

West Kent Volunteer Centre



Merry Christmas from all at Imago

Lots of people want to volunteer around Christmas time, the season of goodwill, but every day in 2017 volunteers made a difference to their communities. It's Local Charities Day today (15th December) so consider volunteering with a local organisation. There are lots of national organisations but local charities are set up to respond to a very local need. To find out about local charities in your area go to www.do-it.org or search for [Local Charities Day](#) online.

If volunteering will be amongst your New Year resolutions take a look at the opportunities inside this newsletter to see if there is anything you are interested in. If you'd like to talk to someone about volunteering contact us on 01892 530330 or email volunteering@imago.community.

Finally, in our last edition of the year, we would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy new year.

Merry
CHRISTMAS 



Kenward Trust

transforming lives, creating new futures



We need volunteer drivers for our residential projects in Yalding.



Kenward Trust's alcohol and rehab programmes have helped thousands of people transform their lives.

If you can offer a few hours or more a week, we would love to hear from you!



kenwardtrust.org.uk



01622 814187



sian.williams@kenwardtrust.org.uk

STAG

SEVEN OAKS

Volunteers

STAG VOLUNTEERS NEED YOU!

See fantastic shows & meet
likeminded people all
whilst helping your local
community theatre!

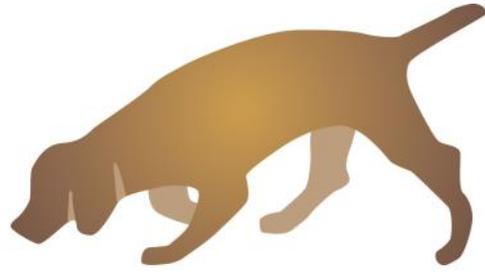


Join our friendly front of
house team today!



Interested? Contact Mary Scott at:
volunteers@stagsevenoaks.co.uk

Medical Detection Dogs



Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

Registered charity in England and Wales No. 1124533
and in Scotland No. SC044434

Medical Detection Dogs is a charity at the forefront of medical research. It aims to transform disease detection by harnessing the olfactory power of dogs to develop tests for a range of conditions including cancer.

Fundraisers—Medical Detection Dogs is funded purely by voluntary contributions. Without our fundraisers we would not be able to continue to support people with life threatening health conditions. If you enjoy fundraising, organising events and engaging with the local community, why not become an active fundraiser? You will make a real difference to the work we do, will have lots of fun, meet lots of new friends and contribute directly to a worthwhile cause.

Speakers—Medical Detection Dogs require a national network of speakers to help promote awareness of the charity, the work we do and the life changing difference our assistance alert dogs can make. As well as promoting the charity, speakers help raise much needed funds and encourage others to fundraise in various ways, for example by leaving a legacy in their will or organising a fundraising/sponsored event on our behalf.

Collection Box Co-ordinators - If you have very little spare time, but would still like to make a BIG difference to the charity, you could place collection boxes with local businesses or become a **Leaflet Distributor** and distribute literature and put up posters in places that are local to you.

Volunteers are essential to the work we do, providing help and support to vital services nationwide. Please visit our website to find out more information about our volunteer opportunities <https://www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk/volunteer-work/volunteer/>.

If you would like more information please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteering@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk. We would love to hear from you.

64 Commercial Road
Paddock Wood
Kent
TN12 6DP

01892 838619 info@pwadvice.org
www.pwadvice.org



Volunteer Opportunity

Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre are currently seeking Volunteer Advisers who can commit to at least one day per week (9.30am-1.30pm) for a minimum of 6 months. No experience is necessary however it would be beneficial if you have a customer service, advisory or legal background. Law students wishing to gain experience and apply their skills in practice are welcome to apply and are encouraged to do so.

About us

We are a registered company with charity status and all our advisers and caseworkers are volunteers. We are a member of Advice UK, the UK's largest support network for free, independent advice centres and we are also registered with the Money Advice Trust and National Homelessness Advice Centre for additional support.

What service do we provide?

We offer a full, free, confidential and impartial advice service for Paddock Wood and the surrounding areas. All our advisers can provide generalist advice in a wide range of areas, including benefits, consumer matters, employment, family, housing, money advice and relationship breakdown. We also have specialist debt and welfare rights advisers who can help clients manage their finances when things become overwhelming and represent clients at benefit tribunals to challenge Department of Work and Pensions' decisions.

