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AUGUST 2022

Volunteers' Week 2022

Denise Hayward, CEO, Volunteer Now

Volunteers' Week takes place during the first week of June each year. The annual campaign, which was established in 1984, recognises the contribution volunteers make to our communities every day. This year Volunteer Now worked in partnership with a group of organisations to agree plans for the week. We saw a wide range of events taking place to thank and recognise volunteers, from tea parties to gifts being delivered. It was especially good to see the return of in person events after a gap during the height of the pandemic. Volunteer Now has produced a summary infographic to share results from the Week which you can see [here](#).



Online Training

- VOLT Session: Volunteer Driving
- Inclusion, Equity & Equality 1: Image & Nurture
- Keeping Adults Safe: Implementing Standards for Good Practice
- Inclusion, Equity & Equality 2: Communication & Leadership

[View Training Calendar](#)



Leadership Development Programme

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.

In a recent research report on the response of Belfast to the first COVID lockdown, the issue of volunteer leadership within communities was highlighted as being of central importance to ensuring that no-one was left behind in this time of crisis.

There was a strong recognition that the Council needed to support those who stepped up to serving residents during the pandemic, through the delivery (across community boundaries) of food parcels, medication and other resources.

There was also a recognition of the need to develop a new generation of similar leaders who would have the ability, cross-community networks and knowledge of civic systems to fulfil those tasks in the future, should they be required.

As such, the Council is delivering a leadership programme "to cultivate and embed new relationships within and between our communities." This is based on the need to "ensure that knowledge is shared and that succession planning becomes a top priority with our young leaders."

How will we do this?

20 young volunteers (aged 18+) from voluntary and community groups and organisations who delivered services within communities and across the City during the lockdown periods of 2020 will be invited to participate in this unique training programme.

The programme will include a range of modules, engagement activities and meetings to increase volunteers' opportunities to engage with local infrastructure (community, statutory and Governmental), integrated services, local and City-wide networks and co-design skills.

The programme will be delivered on a cross-community basis and will be short and concise.

Are you interested?

We are currently assessing interest in this programme. If you would like to be considered for participation, please complete the Expression of Interest form by clicking the button below by **Friday 26 August 2022 at 4pm**.

Expression of Interest



Volunteer at the MID & EAST ANTRIM COAST HALF MARATHON!

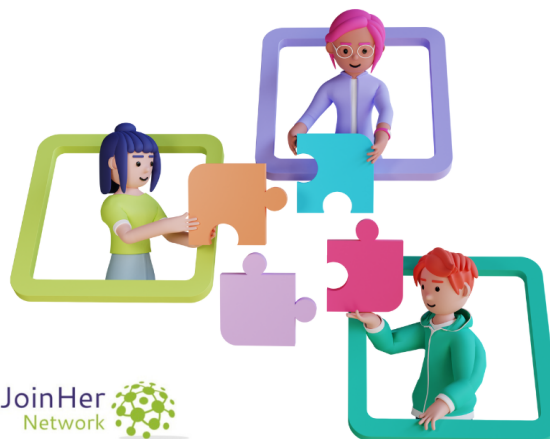
13.1 Miles Worth of Volunteer Opportunities Still Available!

Antrim Coast Half Marathon will take place on Sunday 28 August 2022, with the Kids Race and Classic Street Mile providing warm up events in Larne Town in the evening Saturday 27 August. With the easing of restrictions put in place for the pandemic, the 2022 event hopes to see up to 10,000 runners take part across the weekend. Volunteer Now is working in partnership with the marathon this year and is overseeing the volunteer recruitment.

Be part of our superb team of Event Ambassadors during the August Bank Holiday Weekend and have a great time by supporting runners and spectators along the route, at water and energy stations and at the start and finish lines.

[Find Out More](#)

INCLUSION EQUITY & EQUALITY



NEW Inclusion, Equity & Equality Sessions & OFFER

The best retention of diverse individuals in organisations is usually due to having a great sense of belonging. Inclusion automatically occurs when we can collectively work together collaboratively. What do you have in place that celebrates inclusion?

