are doing is actually volunteering. In this way, the Jobcentre Plus approach actually helps to ensure volunteering is volunteering.

Volunteer or lose your benefits' - Recently they have been hearing that some Jobcentre Plus staff are saying that if a customer doesn't take up a volunteering opportunity that has been identified as possibly appropriate for them, they could have their benefits payments reduced. This is false. The contact at the Department of Work and Pensions says simply, "there is no legal basis to enable the Department to require customers to undertake volunteering".

Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks. The Protection of Freedoms Bill, now at committee stage in parliament, is seeking to restrict the scope of the Vetting and Barring Scheme for protecting vulnerable groups and make changes to the system of criminal records checks.

VOLUNTEER SEEKING OPPORTUNITY



We have a gentleman who would like to help voluntary organisations improve their environmental performance. He has seven years of experience in environmental training and supporting environmental development (including carbon management) and can bring his knowledge and skills to organisations. He can organise, plan and train sessions and workshops and also advise on reducing environmental costs. If your organisation has or could develop an opportunity to engage his skills then please get in touch.

OLYMPICS 2012

Inspiration and Legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games



Nominate an Olympic Torchbearer

Do you know someone who is truly inspirational? Someone who always strives to do their best? 8,000 Torchbearers are needed to carry the Olympic Flame across the UK

during the Olympic Torch Relay in 2012. To nominate somebody please visit: www.london2012.com/olympic-torch-relay

Olympic Road Cycling route

As many of you already know, Surrey is set to host the men's and women's Olympic Cycling Road Races. This is a great opportunity for local people to experience a real highlight of the London 2012 Games. Surrey is also hosting the Olympic Time Trial Cycle Race in August 2012. In addition, on Sunday 14 August this year Surrey will be hosting the London-Surrey Cycle Classic which will act as a test event for the main road race in 2012. Please see below for race times:


Race Times	Enters Surrey	Reaches Box Hill	Leaves Box Hill	Leaves Surrey
Test Event 2011	9.30am	10.40am	11.20am	11.50am
Men's 2012	10.30am	11.40am	2.30pm	3.30pm
Women's 2012	12.30pm	1.40pm	2.20pm	2.50pm

For more information about road closures, parking restrictions etc. Please visit their website: www.gosurrey.info

LATEST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

East Surrey Samaritans are holding introductory evenings for their Listening Volunteer opportunity on the 3rd August and 7th September 2011. This role involves offering emotional support to people passing through crisis twenty four hours per day. This is not a counseling role, but talk to people regarding a variety of issues, including suicidal feelings, mental health issues, loneliness, bereavement and despair.

FamilyLine Surrey is a confidential freephone telephone helpline serving the whole of Surrey and beyond. Many callers to the helpline are looking for information or just need a listening ear outside of their usual circle of family and friends. They are looking for volunteers for their Helpline to work as part of a team by taking telephone calls from their Leatherhead base. You must have parenting (or grand-parenting) experience, open minded, non-judgmental and good listening skills. Times are through the working week (daytime only). They are also looking for Trustees.

 **Your Sanctuary** needs female volunteers (aged 18+) to join their team for their out of hours domestic abuse 24 hour helpline. This helpline provides advice and listening support to women experiencing domestic abuse and is a vital source of help. If you have a few hours to spare in your own house in the evenings or at weekends or a few hours during the day then they would love to hear from you. Training held at their Woking office must be attended. You need to commit to at least two shifts per month. Weekdays shifts are from 5pm - 9am. Weekends the shifts are 9am-1pm, 1pm-5pm and 5pm - 9am.

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council have many pro-active different sports clubs in the Reigate & Banstead area who welcome volunteers to get involved in Sport, also the possibility of helping out at clubs events. If you are interested in a particular sport or event their Leisure Department would like to hear from you. They are particularly looking for Trampoline Judges to judge their competitions held six times a year. Events take place on a Sunday. There will be mentoring provided on evenings and Saturday mornings, twelve hours will be needed before getting involved. You must be over 16 years old to apply for this opportunity.

Open Door Enterprises Ltd. is a small cafe in Banstead run by volunteers from local churches to provide snacks and drinks in a friendly atmosphere. They are particularly looking for someone who is available for Thursdays between 11.30am and 3pm with an interest in cooking bacon, mushrooms and omelettes.

City of London Corporation has seven open spaces, owned and managed by the City of London Corporation and found on the borders of South London and Surrey. These include Ashted Common, Farthing Downs and New Hill, Coulsdon Common and Kenley Common.

They work with local communities to enhance the aesthetic, cultural, historical and biological interest of these unique green places, and are looking for volunteers to help them with a variety of practical conservation tasks such as coppicing trees, laying hedges, clearing scrub and checking cattle. No special experience needed just go along and get your hands dirty and work as part of a team!

Surrey County Council Libraries are looking for volunteers aged between 14 -25, to help them run this year's **Summer Reading Challenge** in libraries. Duties will include: Enrolling children onto the Challenge, talking to children about the books they are reading, handing out rewards and incentives to the children and help to organise and run holiday activities. They need volunteers from 9th July - 10th September (minimum of 10 hours over the summer holidays). You will need to be enthusiastic, have good communication skills and enjoy working with children, training is provided.

Earlswood Youth Forum holds a weekly Youth Club for young people aged 11-17 which runs between 6.45 and 9.15pm on Wednesday evenings. They are looking for volunteers aged between 16-25 to help and informally educate young people by encouraging participation in positive leisure activities and actively involving members in the running to the club, community and society. You must be committed and have lots and lots of enthusiasm!!



