



Hi and welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter for volunteer involving groups in Northern Ireland. You're receiving this email as you are one of Volunteer Now's partners on the Be Collective volunteer management platform.

In this newsletter we hope to give you some top tips on using Be Collective, details on any updates, etc, but don't forget that you can get help at any time from ...

- The [Be Collective Guide for Groups](#) on our website
- Be Collective Help Centre - a full selection of topics and help videos (the link to the Help Centre is at the bottom left corner when signed in to your Be Collective account)
- Or contact Volunteer Now and one of our team can support you - just email info@volunteernow.co.uk for assistance
- You can also view previous editions of this newsletter [on our website](#)

Volunteers' Week 2022

'A time to say thanks' Volunteers' Week 2022 (1-7 June) is an excellent time to say a special 'Thank You' to your volunteers! With less than 2 months to go its time to start planning and this year is made even more special with the Platinum Jubilee being celebrated from the 2-5th. Over the next coming weeks our website: <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/organisations/involving-volunteers/volunteering-campaigns/volunteers-week/> will have a wealth of information and resources on how to celebrate and recognise your volunteers.



We would love you to share your stories and pictures with us! Send them to jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk and during the Week remember to use **#volunteersweek** if you're posting on social media.

Who is your opportunity suitable for?

Are your volunteering opportunities suitable for wheelchair users? Would a volunteer with limited English be able to help out? Could someone do it with their family?

If so, you can specify this when you add your opportunities to Be Collective and show that you would welcome volunteers from these groups:

▶ Families ▶ Hearing Impaired ▶ Learning Disabilities ▶ Large groups 10+ ▶ Skilled volunteer
▶ Travelling / short term ▶ Vision impaired ▶ Volunteers with limited English
▶ Wheelchair users

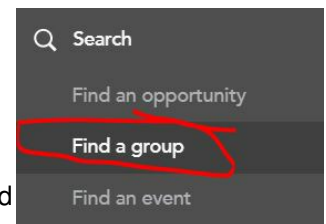
You can find this selection panel towards the bottom of Section 1 when creating your volunteer opportunity, and don't forget that you can also edit your existing opportunities to include this information.



Making Partnerships on Be Collective

Making a partnership with another group on Be Collective is a great way of connecting groups who may have similar aims or interests. You can partner with as many groups as you wish which makes it easy to share your opportunities with them.

To request a partnership select *Find a group* from your side panel, type in the name of the group you're looking for (or if you're just generally looking for groups in your locality use the location and distance finder). When you find a group you want to partner with just click the 3 dots below their header banner and select *Request Partnership*. The group will then receive an email alert and can either accept or decline the partnership.



Once partnered, it's very easy to share your opportunities with your partners. (Please make sure you share your opportunities with Volunteer Now as this will feed through to the opportunity search on www.volunteernow.co.uk)

You can share your opportunity when uploading in step 5 of the opportunity builder - under *Share this opportunity* you can select any groups your group is partnered with or any other groups on Be Collective.

▶ View the help article on Be Collective: [Partnerships explained](#) (there's a great step by step video with this too)

You can also endorse any opportunity you see on Be Collective that you think may be of interest to your group members (you don't need to have a partnership to do so) - these endorsed opportunities will then show on your own opportunities page in your Be Collective account.

▶ View the help article on Be Collective: [Endorsements Explained](#)

Check your opportunity status

You can easily see if your opportunities are open to applications at any time. To do this, go to your group summary page and click 'Opportunities' from the tabs under your main header image. (Make sure you are in the 'active' opportunities section)

Manage opportunities

All (42) **Active (19)** Ended (20) Drafts/Pending (4)

In your list you can see if the opportunity is open to applications and also the application close date.

Title	Application Status	Application Closed Date	Type	Time/Date	Location	Hours Logged
Cycle courier Manage Edit Duplicate Message Invite Share	Open	30 June 2021	Shift	Shifts from 09 November 2020	Briar Hill VIC 3088, Australia	5h 30m
Cycle courier - February Manage Edit Duplicate Message Invite Share	Closed	30 November 2020	Shift	Every week on Monday, Wednesday until February 28, 2021 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Briar Hill VIC 3088, Australia	0h
Cycle courier - January Manage Edit Duplicate Message Invite Share	Closed	30 November 2020	Shift	Shifts from 06 January 2021	Briar Hill VIC 3088, Australia	5h
Cycle repairperson Manage Edit Duplicate Message Invite Share	Paused	30 April 2021	Shift	Every week on Saturday until July 31, 2021 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	Thornbury VIC 3071, Australia	0h

Keep your eye on your application close date as once the platform reaches this date your opportunity is no longer visible to potential volunteers. [Click here](#) to see the help item relating to opening, pausing or closing your opportunity.