Volunteer Adviser role:

- Interview clients face to face or by telephone to identify the nature of their issue(s)
- Provide advice and signposting to empower clients to resolve their own issue(s) where possible, making referrals to external agencies if appropriate
- Provide guidance on filling in forms, making telephone calls and completing online applications
- Act on behalf of clients where necessary by making telephone calls, drafting letters or negotiating with third parties such as creditors, the Local Authority, the Department of Work and Pensions or Housing Associations
- Maintain accurate, confidential client and case records using the AdvicePro case management system
- Attend team meetings and training sessions as required and keep up to date with relevant developments and new information concerning client issues
- Comply with all internal policies and procedures

To apply:

For more information and/or to apply for the role, please call 01892 838619 or email your CV to info@pwadvice.org together with your availability.



Volunteer for NYAS

Do you want to make a difference to a young person's life?
Do you have 1- 4 hours per month to spare?

We urgently require more volunteers, so why not volunteer as a mentor/befriender for NYAS as an Independent Visitor for children and young people in care. As a volunteer you will:

- Have fun, take young people on outings and maybe share a hobby, sport or interest
- Offer support and a listening ear and be a positive influence in a young person's life and help build self- esteem and confidence

You don't need any special qualifications

We are looking for reliable and dependable people from all walks of life

We will provide training and on-going support. We will pay expenses to a set limit.

Here is what some of our young people and volunteers have to say about this rewarding role:

- I like how my Independent Visitor isn't anything to do with social services and is here to support me not to judge
- They have boosted my confidence, now I feel like when I go places I can just relax and have fun
- My young person always looks forward to me coming, they have had such a disjointed life, I am a stable figure in their life and this has to be important for them, as everything else changes around them a lot.

If you would like to apply, please visit our website www.nyas.net

You can also find out more in the following places:



<https://youtu.be/u6WfmdLKAyA>

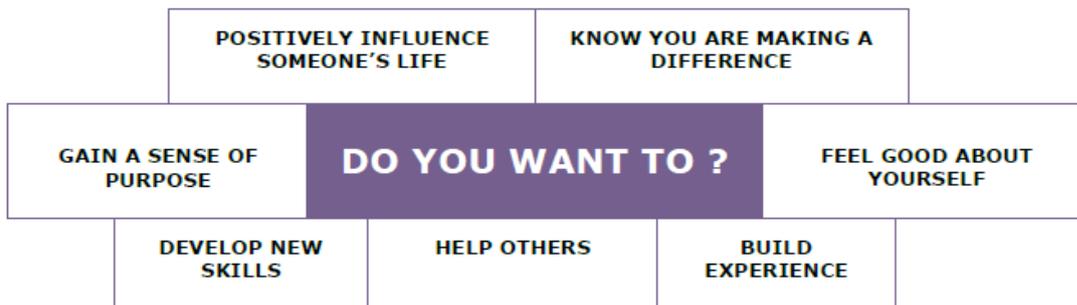


www.facebook.com/NYAS.YP



www.nyas.net

THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERING WITH DAVSS



IF YOU HAVE THE TIME - DAVSS HAS THE OPPORTUNITY

DAVSS is an award winning West Kent community-based charity. Our professionally trained volunteers, supported by qualified staff;

- raise public awareness of domestic abuse across West Kent
- provide helpline support and immediate safety advice
- support men and women who have experienced domestic abuse
- meet clients face to face, sympathetically listen in a non-judgmental way, providing options
- continually assessing risk to national standards
- cooperate with and refer to other agencies to provide coordinated support
- arrange support to court, pro-bono legal advice and interpreters where required
- deliver healthy relationship DAY programmes within schools
- attend one stop shop and work with partners to provide joined up support
- provide on going support coordinating FREEDOM programme to break the cycle of abuse

DAVSS supported over 800 clients last year & responded to more than 500 helpline callers

Many victims endure abusive and life-threatening difficulties for years before seeking help. Benefits of DAVSS include;

- understanding abuse can be any or all of the following behaviours; controlling/coercive, physical/sexual violence, financial/emotional control, stalking
- early intervention reduced repeat victimisation and saves lives
- cost-effective service for vulnerable people empowered to take back control of their lives
- life chances for children who witness abuse significantly improved
- community supporting itself

Volunteers needed:

