

Celebrating 40 years of Volunteering in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

## Good Practice Project

KVC is delighted to announce its new Good Practice project, with thanks to City Bridge Trust. The purpose of the project is to support organisations to involve volunteers and encourage and develop volunteering in the South London Boroughs of Kingston, Richmond, Merton, Croydon, Bromley and Sutton.

From 1st April there will be a project worker in each of the six boroughs who will be responsible for liaising with the voluntary and statutory organisations to assess their volunteering good practice needs and to provide direct support to ensure a basic

minimum standard in the management of volunteers.

KVC can also advise local volunteering organisations to identify and develop new roles for volunteers to help deliver high quality services. We can also offer support to help volunteer involving organisations to work towards the 'Investing in Volunteers' national quality standard.

If you would like to take advantage of this service then please call Maria Jarvis, KVC Manager on 020 8255 8685 for an informal chat

## Experts in Volunteering website

The Experts in Volunteering Team recently launched their website  
[www.expertsinvolunteering.org.uk](http://www.expertsinvolunteering.org.uk).

The site offers support to Volunteer Managers including:

- London's Volunteer Management Charter and accompanying Health Check - see who's already signed up, and get on board yourself
- what training is being offered by individuals and Volunteer Centres across Greater London, as well as registering yourself as a trainer if appropriate – Volunteer Centre staff and freelancers with skill and experience in training delivery and volunteering matters are welcome.

- real life examples of current policies, volunteer agreements, volunteer handbooks etc; as well as signposting to other useful websites.

In partnership with the Volunteer Centre network across Greater London, the Experts in Volunteering team is funded by the Big Lottery Fund to work with volunteer involving organisations over the next 3 years to promote good volunteer management practice.

**For more information, visit  
[www.expertsinvolunteering.org.uk](http://www.expertsinvolunteering.org.uk)**

## Volunteering England Launches Manifesto

Volunteering England has launched its pre-election manifesto "The Power of Volunteering" and a pre-election pledge that they are asking all MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates to sign.

The manifesto offers positive steps the next Government can take to strengthen volunteering as well as advice for how business, public bodies and voluntary and community groups rise to the challenge of helping volunteering to flourish. So far, over 200 MPs and candidates have shown their support for volunteering by signing up to the pledge which states:

"I will work hard to support volunteers and organisations that involve volunteers, both in my constituency and across the country. I will do this by:

- Recognising the value of volunteering in building a strong society
- Promoting positive messages about volunteering

- Encouraging more people to give their time by helping free volunteers from red-tape
- Supporting the organisations who support volunteers"

Volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations can play a valuable role in ensuring volunteering remains high on the political agenda as the election approaches. By engaging with your MP and candidates in the run up to the election, you can help to build support for volunteering locally and nationally. It is also an ideal opportunity to showcase the work of your organisation and forge long term links with politicians in your area.

**Further information on this campaign can be found at [www.volunteering.org.uk](http://www.volunteering.org.uk)**

## Good Sports

### Can you help advertise sports

**volunteer vacancies?** Does your club or association have a newsletter, a website, a notice board or maybe its own meeting place?

If so, perhaps you would be willing to display volunteer vacancy posters to help spread the message about sports volunteering opportunities in the borough.

**One sports club looking for volunteers is Avondale Gymnastics Club**, which is located in Holyfield Road, Surbiton. With around 300 members, the club's purpose built facilities provide a wide range of activities for members aged from 2 to 18. The club is looking for volunteers to support



the coaching team by assisting with telephone enquiries, general admin and with meeting and greeting members as they arrive at the club. In addition, the club is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to help provide refreshments to club members, visitors and parents.

**For more information please contact Hedley at [goodsports@kvc.org.uk](mailto:goodsports@kvc.org.uk) or on 020 8255 8685**

## Christie's Story

### My Experiences at the OXFAM Shop in Kingston-upon-Thames



I started work in November 2009. My duties include:

Accept donations from customers, and sort through the donations to see if the items are saleable

Steaming the clothes donated, pricing and labelling the articles before they go on sale

I hope to be till-trained next week and then be able to serve customers.

For most of the time I work on my own, but sometimes I work with colleagues as a team. The shop is very friendly and I enjoy working there.

The job gives me the opportunity to meet different people and I gain valuable experience in dealing with different kinds of people. I have picked up new skills as well as improved on my existing skills and am confident that I can use these in any paid job.

**Christie Daniels**

**Christie is volunteering as part of Getting People Back to Work project. This project aims to help people who need a little extra support to get into voluntary work, work experience or paid employment. If your organisation would like to be involved in this project, please contact Veronica Mulenga for more information on 020 8255 8685 or [gettingpeoplebacktowork@kvc.org.uk](mailto:gettingpeoplebacktowork@kvc.org.uk)**



## Wave of Friendship

Wave of Friendship is a programme which supports the exchange of volunteers between London and Scotland. Applicants can choose any fixed-term voluntary opportunity that takes place between now and September 2010 that demonstrates the values of the Olympics movement – friendship, respect, excellence, courage, determination, equality and inspiration. They can apply for grants of up to £500 to

cover their expenses including travel, accommodation and other costs.

For more information about the programme, visit the Wave of Friendship website at [www.peoplemakingwaves.org.uk/thewaveoffriendship](http://www.peoplemakingwaves.org.uk/thewaveoffriendship)

## Youth Volunteering Programme

**The Youth Volunteering programme is all about increasing and improving volunteering for young people aged 16 to 25.**

### Youth Volunteering gets thumbs up from REACH

The Youth Volunteering programme at KVC is run as part of the Vinolved South London Team. The V team, in consortium with Volunteer Centres including Kingston, have just achieved Reach – the quality practice framework for Youth Action agencies.

The framework requires a high standard of practice relating to youth-led volunteering and includes standards relating to: Open & Accessible, Reflection & Learning, Diverse Action, Support, Participation, Community Benefit, Networking and Partnerships. A fantastic achievement!



vinolvedsouth london

### Thinking Ahead...

With so many young people around over the holiday periods, especially over the summer, why not think ahead to see if you can involve more young volunteers with your organisation this year.

specialist skills like photography, design and IT - so why not start thinking ahead now, so that you don't miss out later.

Just get in touch to talk through your ideas.

For example, are there any new volunteering opportunities that you could develop specifically for the holiday period? Or do you already have a short-term project planned that could do with some extra help? What about any one-off events coming up? Something that a group of friends could volunteer to do together? Or how about offering some taster sessions over the holidays to give young people a flavour of volunteering with your organisation?

Contact Meena Kapila, Youth Volunteer Advisor on 020 8255 8068  
youthvolunteering@kvc.org.uk

The potential to tap into the energy and expertise of young volunteers is HUGE during the holiday periods – from having general helpers to getting volunteers with

