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APRIL 2022

Review of Youth Volunteering

Denise Hayward, CEO, Volunteer Now

Volunteer Now launched a new research report just before Easter. It is a review of youth volunteering in Northern Ireland. It was conducted by Queens University Belfast and the University of Kent, with funding provided by VSB Foundation. It provides an overview of young people's volunteering through reviewing the policy context and the existing datasets. It also provides analysis of a number of focus groups with policymakers, young people and organisations to consider the key issues facing youth volunteering the the need for support.

Key recommendations are the need to update youth volunteering policy and to engage young people in that policy development. To re-establish formalised schemes to recognise youth volunteering, to systematically collect data and monitor trends on young people's volunteering.

To watch the presentation of the findings by Dirk Schubotz and Eddy Hogg, please [click here](#).

Please keep an eye on our website for the report, which will be uploaded soon.



Online Training

- VOLT Session: Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Info Session
- Diversity, Equity & Equality 2: Variety & Education
- Diversity, Equity & Equality 3: Research & Strategy
- Keeping Children Safe: An Introduction

[View Training Calendar](#)



Volunteers' Week Launch!

'A Time to Say Thanks' to local community hero's this Volunteers' Week.

With the countdown now on to Volunteers' Week 2022, which runs from 1-7 June, Volunteer Now is calling on communities and business across Northern Ireland to get ready to honour local hero's by taking 'Time to Say Thanks' as part of a week-long programme of activity celebrating volunteering across the UK.

Now in its 38th year, Volunteers' Week sees charities, voluntary groups, social organisations and volunteers themselves come together to recognise the incredible impact that volunteering has in communities, both locally and regionally.

The week-long celebration, coinciding with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, will include designated themed days showcasing the breadth and impact that different types of volunteering has played in local communities over the last 12 months. Each day is a chance to take the time to say thank you to volunteers across Northern Ireland - and Volunteer Now is calling for all charities and volunteers to get involved.

[Find Out More](#)



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

Nominations for 2023

Do you know of a group of volunteers who are making an exceptional impact on a local community? They could be awarded a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service next year!

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. It is the MBE for volunteer groups and is awarded for life.

You can find out more about the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service at our next VOLT Session on **Wednesday 27 April at 11am**. You will hear about the nomination process and hear from those who have been through the award process.

[Book Your Place](#)



The Levelling Up Fund

Levelling Up Fund

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities are hosting an **online webinar today at 3-3.45pm** to provide details on the second round of the fund. In round one, 11 successful projects in NI received a total of £49m, including a £3m greenways project in Ards & North Down. The Department is eager to see more investment into a wider range of projects and organisations across NI through the second round of funding. You can find out more about the fund [here](#), and click below to register for today's webinar.

[Register for Webinar](#)

Volunteering: Partnership, Independence, Transformation & Enjoyment

In this free seminar, academics & practitioners will consider lessons from the UNV 2022 State of the World's Volunteerism Report. It will consider research evidence & user experience to explore these issues:

- how can equality and trust in partnership with governments be developed?
- in nations with highly developed public management, should we move to 'disestablish' volunteering from the state and maybe learn from old arguments about 'deschooling'?
- What can volunteering as a movement learn from interrelated forms of social action, community participation and protest?
- Have we lost some of our independence or autonomy in volunteering?

Find out more and book your free place by clicking the button below.

[Find Out More & Register](#)



Volunteering: Partnership, Independence, Transformation & Enjoyment

Wednesday 27 April 2022 | 2-4pm



Volunteer Drivers Mileage Expenses

Following the article last month about volunteer driving, Volunteer Now has teamed up with the Community Transport Association and a number of other national charities across the UK to raise the issue of the level of volunteer drivers mileage and the issues caused by the very high fuel prices. If you involve volunteer drivers, please complete the Community Transport Association's survey by clicking the button below.

[CTA Survey](#)

Linking Generations NI (LGNI) are passionate about supporting connections between generations in communities and would love your group, organisation, community or setting to get involved!

LGNI are leading for NI on Global Intergenerational Week 2022 and you can join in! Check out their website for all information on the week and add your logo to the Supporters Page.



[LGNI Website](#)



Be Collective: 2nd Birthday!

Just before the pandemic, we partnered with Be Collective, an innovative digital volunteer management platform. This helped us pivot, adapting to the challenges associated with the pandemic. To date, we have built an online ecosystem of nearly 2,000 partners: causes, charities, not for profits and businesses who rely on volunteers to deliver community services and support.

Contact us to find out how you can reach more volunteers, promote volunteer opportunities and partner with other volunteer involving organisations to make an even bigger impact.

[Contact Us](#)

FREE Accredited Carbon Literacy Training

This training, available through Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, is being delivered online to environmental charities, community groups, community leaders, youth groups, teachers and tourism businesses across Northern Ireland.

Training slots are available at a variety of times throughout the week to ensure as many people as possible can avail of this free opportunity to get informed & gain accreditation.



[Find Out More](#)



New Chatty Cafe in Ballymena!

Following on from the success of the Chatty Cafes opened in Cullybackey, Carrickfergus and Larne, Ballymena has opened its first Chatty Cafe in Ballykeel 1 Moving Forward Breakfast Club.