Working in partnership with JoinHer, Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd bring you a NEW series of four 2-hour sessions on Inclusion, Equity & Equality.

Join us over the four sessions to explore and learn new and creative ways to increase inclusion in your volunteer project, team or organisation.

- Inclusion, Equity & Equality Session 1: Image & Nurture**
 How does your organisation culture reflect your values?
[14 Sept 2022 | 10am-12pm](#)
- Inclusion, Equity & Equality Session 2: Communication & Leadership**
 Which styles are effective for your organisation?
[4 Oct 2022 | 10am-12pm](#)

2 NOV 2022 | 10am-12pm

- **Inclusion, Equity & Equality Session 4: Innovation, Objectives & Needs**

Practical steps to change your organisation

22 Nov 2022 | 10am-12pm

OFFER!

Book on all four Inclusion courses in September, October & November and get a **free place** on any volunteer management course of your choice (*to be used within December 2022-March 2023*)*.

We also have a series of **Diversity** courses available that compliment these inclusion sessions. Just search 'diversity' on our website [here](#) for the latest courses available.

**The free course must be a volunteer management course and is NOT available for any safeguarding courses. The free course must be one in the current training calendar and taken before March 2023. To avail of this offer, just book on all four Inclusion courses in September, October & November 2022 via our website then email Deborah.Kyburz@volunteernow.co.uk with your choice of FREE volunteer management course.*

Training Calendar



TEDx Talk Enniskillen

The Power of the People: How embracing our community can change our lives. At a time when we are living more insular, being part of our community can enhance our lives in many ways. Lauri McCusker, Director at The Fermanagh Trust gave this talk at a TEDx event using the TED conference format but independently organized by a local community. Learn more at

<https://www.ted.com/tedx>



Volunteer Now Supporting Asylum Seekers & Refugees to Volunteer in Bangor

Volunteer Now has been working alongside community groups, charities, churches, council staff & the PSNI in a community of interest in North Down & Ards who are supporting the newly arrived Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the area. These asylum seekers & refugees, who are mostly housed in temporary hotel accommodation in the area, are keen to be active and useful within their local community, and the community of engagement, led by the North Down Community Network, has been working hard to

community, give back, use their skills (or learn new ones) and practice their English.

Despite how motivated many asylum seekers and refugees are to volunteer, they often face extra hurdles when trying to secure volunteering roles, so we were happy to hear that Bangor Central Primary school were able to offer them a chance to volunteer. From 4-18 July, 13 men attended the school to help with gardening, cleaning and building maintenance work over 7 full days. The school building manager, Diane (pictured with some of the volunteers) was onsite to witness them at work and was absolutely delighted with the quantity and quality of the work they did, telling them and the Volunteer Now staff:

"I could never have done all that myself, you have all done a brilliant job. You are all such hard workers, and lovely guys. The Principle is really impressed, and we are so grateful to you all."

A big 'Thank You' goes out to these volunteers for an excellent piece of volunteering work, to the school for being such a welcoming place to volunteer, and to our two newest Volunteering Support Officers (David & Jenny) for pitching in every day to support this work.



APPLY NOW!

Have you got community ideas?

Cultivating community action with the Eden Project

Community minded people across Northern Ireland who want to make good happen where they live are invited to apply for a special weekend at the famous Eden Project in Cornwall to share inspiration and unpack ideas to adapt and implement with your own community.

Thanks to people who play the National Lottery, successful applicants will have accommodation and transport along with the weekend community camp costs all paid for. This camp is the beginning of a journey as part of a peer to peer network who share and support each other from various geographic areas of Northern Ireland and the UK.

Speaking about this opportunity, Grainne McCloskey, Eden Project Communities Scotland and Northern Ireland Regional manager said:

"The Eden Project is the perfect place to converge to share ideas and inspire each other. This is a brilliant opportunity to reach out and make strong and useful connections you can go on to build on well beyond the long weekend. This is designed for people new to community action and who are unpaid in their activity they hope to implement. To apply you need to visit Eden Project Communities website - community camps."

