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JUNE 2022

A Time to Say Thanks

Denise Hayward, CEO, Volunteer Now

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in Volunteers' Week this year. Thank you to all the organisations, councils and individuals who took time to thank the volunteers who have made a difference in the lives of people around them. Volunteers have been at the sharp end of support during the pandemic and many are now supporting people through the cost of living crisis. It is important that we take time to recognise what they are doing and to thank them for all their work.

Volunteers' Week took place at the start of #MonthofCommunity. Running throughout June, #MonthofCommunity brings together organisations with a range of events to encourage us all to think about and join in with activities happening in our local community. Click the button below to find out more.

[#MonthofCommunity](#)

Online Training

- Leadership & Working with Teams
- Leadership & Dealing with Conflict
- Keeping Children & Adults Safe: Recruitment, Selection & Management of Staff & Volunteers Training
- Befriending Training Workshop

[View Training Calendar](#)

BBC NORTHERN IRELAND

BROADCAST APPEALS

Applications are now being invited for upcoming Broadcast Appeal slots on local television and radio. These opportunities will be available from December 2022 onwards.

Application forms and assessment criteria for Broadcast Appeal slots can be downloaded by clicking the button below. Completed application forms should be submitted no later than **5pm on Wednesday 29 June 2022**.

Application Form & Criteria



Following on from the success of the first Chatty Café opened at Blessings Café in Cullybackey we are pleased to announce another two new Chatty cafes have opened in Larne; Café Riva (Redlands Road close to Asda) and Oasis Café (Larne Elim every Tuesday and Thursday).

The idea of a Chatty Café is to encourage venues to designate a table and make it available as a 'chatty table' where customers can sit if they are happy to talk to other customers. The scheme, being rolled out by Mid and East Antrim Loneliness Network, part funded by MEA Council, aims to tackle loneliness and reduce isolation by creating opportunities to talk and interact.

It comes off the success of the Chatty Benches scheme which has seen bright yellow benches in public spaces create an opportunity for conversation in the outdoors.

The latest two new Chatty cafes for Larne were opened by members of the Mid and East Antrim Loneliness Network Yvonne Carson (Northern Health and Social Care Trust), Deborah Neill (Larne Community Development Project) and Wenda Gray (Volunteer Now).

The challenges the pandemic has created in terms of creating loneliness in communities is something that the Mid and East Antrim Loneliness Network aims to tackle.

Yvonne Carson, Thematic Lead for Loneliness & Social Isolation, NHSCT added:

"It's very encouraging to see the establishment of two more Chatty Cafes in the Mid and East Antrim

Mid and East Antrim Loneliness Network launched in December 2019 and is made up of a range of community voluntary and statutory organisations who all work together to prevent and address loneliness.

[Find Out More](#)



Revised Governance Health Check Launched

The revised Governance Health Check was launched by the Developing Governance Group at a special online seminar on 9 June.

The Governance Health Check is a self assessment questionnaire, devised as a practical resource to assist board/committee members and those that work with voluntary-led boards to work towards adhering to the principles of the Code of Good Governance.

[Download](#)

Leadership Development Programme for Young Volunteers

Belfast City Council is delivering a leadership development programme to young volunteers within those numerous organisations who were involved in the provision of services to local residents and homeless people during the lockdown periods of 2020.

20 young volunteers (aged 18+) from voluntary and community groups will be invited to participate in this unique training programme, which includes a range of modules, engagement activities and meetings to increase volunteers' opportunities to engage with local infrastructure, integrated services, local and City-wide networks and co-design skills.



If you are interested in this programme and would like to be considered for participation, please click the button below to complete the Expression of Interest form by Friday 26 August 2022 at 4pm.

[Expression of Interest](#)



Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Congratulations!

Congratulations to 13 volunteers groups in Northern Ireland that have been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary service 2022! The Award is the highest civil award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities, which reminds us of all the ways in which fantastic volunteers work to make life better for those around them. Click the button below to find out who the 13 groups are.

If you involve volunteers who are making an exceptional impact on local community, find out more on how to nominate [here](#). Nominations for the 2023 awards close on 15 September 2022.

[Find Out More](#)

Free Capacity Building Training Courses

Volunteer Now are delivering a range of FREE capacity building training courses to groups based in the Belfast City Council area. Each course is being delivered face-to-face and online. Courses available are:

- Leading the way - Governance
- Managing Change
- Risk Management
- The New Environment: Recruit, Retain, Reward Volunteers
- Digital Inclusion



[Find Out More](#)



KING GEORGE VI YOUTH AWARDS

Now open for applications!