The scheme, being rolled out by Mid & East Antrim Loneliness Network, part funded by Mid & East Antrim Council, aims to tackle loneliness and reduce isolation by creating opportunities to talk and interact.

[Find Out More](#)

T:buc Action for Happiness

T:buc volunteers in Lisburn completed their social action on Action for Happiness and produced a video. Click on the image to the right to view the video.

Social Action can give you the opportunity to make a difference either on your own, or with a group of friends.

Click below to find out more about social action, Overseas Volunteering, Volunteer Now Impact Awards or Youth Volunteering.


[Find Out More](#)


Duke of Edinburgh Legacy Bursary Scheme

Volunteer Now was delighted to be involved in the launch of the Duke of Edinburgh Legacy Bursary Scheme, in memory of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

The scheme, established by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council, is for young people between the ages of 11-25 years old living in the borough. Twenty bursaries of £1,000 across two age categories are available.

[Find Out More](#)


Nominations are now open for the Antrim & Newtownabbey Spirit of Volunteering Awards 2022, an initiative that recognises the hard work and dedication of the Borough's unsung hero's.

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council want to recognise those who have given much of their time to volunteering, and those who are relatively new to this invaluable service who have already started to make a difference. By willingly giving their time to volunteering, people are changing the lives of others as well as their own. The theme for the awards this year focuses on precious metals and the intrinsic qualities that they possess, which are similar to those of a volunteer.

Nominations close on Tuesday 31 May 2022 at 4pm. Winners will be announced at the Antrim & Newtownabbey Spirit of Volunteering Awards 2022 celebration event on Thursday 13 October 2022 at Theatre at the Mill.

[Make a Nomination](#)

The Joint Forum came together for its first meeting of 2022 on 22 February and discussion included updates on the work of the current Joint Forum Task and Finish Groups, convened to take forward and address key priority issues of interest to the Forum and an update on the development of the Building Resilience Together: Role of the VCS in the NI Civil Contingencies Framework.

[Find Out More](#)


Introducing: Raquel Rodrigues Keenan *Volunteering Development Officer*

Hi, I'm Raquel and I have been working with Volunteer Now for over 10 years. As Volunteering Development Officer, I have a strategic role in supporting & developing volunteering across the council areas of Newry, Mourne & Down, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon, and Fermanagh & Omagh.

I work with volunteer involving organisations, councils, statutory bodies and corporates to help them develop their volunteer programmes and grow their volunteer teams. I also support event organisers to recruit, manage, train and support their event volunteers.

I am also a Volunteer Management & World Host qualified trainer, so you may see me delivering some of our training on offer.

I love connecting people and empowering them to have a positive impact in their communities. I believe we can all be the change we want to see in the world.

[Contact Raquel](#)


Member Spotlight *Bowel Cancer UK*

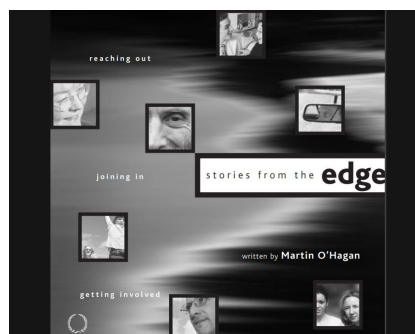
Bowel Cancer UK are the UK's leading bowel cancer charity. They are determined to save lives and improve the quality of life of everyone affected by bowel cancer. Their vision is a future where nobody dies of the disease. April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month. Every 15 minutes somebody is diagnosed with bowel cancer in the UK. Bowel Cancer UK are calling on you to join them to raise awareness and support people affected by the disease.

[Bowel Cancer UK](#)

Publication of the Month *Stories from the Edge*

This e-book recognises the work of a range of volunteers who have been pioneers in their communities for years and years and celebrates volunteering in Northern Ireland.

On 28 March 2022, Wendy Osborne (former Chief Executive of Volunteer Now) wrote a blog on the contents of the e-book, highlighting some crucial key take-home messages. [Click here](#) to access this interesting blog.


[Download](#)



New Members

Welcome to our newest organisational members: Cafe Recharge, Galashiels; Education Authority - Youth Service South Belfast Area Project and [Stendhal Festival](#), Limavady. This brings our organisational members total to 952!

[Become A Member](#)



Flexible, accessible training

Did you know you can learn all you need to know about volunteer management in just 8 hours with our online courses? You can complete these anytime, anywhere & on any device! Click below to find out more.

[Find Out More](#)

 A video thumbnail showing a grid of four cartoon avatars. The top-left avatar is a man with blonde hair and glasses. The top-right avatar is a man with dark skin and a beard. The bottom-left avatar is a man with dark skin and a beard. The bottom-right avatar is a woman with dark hair. A red play button is in the center. A speech bubble from the top-right avatar says 'My number is 02894458876'.

Communicating Safely Online

Watch our short video on how to communicate safely with children and young people online. It's useful for staff, volunteers, parents and carers. Further information on standards and training for working with children and young people can be found at www.volunteernow.co.uk/organisations/safeguarding/

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