"Eden Project Communities Network developer for Northern Ireland Kathy Black is assessing applications for these opportunities which are to be held at the award-winning Eden Project in Cornwall during September and then virtually in November."

Twenty people from across Northern Ireland will be chosen for this years intake and they will have access to inspiring talks, workshops, engagement activities and story sharing with other community activists and organisers. These can have a life-changing impact on many. To find out more, click the button below.

[Find Out More](#)

You are warmly invited to Volunteer Now's AGM on **Thursday 15 September 2022 at 3pm** in **Skainos Centre, Belfast**.

Click the button below for the papers, which include:

- NOTICE OF AGM
- Proxy voting form

Please RSVP to
nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk by
 Tuesday 13 September 2022.



Download The Papers



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:

- The Code of Good Governance Healthcheck
- Leading the Way - Governance
- Managing Change
- Risk Management
- The New Environment: Recruit, Retain, Reward Volunteers
- Digital Inclusion

Find Out More

VOLT Session: Volunteer Driving

Noeleen Lynch, Director for Northern Ireland, Community Transport Association will be joining us at this VOLT Session where we will be hearing more about some barriers and difficulties facing this role, given the recent cost of living crisis.

The impact of volunteer drivers in Northern Ireland is potentially underappreciated and we want to discuss the difference that is made, as well as how to keep your drivers safe and engaged in their role.

During the session on Tues 13 Sept at 10am, we want to be able to respond to queries, share examples and learn from each other on how to improve practice as organisations. In addition, we would like to discuss the wider issue of cost-of-living and what we can do to work through this.



Book Your FREE Place



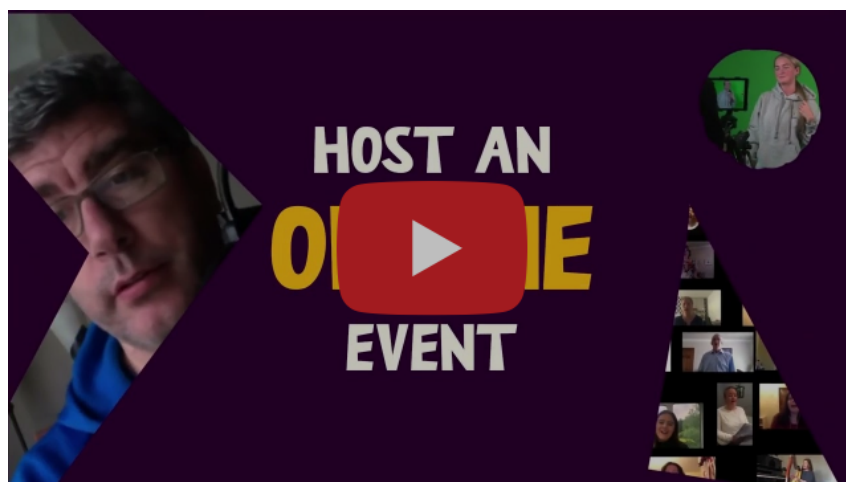
The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Celebrating the outstanding work of local volunteer groups across the UK

Every day, millions of people across the UK are making a difference by volunteering. Each year, outstanding examples of this work are celebrated through the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). Created in 2002 for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, QAVS awards have been shining a light on the fantastic work of voluntary groups for many years. Equivalent to an MBE, QAVS are the highest awards given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life.

If you know of a fantastic volunteer group and would like to find out more about nominating them for a QAVS, please click the button below. Nominations for the 2023 awards are now open. Nominations will be accepted until 15 September 2022.

[Find Out More](#)



Good Relations Week 2022 is now open for you to register events!

We want you to help us shine a light on local communities taking action to build a stronger shared society and a more sustainable future.

The theme for this year is: **"Change Starts With Us."**

Join us from Monday 19 to Sunday 25 September 2022 for a week-long programme of events focusing on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to highlight the political, social, economic, and environmental challenges we face as a region.

We're calling on all local community groups, voluntary organisations, representative groups, statutory bodies, businesses and local councils to get involved and register your events now.