- Domestic Abuse Advisers
 - Helpline operators
- Professional Supervision and Training provided
- Initial—7 weeks @ 2 days per week
 - Experienced mentors
 - Quarterly clinical supervision
- Other Volunteers Required**
- Fundraising Coordinators
 - Communications and marketing support

1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will experience domestic abuse



Citizens Rights for Older People

Citizens' Rights for Older People

A Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status

Canterbury: Ashford: Maidstone
9a, High Street, Lenham, Kent ME17 2QD
Tele: 01622 851200

e-mail:lenham@cropkent.org.uk

<http://www.cropkent.org.uk>

Citizens Rights for Older People (CROP) is seeking new Trustees to join its Board.

CROP is a Kent wide registered charity, that provides a volunteer led, home visiting, information, advice and advocacy service to older people. Its aims are to support older people in their decision making and interactions, to enable and equip them to stay well, to adapt and self-manage in their own home, to ensure that they enjoy and exercise the same rights as other consumers and to prevent abuse and resist ageism.

Established in 1994, CROP was awarded the Queens Award for Charities in 2012. CROP's activities are overseen by a Board of 5 Trustees who employ 5 part time office staff and coordinators who support 45+ volunteers who receive an average of over 120 referrals for assistance every month.

Until last year CROP was funded by Kent County Council for all its activities. Since then KCC has moved away from grant funding to a system of competitive tendering. In 2016 CROP successfully won a contract to deliver Community Advocacy for older people and will be submitting a tender to deliver Information and Advice from 2018. In order to meet growing demand for its services, CROP is embarking on a period of development and growth and wishes to recruit members to its board of trustees. We are seeking individuals who have an interest / experience in financial management, fundraising, marketing, organisational change and promoting the health and welfare of older people through the current period of economic and social challenge. For an informal discussion please contact the Chair of Trustees, Dominic Keast at: Dominic.keast@taltalk.net.



NEW GIRLGUIDING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO GIVE GIRLS OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

Girlguiding volunteers inspire and empower girls and young women in Maidstone, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells and across the UK, giving their time so girls can have adventures, make friends, build confidence and develop skills they will use throughout their lives, whether they are trying abseiling for the first time, having a go at science experiments or taking action on the issues that matter to them.

Girlguiding recently launched #KnowYourPlace, a multi-channel campaign featuring a film on social media, calling on more people to volunteer and join the movement of girls and women empowering each other.

Sally Illsley, Deputy Chief Guide, said: "The spirit of the campaign is to turn the old fashioned idea that a woman should know her place on its head and reclaim it to make clear that a woman's place is wherever she wants it to be. If you're someone who would like to help inspire and empower a generation of girls and young women to find their place in the world then volunteering with Girlguiding is the chance to do just that."

Girlguiding Kent Weald (covering Maidstone, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells) offers a variety of flexible volunteering roles so people can find something that fits with the time they have to give, from helping out at a meeting once a month, to going along to support at weekend events or running occasional sessions with different groups.

Over the last nine years Girlguiding's Girls' Attitudes Survey has given an insight into girls' lives and shone a light on the challenges and pressures they encounter. The 2017 research also highlights what makes girls feel positive, such as spending time with friends, (51% of girls aged 7-21), being creative (22% of girls aged 7-21), being outdoors (22% of girls aged 7-21) and trying new things (one in five girls aged 7-10), all of which Girlguiding offers to girls and young women.

To find out more, to view the campaign film or to find out more about volunteering visit: girlguiding.org.uk/knowyourplace.



**citizens
advice**

The Citizens Advice Witness Service is looking for Outreach volunteers to support witnesses through the process of giving evidence in court.

Our volunteers offer information and support to help witnesses achieve their best evidence in court. Outreach volunteers work with vulnerable and intimidated witnesses, and will support a witness through their journey of giving evidence. This can include visiting the witness in their home, as well as attending court with them on the day of the trial.

We are looking for caring, flexible and committed people with good communication skills to join our team of volunteers. We can offer a rewarding and interesting volunteering experience, where no two days are the same, as well as full training and support.

If you are interested in becoming an Outreach volunteer, contact:
Emma Manwaring, Team Leader (Volunteer Development) on 07584 489294 or
email emma.manwaring@citizensadvice.org.uk.

To access the full role description for an Outreach Volunteer, or to apply for a role, please use the following link: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/citizens-advice-witness-service/>.