And don't forget...

... to process your volunteer applications!

One of the benefits for volunteers using the Be Collective platform is that they can see their volunteering hours accumulate and can keep a record of their volunteering activities through their Social CV. For this reason it is important when a volunteer registers for your opportunity that you then process it.

When you receive a notification that you have a volunteer registration, you have several options that you can choose so you always know what stage the application is at...

- Pending
- Reviewing
- Background checks
- Interviewing
- Pre-approved

Then, once you have been through your recruitment process, you can either accept or decline the volunteer.

Please note, both these options will trigger an automated email from Be Collective so please make sure your applicant knows in advance of your decision.

View the help article: [How do I review volunteer applications?](#)

The image shows a vertical profile card for Rhea Ryan, a volunteer. At the top is a circular profile picture of a woman with curly hair. Below the photo, the name 'Rhea Ryan' is displayed in a bold font, followed by 'VOLUNTEER SOCIAL RESUME'. Underneath, contact information is listed: 'London, England', a phone number '+447777777777', and an email address 'beoutlet-m@gmail.com'. At the bottom of the card, a large green box contains the number '48' and the text 'VOLUNTEER HOURS'. To the right of the profile card is a section titled 'VOLUNTEERING' with a table of activities:

Date	Hours	Opportunity
February, 2021 (ongoing)	4	Social Media Volunteer
January, 2021 (ongoing)	30	Local Sports Coach Volunteer
January, 2021 (ongoing)	14	River Clean-Up Volunteer

Below the table is an 'ABOUT ME' section with a short bio: 'I am passionate about helping out in my local community and hope to make the world a better place by giving time where I can.' This is followed by a 'SKILLS / EXPERIENCE' section with 'Experience: Interactive/Social Media/SEO' and 'Unverified: Advocacy, Dog walking'.

Recognise your young volunteers through the Volunteer Now Impact Awards

We launched the Volunteer Now Impact Awards on 2 June 2021. Created and designed in partnership with our youth forum, this Awards programme works in partnership with our online platform, ensuring that all young volunteers have the ability to be recognised for their volunteering commitment.



For further information and support relating to youth volunteering and the Impact Awards, check out the [Youth section](#) of our website or contact youth@volunteernow.co.uk

Volunteer Organisations Linking Together

Do you want to network, learn and share with other volunteer involving organisations? Volunteer Organisations Linking Together (VOLT) are free sessions for those who want to focus on a volunteering issue with other like-minded individuals.

(At present these sessions take place online)

- ▶ 27 April 2022: [Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – Info Session](#)
- ▶ 17 May 2022: [Volunteers & Their Wellbeing – A Chance to Share & Learn](#)
- ▶ 26 May 2022: [Welcoming Back Volunteers Safely & Effectively](#)



Employer Supported Volunteering

Does your organisation have any opportunities that might be suitable for [Employer Supported Volunteering](#)? These are normally one-off group opportunities over a half or full day that employers can use as part of their corporate social responsibility, team building, etc.

In the past, groups have undertaken tasks such as painting and decorating a room, clearing and planting a community garden, litter picks, and much more!

If you would like to offer an ESV opportunity, please contact us at info@volunteernow.co.uk and we'll be in touch to get more details.



Training

Check out our training calendar for a full selection of training Volunteer Now can offer - some of these are free and others from as little as £10 per person! <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/>

We can also provide tailored training specific to your organisation - <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/tailored-training/> - just send us a message through the web contact form and we'll get back to you with more details.



Keep Informed!

Volunteer Now have other newsletters that you might find useful..

- **VConnect** - a roundup of general information useful to volunteer involving groups
- **VTraining** - details of training sessions offered by Volunteer Now

You can sign up for both newsletters either at the bottom of any page [on our website](#) or sign up as a [member](#) and you'll receive both too.

If you just want VTraining – email training@volunteernow.co.uk with your details and we'll add you to the mailing list.

Get social with us!

We love it when you interact with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)!



www.volunteernow.co.uk

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