Girlguiding
Surrey East
girls in the lead

Girlguiding Surrey East are looking for volunteers for a variety of roles including Leaders and Helpers for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

Dorking Nursery School & Dorking Rural Sure Start Children's Centres offer high quality integrated education, care and support both in their nurseries and through their groups for children from birth to five, together with facilities that are available to the local community. They are looking for a variety of volunteers including 'Stay and Play' Helpers, Caretaker and Gardeners.

Banstead Children's Centre is the home of the YMCA's Sure Start Children's Centre in Banstead as well as the base for a number of other excellent projects and activities for children and young people aged 0-13. They are looking for volunteers with enthusiasm and an interest to help coach Street Dance. This group is run by Funky Feet, Street Dance which takes place at Banstead Children's Centre on a Monday. You must be aged 16 or over. They are also looking for people for their Walking Bus Patrol scheme, from 15.10 to 16.00 hours only during term time. CRB check is essential for both opportunities.

ADHD Studio based in Dorking provides a service to children, adolescents and their families that is complementary to the clinical diagnosis of ADHD. They are looking for a variety of volunteers including, an experienced web designer to help them with their website to upload videos, pictures and documents. Also a film editor, an office administrator and an events co-ordinator.



St John Ambulance are looking for Youth Helpers for their Redhill Cadets who meet on a Monday evening and Merstham Badgers who meet on a Tuesday evening. Awaiting more information.

Surrey County Council, Youth Development Service are looking for committed volunteers to help out at their Creche facility at their Young Parents Group in Horley every Friday between 11.45am-2.15pm. They need people who are friendly, non judgmental and with whom young parents feel confident to leave their children with. Experience of child care is desirable but not essential, you must be able to communicate confidently with young parents and their children and willing to take instruction, be punctual, friendly, approachable and non judgmental. CRB check is essential and you must be over 18 years of age to apply.



Age UK Surrey are looking for volunteers in the Redhill, Reigate area for their Marketing Volunteer opportunity. The key aim for this role is to support the Care Adviser in raising their profile within the local community. Timing is flexible. It is essential you have marketing experience, also have good written and oral communication skills and an interest in the elderly.

Diana Francis House is a scheme based in Caterham, designed to equip five adults between the ages of 18-45, who have physical and/or sensory impairment and/or mild learning disability, with the skills to enable them to move on to future accommodation and a lifestyle of their choice. They are looking for **Befriender Volunteers** to befriend a tenant aged 21-35 years, perhaps by meeting up for a chat & a coffee, helping to plan weekly activities, share ideas & help investigate interests and local events etc. Additionally they are also looking for volunteers for their latest opportunity, **Cooking & Health & Safety in the Kitchen**. This role involves teaching basic cooking skills to young adults with a physical and/or learning disability, by sharing knowledge of menu planning, healthy, balanced and well budgeted meals.

Dyscover are looking for a PR & Marketing Volunteer to raise their profile within the local community through the full range of media available. Timings are approx 2-4 hours per week. You should ideally have worked within the field of PR, communications or marketing. Excellent written and oral communication skills are essential for this role and an understanding of PR/working with the media would be helpful.



St. Catherine's Hospice volunteers are needed to help with a street collection in Redhill on the 2nd July. Two collectors per hour (between 9am and 5pm) will hold collection tins/buckets, accept donations and distribute badges and literature to donors. All fundraising materials and guidance will be provided. Collectors can either sign up in pairs or the hospice will pair up available volunteers. Collectors must be aged 18+.

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Mobility Centre in Carshalton, are looking for Admin Support and Gardener/DIY Volunteers during the working week. CRB check and references will be needed for both opportunities.



Muscular Dystrophy Campaign is the leading UK charity focusing on muscle-wasting disease. It has pioneered the search for treatments and cures for more than 50 years, and is dedicated to improving the lives of all children and adults affected by muscle disease. They are looking for Volunteer Collection Box Co-ordinators to raise awareness and funds for the charity by placing and managing collection boxes within businesses in local communities. Additionally, they are also looking for Events Co-ordinators who will liaise with event organisers and support their registered participants by telephone and email, responding to their enquiries and ordering fundraising materials as required. Timings are flexible for both roles.

EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Redstone Community Broadcasting runs a radio station involving presenting and producing radio programmes, marketing the station at outside events and offers opportunities to young people and those who are visually impaired. They are looking to strengthen its board of trustees/directors in a variety of roles, awaiting more information.



Reigate & Banstead

Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service are looking for a Chairperson. Their role would be to support a charity which works to champion local voluntary action and strengthen local charities, voluntary organisations and community groups in the borough. If you have experience in the voluntary sector and can help a team of Trustees and staff build a better future then please get in touch. Good communication, negotiation and organisational skills are essential to this role.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Alzheimer's Society have a new Surrey County wide volunteering officer, Julia Owen based at Horsham. They are looking for Fundraising Group Volunteers and Drivers in our local community.

For more information about any of the above please do get in touch.
Contact Lisa Irwin, Volunteer Centre Administrator
[Email:lisa@rbcvs.org.uk](mailto:lisa@rbcvs.org.uk)
Tel: 01737 762115

If any of you would like to include an article in our next Bulletin, which will be issued in August please let us know by 17th August 2011.

Opening Times

Monday - Friday from 10am - 3pm. An informal interview is available by prior arrangement.



Keep regularly updated, follow us at <http://twitter.com/RedhillVC>



Become a fan of the **Reigate & Banstead Volunteer Centre** on our Facebook page for volunteers and organisations at: www.facebook.com and **Like** our page.

Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service (R.B.V.S) does not take up references or Police checks. This is left to the recruiting voluntary organisation.

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