Spa Valley Railway - Volunteer Vacancies

We have vacancies in all departments: especially catering, cleaning, office staff, engineering, building maintenance and decorating. We also need a team to manage fundraising. If you are interested please e-mail Mike Pease—mikepease154@btinternet.com.





Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

Meet & Greet, Reception, the Heathside Centre, Coxheath, Maidstone, ME17 4AH

- To provide a positive 'meet and greet' facility for clients and their carers/relatives when attending for a clinic appointment at the Centre.
- To support their access needs through providing information and minimal practical support, e.g. ensuring they know where the toilets are and ensuring they can gain access.
- To raise any concerns that the client or their carer/relative shares to the clinician holding the clinic
- To support the clinician with any minor clerical tasks, such as scanning documents and attaching to client records
- To administer the patient satisfaction survey following the clinic appointment via an iPad or advising as to other forms of accessing this (provide cards to identify online access or complete on paper with the client)

Tea Bar & Shop Volunteers - Sevenoaks Hospital & Gravesham Community Hospital

We have a vacancy on a Tuesday at Gravesham Community Hospital and vacancies for various times at Sevenoaks Community Hospital. The role will include customer service, cash handling, stock control and stock rotation. At Sevenoaks Hospital it will include making hot drinks.

Please contact Maria S Swaby, Voluntary Services Manager,
Tel: 01474 360508 or email kchft.volunteerservices@nhs.net or maria.swaby@nhs.net.

Enjoy New Year's on The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells

ellenor is looking for volunteers to help at Hug-Many. Would you mind staffing one of the entrances to The Pantiles for a few hours?

You will get free entry to the event with its live bands, laser light show, piper and fireworks.

See www.hug-many.co.uk



If you would like to help please call Katie Gardner on 01474 320007 ex 1117
or email katie.gardner@ellenor.org



TRUSTEES NEEDED

We are seeking individuals willing to volunteer and extend their skills on our management board.

No long-term commitment required!

We welcome support for short term projects alongside a longer-term commitment.

Skills in business management, policy, the charity sector, bid writing, governance or as a carer would particularly enhance the current skill-mix of the board. However, we welcome approaches from people with other skills.

If you would like to help a locally based charity supporting those living with brain injury, we would welcome your application.

Contact: 01892 619001 for more details

Part Time Volunteer Trustee – Mental Health Charity



Tunbridge Wells Mental Health Resource Ltd (MHR) is a small well established Charity based in Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone. It delivers quality services across Kent to individuals suffering from mental ill health or requiring support to improve their well-being.

We currently have vacancies for new trustees to join our Board. If you have a true interest in helping to improve the lives of those suffering or recovering from mental ill health and could contribute to the strategic development of the Charity against a backdrop of a changing environment we would love to hear from you.

To complement our current Board members, we are looking for individuals with expertise in any of the following; Human Resources, Business Development, Fundraising, Law or Strategic Management. The Board have 6 formal meetings a year, and attendance for other functions or tasks may also be required. We are committed to equal opportunities and promoting diversity and particularly welcome applications from diverse backgrounds. Enhanced DBS will apply.

To apply, please send your CV and a covering letter to Mrs Leigh Attwood at leigha@twmhr.org.uk.

Imago opportunities

Give the gift of independence – become a volunteer driver. We welcome volunteers from across West Kent and surrounding areas to transport older and less mobile people to their medical and social appointments. Or try volunteering in one of our charity shops and be part of our retail team.

I'M A CHARITY SHOP

Volunteer with us
 & join our friendly retail team

at
 17-19 Monson Road
 or 14 Crescent Road
 Tunbridge Wells

01892 530330
 volunteering@imago.community

Supporting Imago's local projects for
 Young Carers ~ Disabled Children ~ Older People

www.imago.community **IMAGO**

Volunteer Drivers Needed

DIAL 2 DRIVE

In these and surrounding areas

Do you own a car?
 Could you take an elderly or disabled person to a medical or social appointment once a week?

- A hugely rewarding way to help others
- Meet new people
- Totally flexible to work around you

We pay your mileage expenses
 driving@imago.community - 0300 777 1200

www.imago.community **IMAGO**

To find out more about volunteering in your local community,
 please get in touch

Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells



@Volunteering_WK



VolunteeringWK

volunteering@imago.community

01892 530330

www.imago.community