[Read More](#)



Digitilisation and Volunteering

An all-Ireland series of workshops to support volunteering in a digital environment with Volunteer Now & Volunteer Ireland

Workshop 4: Sharing our Learning

Join your fellow volunteer managers across the island of Ireland in the last in the series of the Digitalisation and Volunteering workshops hosted by Volunteer Now and Volunteer Ireland on Monday 26 September 2022.

At this 'in person' session at the Carrickdale Hotel & Spa we will explore the lessons learnt during the project and the previous workshops whilst having an opportunity to share our own learning and experiences from the journey.

This interactive workshop will involve:

Presentations from volunteer involving organisations that have embraced digitalisation, round table discussions, and a World Café where you can learn about practical examples of where digitalisation fits into volunteer management practice in areas such as:

- The use of video and social media in your volunteer programme
- What volunteering looks like in our changing digital world
- The change over to digital volunteering during the pandemic and what we have learnt
- Volunteer management in the digital world- platforms and processes

[Register Here](#)



Easyfundraising

Great news! We've registered with easyfundraising, it's a great site where you can help Volunteer Now raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping!

Over 6,000 big name retailers are included, such as John Lewis, Uswitch, ASOS, Argos, Expedia, M&S, and BT. Every time you shop, we receive a small donation to say 'thank you!' It's completely free and over £40M has been raised for causes just like us so far. We want to raise as much as possible so please sign up and help us by clicking the button below.

[Sign Up](#)

Introducing: Alice O'Boyle Volunteering Development Officer

Along with a team of volunteering support officers, I am responsible for developing, initiating, and delivering a positive environment for volunteering by proactively engaging with volunteer involving organisations, policy makers, and those who wish to volunteer.

I work with individuals and organisations to find ways to increase volunteering in Northern Ireland and to make volunteering as accessible as possible so that we increase not only the volume of

community planning stakeholders to ensure volunteering is promoted at local and national levels.



I provide volunteering 'mini health checks' for organisations to help them check and improve the quality of their volunteering policies and practices, and I provide access to advice, publications, training, and workshops to support their work with volunteers, and I assist volunteer managers and coordinator in their use of our online Volunteer Recruitment & Management platform Be Collective. I also work with Volunteer Now's events team to provide Volunteer Management to a large team of event volunteers who work to support large-scale sporting, tourism, public health events.

Contact Alice



Member Spotlight Macmillan Cancer Support

Because cancer can affect your life in so many ways, Macmillan Cancer Support do whatever it takes to give people the support they need. Join them on **Friday 30 September** for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. Sign up to host, invite your guests and get together to raise money for people living with cancer. Whatever your reason, it's a great one.

Macmillan Cancer Support

Vacancies

Volunteering Participation Officer (Full Time)

We are seeking to recruit a team member responsible for promoting and developing youth volunteering and youth social action and supporting volunteers involving organisations as they involve young people as volunteers.

Volunteering Support Officer (Part Time)

We are also seeking to recruit a part-time team member to promote volunteering and provide a support service for volunteers and volunteer involving organisations in the Belfast, North Down & Ards and Lisburn & Castlereagh Council areas.



More Info



Publication of the Month

Barriers to Volunteering

This month, we are sharing some information on the barriers which may prevent volunteers from stepping forward. As organisations, it is important to give these some consideration, address them head on, and determine whether there are ways to mitigate these barriers. As we approach the Autumn, it could be a good time to reflect, so take a look at some of the common barriers at play!

Download



New Members

Welcome to our newest organisational members: [Oxfam Ireland](#), [Dandelion 2022 Ltd](#), [Glenlough Community Choir](#), [Time to Shine Drama](#), [Oh Yeah Music Centre](#), [Dunmurry Community Association](#) & [Spectrum Angels](#). This brings our organisational members total to 991!

[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 on demand courses? You can complete these anytime, anywhere & on any device! Click below to find out more.

[Find Out More](#)



What is volunteering & what are the benefits?

In partnership with EATV, we produced a short video detailing what volunteering is, the benefits of involvement and how to make that first step.

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