



## Volunteer Newsletter April 2021

Volunteers, like you, have played a critical part in supporting organisations and individuals most in need. Volunteers have bridged the divide ensuring the technological, social and economic challenges that so many have faced have been reduced over the last few months and evidence has told us of the amazing positive impact volunteers continue to have within our communities.

As Spring unfolds we are hopeful that more and more organisations will be able to open their doors once more to volunteers, offering a range of roles to meet your needs and expectations. Volunteering is a great way of staying connected so do keep an eye on our social media channels where we are always sharing new opportunities and also check in on the [News section](#) of our website.

We are also preparing to celebrate all volunteers (past and present) in June with Volunteers' Week (1-7 June), the Big Lunch (5-6 June) and a Month of Community also throughout June!

## Ever thought of being a School Governor?

Governors are volunteers from all backgrounds and don't need to be education experts – your skills and experience from your personal and professional life can all add value to a school.

You do need to be age 18+ and have a strong commitment to the role and a desire to help ensure that children get the best possible education.

Department of Education currently have some school governor opportunities within voluntary grammar schools. Find out more on our website: [School Governors wanted](#)



## What's YOUR story?

As part of Volunteers' Week at the beginning of June, we're planning to share some stories from volunteers and we'd love to hear from **you!**

Maybe you've been volunteering for years?

Maybe you first started to volunteer during the Covid-19 pandemic?



Either way, tell us what you do and what inspires you, along with a photo, and we'll share your story on our social media during Volunteers' Week to help inspire others. Email a few lines and your photo to [jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk)

## Ovarian Cancer Walk

It has been such a long time since we were able to promote any event volunteering to you! Target Ovarian Cancer are planning for their *Ovarian Cancer Walk / Run* to be held on 20 June at Ormeau Park, Belfast. It's the first major fundraising event they have hosted in Northern Ireland and will be held in line with their event-specific Covid safety measures and government guidelines.



Volunteer roles on the day include directing participants around the course, taking photographs and handing out medals at the end. For more info visit: [Ovarian Cancer Walk stewards](#)

*Any further events will also be added to the [Events calendar](#) on our website.*

## Featured volunteering opportunities

*(To apply for any opportunities on our website, click 'apply now' and enter your details on the Be Collective platform. Your details are then sent directly to the organisation advertising the opportunity and they will come back to you with more information).*

- Marie Curie: [retail volunteers](#) - stores throughout Northern Ireland
- Girlguiding Ulster - [unit helpers](#) for groups throughout NI
- Endometriosis UK: [support group leader](#) in Belfast
- Confederation of Community Groups Newry - [video befriending volunteer](#)
- Milford House Armagh - [Tea room volunteers](#) , [Housekeeper](#), [Tour Guides](#), [Events volunteers](#)
- Ten Foundations: retail volunteers in [Banbridge](#) and Belfast ([Lisburn Road](#) or [CastleCourt](#))
- North Down Red Squirrel & Pine Marten group - [group helpers](#)



**Find a full selection of volunteering opportunities** by using the [Opportunity Search](#) on our website

**Need some inspiration?** Have a look at some of the [latest volunteering opportunities](#) in your area.

**Need any help?** Email us [info@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:info@volunteernow.co.uk) - just let us know where you live and we can send you a few opportunity suggestions

## Are you a member of a Management Committee?

Volunteer Now is keen to support the almost 33,000 people who are members of voluntary management committees in Northern Ireland to improve the systems and processes which they use to run their organisations and to ensure they comply with legal and good practice requirements. If you need help to improve your governance, Volunteer Now can provide support through various methods.

More info on our website [here](#).

## Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

We all know of voluntary groups who do amazing work in the community and now is your opportunity to recognise them! Nominations are **now open** for the [Queen's Award for Voluntary Service](#).

The nominator should have a good knowledge of the group's work and not be a member of or involved with the running of the group.

The Lord-Lieutenant of the county, as The Queen's representative, will present each successful group with a certificate and a commemorative crystal at a local ceremony.



## The Big Lunch ... save the BIG date!

5-6 June is a perfect time to celebrate community by taking part in the Big Lunch. More information will follow on our website and social media channels but now is a good time as any to plan, whether it is online, socially distanced or in your bubbles.

You can also find out more at: [TheBigLunch.com](http://TheBigLunch.com)



## VOLUNTEERING DURING COVID-19

Whether you have volunteered before or this is your first time, the most important thing you can do at this time, is to continue to protect yourself and others from Covid-19. Advice is changing frequently and you should always follow the latest guidance from NI Executive so we can all play our part to reduce the spread of this virus.



[Click here](#) to see information on our website about Testing and Contact Tracing  
[Click here](#) to see a full selection of our advice sheets relating to volunteering during the pandemic.

Visit <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19> for latest guidance from NI Executive

## Volunteering ... it's good for the body and soul!



Volunteer Now are encouraging people to consider volunteering as an option to taking their 5 steps to wellbeing. Connecting with people and giving back not only helps others, but is proven to make us feel better about ourselves. [Click here](#) to find out more about how you can **Take 5**

## Get social with us!

We love it when you interact with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and share opportunities and news with your friends and family!



[www.volunteernow.co.uk](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk)

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