



# Volunteer newsletter



Autumn 2023

**Welcome to our newsletter for volunteers throughout Northern Ireland.**

Go On: Give it a Go!

NISRA (NI Statistics and Research Agency) have released their latest research which states that volunteering in NI now sits at 21%. Pre covid we were at 28% which dropped to 17% post covid so its great that we are on the way back up but it would be brilliant if we could encourage even more people, like you, to give a little bit of their time to make a huge difference. As you'll see there are plenty of opportunities on Be Collective and if you cant find what you are looking for then give us a shout and we will help you find that perfect role. More information on the NISRA statistics will be in VConnect, our members newsletter and if you're not a member you can join [here](#) or we can send it to you.

[Our website](#) also details lots of other information useful to volunteers including training, workshops and features on all things volunteering. If there is anything you would like us to cover in this newsletter please let us know.

## Volunteering Opportunities at Events



Volunteer at some of the great events taking place across Northern Ireland! There are lots of large and small events and festivals that just couldn't take place without the support of volunteers. Have a look at our [Events Calendar](#) to see what's coming up. Most of these are one-off events - bring a friend and enjoy the craic! And if there's nothing there you fancy at the minute, check back in a week or two as this calendar is always being added to!

Forthcoming events include...

- [A Scarf for Lewy](#) (Belfast), a fun event with a difference to help raise awareness

of Lewy Body Dementia

- National Museums Halloween events at [Omagh](#) and [Cultra](#)
- Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI [Christmas Craft Fair](#) at Larchfield Estate, Lisburn
- [EAPRIL \(European Association for Practitioner Research on Improving Learning\) conference](#) in Belfast

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## Volunteering with NSPCC NI

NSPCC are currently recruiting for their **Speak Out Stay Safe** project. SOSS volunteers visit local schools to teach fun and engaging child-friendly and age-appropriate workshops to help pupils understand and identify the different types of abuse, and how to speak out about any issues so they can get help if they need it.



[Click here](#) to read Jennifer and Hamilton's experience of volunteering with SOSS

[Click here](#) to read more about this opportunity and to register.

*(make sure you register by 25 Oct 2023 so you can join their next volunteering information session)*

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NSPCC are also recruiting volunteers for their **Young Witness Service**. Giving evidence in criminal trials can be a frightening experience for children and young people. NSPCC Northern Ireland's Young Witness Supporters help them through this process.

[Click here](#) to read more about the Young Witness Service and then sign up [here](#).

*(Applications for Young Witness Service volunteers close 15 October 2023)*

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## Join the #iwill movement today!

The #iwill movement, made for young people by young people, aims at empowering, supporting, and amplifying youth social action! If you are aged between 10 and 25 and you want to make a positive difference in our society, you can [become an #iwill champion!](#)



Whether you are collecting items for a foodbank for the first time, or whether you are a young trustee of a national charity, your social action matters and your role would be to encourage others to get involved too, share your story and take part in NI events and activities. You'll get free access to resources, training, and opportunities to get visibility around your social action, whether it's fundraising, campaigning, or volunteering in an organisation or an informal group.

You can sign up as a Champion here: <https://www.iwill.org.uk/join-iwill/become-an-iwill-champion/> or contact Matthew, our Volunteering Participation Officer, at [matthew.williams@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:matthew.williams@volunteernow.co.uk)

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## Inspire others ... share YOUR story!

Do you enjoy your volunteering? Do you have a journey to share that you think would inspire and encourage others to take their first step into volunteering? If yes, then get in touch with us! We're looking for volunteers who are willing to share their stories on our social media sites, speak to the media including local radio and other opportunities that may arise. Drop Jane an email: [jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk) for a chat.

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## 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.*

**THE PARENT ROOMS** - currently recruiting for a [Chair of the Board](#) and also [Trustee positions](#)



**MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT** - can you help with their [Belfast City Centre collection](#) on 24 Nov?

**USPCA** - need volunteers to help with their food bank in Newry: [Food Bank Organiser](#) and [Distribution Drivers](#)

**SOCIAL FARMS AND GARDENS** - can connect you with opportunities in [Community Gardens](#) throughout Belfast

**CASTLE ESPIE WETLAND CENTRE** - help with [Family Activities](#), [Grounds & Living Collections](#), [Crafts](#) or [Bird Monitoring](#)

**THREE SPIRES SCOUTS, Magherafelt** - [Cubs Volunteer](#) or [Scouts Volunteer](#)

**NEWRY U3A** - [Spanish Tutors](#) or [Irish Tutors](#) wanted to teach languages for recreational use

**THE VERBAL** - wish to recruit volunteers in the Londonderry area to serve on their [Board of Directors](#)

**INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD FOR NI** - wish to recruit new Monitoring Board Members for [HMP Maghaberry](#), [HMP Hydebank Wood College and Women's Prison](#) and [HMP Magilligan](#)

**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 finding opportunities?** Email [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

We have put together a quick guide to using your volunteering account on Be Collective and how to search for volunteering opportunities. You'll find it on our website at [www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/inspire-me/](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/inspire-me/)



If you are aged **under 16**, there is a slightly different application process due to child protection issues and you can find the guide for younger volunteers at <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/youth-volunteering/young->

[volunteers/](#)

If you need any help searching for opportunities or with using your Be Collective account, please let us know - contact [info@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:info@volunteernow.co.uk) or phone 028 9023 2020

And don't forget, if you are under 25 years, the Volunteer Now Impact Awards can recognise you for your commitment. Simply join the [Volunteer Now Impact Awards group](#) once you've signed up on Be Collective and remember to tick the box to share your hours.



## 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! (If you haven't visited us for a while, please do pop over and see what's new!!)



Feel free to share this newsletter too!

*\*\*all links to volunteering opportunities are current at time of publication\*\**

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



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