King George VI Youth Awards

The King George VI Youth Awards Panel is now accepting applications for youth work activities with young people aged 14-21. Your group must be based in Northern Ireland and your project must be part of a curriculum based youth work programme. Applications are also accepted from individual young people. The maximum grant available is £500.

[Click below to find out more.](#)

[Find Out More](#)

Change Starts With Us

Good Relations Week 2022 will deliver a positive message that 'Change Starts With Us' as the annual celebration shines a light on local communities taking action to build a stronger shared society and a more sustainable future.

This year's celebration starts with a week long programme of events that will focus on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to highlight the political, social, economic and environmental challenges we face as a region.

Coordinated by the Community Relations Council, Good Relations Week 2022 will run from Mon 19 to Sun 25 September with an anticipated programme of up to 300 events from a diverse range of organisations across the region.

This will include a mixture of workshops, lectures, panel discussions, feature talks, podcasts, film, music and dance performances, storytelling and exhibitions.

Local community groups, voluntary organisations, representative groups, statutory bodies, businesses and local councils are being encouraged to get involved and register their events by the deadline of Fri 26 August 2022. [Click below for more information.](#)



[Find Out More](#)

NISRA CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OPINION SURVEY KEY FINDINGS FROM JANUARY - MARCH 2022

We want to share some interesting findings from the NISRA Covid-19 Opinion Survey. We would recommend reading through this report, as it gives a clear comparison about how people's lives, behaviours and attitudes developed and changed throughout the pandemic.

Click below to access the key findings report and click [here](#) to download the excel spreadsheet.

Key Findings Report



Introducing: Edel Cunningham *Volunteering Support Officer*

Hi, I'm Edel. I'm based in the Volunteer Now Newry office and I cover the Armagh & Dungannon area.

I support volunteer involving organisations with their volunteering needs. I can help support with recruitment of volunteers, volunteer talks, mobile volunteering, Access NI checks and more.

If you would like to get in touch, just click the button below to send me an email.

Contact Edel



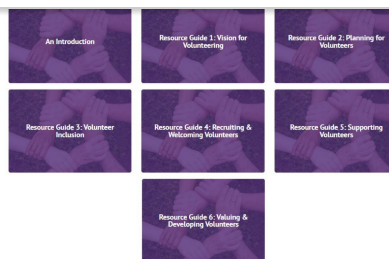
Member Spotlight *Hourglass*

Hourglass is the only UK-wide charity dedicated to calling time on the harm, abuse and exploitation of older people. With more than 25 years' experience and expertise, their mission is to listen, advise and support vulnerable older people and all those affected by abuse and neglect throughout the UK.

Hourglass

Publication of the Month *An Introduction to the Resource Guides*

The publications section has now been re-formatted, but work will continue to make this as user-friendly as possible. As part of this, we have now launched our Volunteer Involvement Resource Guides. As a first port of call, we would strongly recommend that you read the Introduction document. This will give you an idea



An Introduction to Resource Guides



New Members

Welcome to our newest organisational members: [Cancer Research UK](#) (new area), [Motor Neurone Disease Association](#), [Annahilt & Magheraconluce Community Association](#), [Oxfam Ireland](#) (new area) and [Southern Regional College](#) (new area). This brings our organisational members total to 978!

[Become A Member](#)

ONLINE COURSES

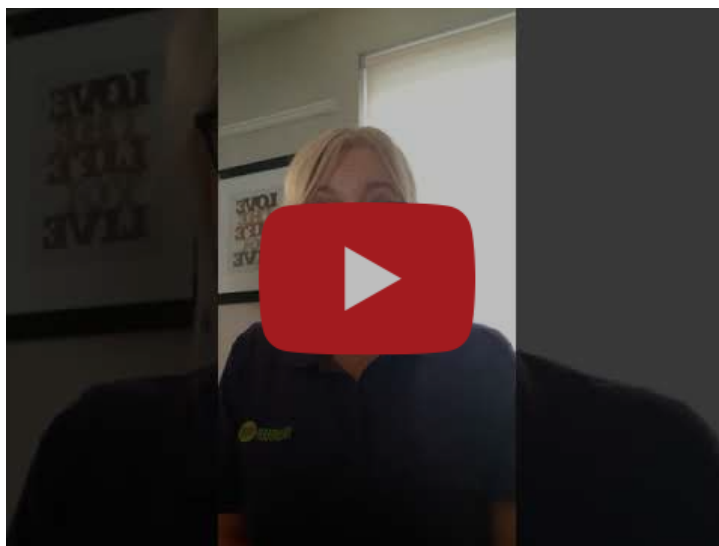
All you need to know about volunteer management in 8 hours of learning



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](#)



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022

15 June is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and to mark the day this year, Volunteer Now committed to signing the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse Declaration and Roisin Timlin, our Training & Development Officer created this short video.

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