

KVC News



Celebrating 40 years of Volunteering in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

This has been an incredibly busy time for the KVC team. The impact of the economic downturn has resulted in an increase of volunteers for all of our projects. We all can take advantage of this opportunity, but as with everything, it needs to be managed well.

We have been able to engage with new groups who have increased the diversity of opportunities we have available, and that is a good thing as the types of people wanting to volunteer have a diverse range of skills to offer.

Part of this increase in activity is also due to the many successful events we have been running throughout the borough to raise the profile of volunteering. It is great to manage

such a highly motivated and energetic team of project workers and I would like to take **this chance to say a big "thank you" to all** members of KVC for all your efforts. As you can see from the following articles, each project has organised something which promotes and celebrates the valuable work that goes on in Kingston to benefit those who are from our local community.

And finally, we look forward to meeting as many of you that are able to attend our AGM, 26 November, where all at KVC will be on hand to discuss your volunteering needs.

Maria Jarvis, KVC Manager
020 8255 8685
volunteering@kvc.org.uk

Volunteer Co-ordinators' Forum

Developing Volunteering Opportunities Workshop

Wednesday 11 November, 9.45-12.30

Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Kingston

At KVC, we have seen an upturn in the number of people who want to volunteer, particularly those with high skills who want to share their skills and help a local voluntary or community group.

Come along to our workshop to find out how you take advantage of this by challenging the perceptions of what volunteers can or can't do, and think more openly about how volunteers can be used and develop new opportunities.

For this to be fully beneficial we need you to work with us in developing new and diverse opportunities such as:

- Marketing and promotion
- Fundraising
- Events

To find out more and book a place, contact Patricia Stanley, KVC
Volunteering Development Worker
outreach@kvc.org.uk
020 8255 8685

Good Sports - Sports Volunteering

Is there someone in your club or organisation with a background in light engineering who may be able to spare a couple of hours a week to assist the Kingston Fencing Club with the maintenance of their equipment?

Do some of your volunteers or people in your organisation like to mull over the football results and the performance of their teams? Corinthian Casuals FC, whose rich and illustrious history in amateur football guarantees anyone with an interest in football an enjoyable volunteering experience, have a number of volunteer opportunities.

These are just two of a growing number of sports volunteering vacancies in the borough.

If you would like to receive information on volunteering in sports clubs or could advertise sports volunteering **opportunities at one of your club's** events or within your facilities, please contact Hedley Featherstone, Good Sports Project Co-ordinator on 0208 255 8685 or goodsports@kvc.org.uk

Getting People Back to Work

The project has been running for a number of months and has already successfully placed a number of people into suitable volunteer placements and provided them with tailored support to suit their needs. The volunteers are finding the support to be very valuable which has made their volunteer experience very memorable.

We are still looking to increase the number of organisations involved in the project. The training, advice and information on offer will help your organisation develop good practice in volunteering. This will enable you to:

- Improve the way all volunteers are managed - a happy, productive volunteer base

- Attract and keep more volunteers - longer skilled volunteers
- Avoid high turnover of volunteers - save time spent recruiting extra volunteers
- Create a diverse volunteer base - different volunteers with different skills

But most of all, you will build a team of able, committed volunteers.

To discuss the project in more detail, please contact:

Veronica Mulenga, Project Worker at KVC on 020 8255 8685
gettingpeoplebacktowork@kvc.org.uk



Buddy Birthday Celebrated in Style

On Friday, 4th September, Kingsmeadow played host to what is sure to be one of the most spectacular birthday parties of the year.

The Buddy Scheme held its 10th anniversary at the special event celebrating people with **disabilities' right to have fun and 'Stay Up Late'**.

The venue was packed and the celebrants danced the night away whilst enjoying a live set by Heavy Load as well as a disco. The band, who played at Glastonbury Festival earlier in the summer, were keen to **lend their support to the Buddy Scheme's celebrations and started the national 'Stay Up Late' campaign.**

The Buddy Scheme, over the past 10 years, has been recruiting and supporting volunteers to befriend adults with learning disabilities. Together, they engage in leisure activities and the one-to-one nature of the scheme helps offer genuine choice enabling its members to share hobbies and interests, as well as try out new activities.

Local MP, Edward Davey, came along to the party and led everyone in a chorus of Happy Birthday before cutting the cake together with some of the Scheme members. All the members of the Scheme were presented with certificates and the audience also enjoyed the first full screening of The Buddy Film.

The evening featured a presentation from the Kingston Disability Parliament who spoke about their fantastic work in representing those in the Borough and fighting for their **right to 'Stay Up Late'**.

Paul Vitty, Buddy Scheme Co-ordinator
buddyscheme@kvc.org.uk



Incident Support Team (IST) - Swine Flu

The IST have been asked to assist the Kingston Primary Care Trust in running an Antiviral [Tamiflu] Collection Point (ACP) if there is a second wave of Swine Flu later this year.

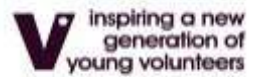
Several of the IST recently had a briefing on what support is required. Essentially it will be very similar to the Reception in a Rest Centre - a role the team has previously expected to be asked to do. Those attending the ACP will be friends of patients - not people with Swine Flu.

The ACP ran for a few weeks during the summer staffed by volunteers from admin staff of KPCT. The principle is that normal frontline medical/care staff should not be diverted from their roles in order to maintain the best medical and social service.

We have been asked to help as a higher level of demand is anticipated in the next wave.

Douglas Craik, Incident Support Team
Volunteer Co-ordinator, ist@kvc.org.uk

Celebrating the Contribution of Young Volunteers: A Snapshot



The Youth Volunteering programme at KVC is all about increasing and improving volunteering for young people aged 16 to 25. The programme is part of V – the national youth volunteering charity – inspiring young people to get positively involved in their communities and celebrating their contribution.



MP Edward Davey presented Event volunteers with their vAwards at the Buddy (Stay Up Late) event to mark 10 years of befriending adults with learning disabilities. Pictured here are volunteer DJ James Jarvis (aged 18) and volunteer photographer Martin George (23).

"I really enjoyed it. I'm now thinking of doing more volunteering. It looks great on your CV and you come away feeling good about it too." James

Peer Motivators: Farah Sadiq, Adam Sadiq (both aged 16) & Derek Eboigbe (23) supported other young people to take part in activities offered by the Summer Uni programme. They were awarded their V Thank You certificates at a celebration event at the Rose Theatre.

"The volunteering helped me build my self-confidence, presentation skills and teamwork. It was great doing something that made others and me happy." Derek.



12 young people volunteered with Kingston Refugee Action on its summer projects. Pictured here are Rhiannon Bone (aged 17), Gurpreet Kalsi (18) and Bilal Davis (24) – all were presented with their vAwards by Meena Kapila, Youth Volunteer Advisor at an awards event hosted by Starbucks.

Meena Kapila, Youth Volunteer Advisor can help your organisation to:

- create new and varied volunteering opportunities for young people
- recruit young volunteers
- develop good working practices with young volunteers
- give recognition to your young volunteers through the national certificate scheme, vAwards.

Contact Meena Kapila,
Youth Volunteer Advisor
on 020 8255 8068
youthvolunteering@kvc.org.uk