

February 2018

West Kent Volunteer Centre



You can volunteer whatever the weather

There are lots of opportunities to volunteer in your area and there are a variety of ways that you can offer your time. From a few hours a week to several days, from working from home to working outside, voluntary organisations need your time.

The adverse weather may have you thinking about volunteering. Perhaps you have been thinking that support for the homeless is invaluable at this time of year. If so, why not get in touch with your local church or with a specialist organisation like [the Bridge Trust](#).

There has been a backlash against international aid charities lately but they still have a vital role to play. If you are interested in this sector you could look to locally based organisations like [Empathy Action](#) or [Build Africa](#).

Alternatively we have a number of opportunities in a variety of organisations in this edition so hopefully you will find something of interest.

If you'd like to talk to our team about volunteering, contact us on 01892 530330 or email volunteering@imago.community.



What will motivate you to become a volunteer?

Develop skills

Build confidence

Gaining Experience

Participating in a worthwhile cause

Making a difference to your local community

Volunteers are essential to the support that we give to victims of crime.

As a Victim Support volunteer, we will train you to support victims from the first time you meet them until they feel strong enough to move forward on their own. You will listen to their concerns and make sure that their needs are met.

For more information contact the Community Team on **01233 896427/ 01233 896422** or register your interest by sending an email to: **kentvolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk**

www.victimsupport.org.uk

Registered charity number: 298028

Registered address: Victim Support,
1 Bridge Street, Derby. DE1 1HZ



Volunteer with us

★ Join our friendly Tunbridge Wells team ★

We want you!

We are always looking for enthusiastic and reliable volunteers to help out and support us.

Just a few hours of your time each week can make a difference to the lives of people with Learning Disabilities and Autism Conditions

Whether you are retired or looking for work, a student or a parent, if you have some spare time, we'd appreciate your Help

CURRENT VACANCIES

SHOP ASSISTANTS:

- Serving customers
- Operating the till
- Stock merchandising
- Processing stock
- Registering Gift Aid donors

For further information please call 01892 822168 Extn 0 and speak to Sue Lawrence or email reception@pepenbury.info



Volunteer at Bedgebury

A new and exciting opportunity has arisen to be part of a small team working in the pinetum, an internationally renowned conifer collection.

We would like to hear from you if you

- Have experience working in a horticultural or arboriculture environment
- Can commit to working Thursdays (outside of school holidays)
- Are a keen team player with a positive and friendly outlook

Your time could help others

Our Visitor Experience Volunteers help our visitors to get the most from their time at Bedgebury. They play a key role in meeting the visitors, helping them with their queries, giving them directions and advice.

You could make a real difference by giving visitors a warm welcome at Bedgebury.



We have a Recruitment Open Day on Saturday 3rd March from 10 am - 2 pm.
If you are interested – please get in touch: bedgebury@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



National Trust

Looking for your next adventure?
Volunteer at Ightham Mote



Life is one long adventure and we'd love to join in with your next one. Whether you want to put years of skills and experience towards our cause or just want to try something new we'll have a role to suit you. Our team is full of inspiring people from all walks of life who get a real buzz from working and learning together.

Come by for a tea or coffee!
Open session 10 am - 11 am
Thursday 22nd March
Saturday 7th April
Thursday 3rd May
Sunday 3rd June
Monday 2nd July

Ready to get involved?
Speak to Iain Saunders - 01732 810378 ext 130 or email iain.saunders@nationaltrust.org.uk

For other details visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ighthammote





Events Volunteer - Knole Knole Lane, Under River, Sevenoaks, Kent

Located in Sevenoaks, Knole is one of the country's most precious and exciting houses containing collections of unique royal furniture, silver, painting and tapestries. Built in the 15th century by the Archbishops of Canterbury, it was annexed by Henry VIII and remodelled by the Sackville family in the 17th century.

This is a new volunteer opportunity supporting the Visitor Experience Team with the delivery of the 2018 events programme at Knole. This role involves a variety of different tasks to help set up and deliver workshops, family events and seasonal activities.

Event volunteers get stuck in with everything from handing out gifts during our Christmas deer trail to setting up and assisting adult workshops in the Hayloft Learning Centre.

- * Volunteers can take part in every element of the event from helping set up to collecting tickets or payment and recording feedback from our visitors.
- * You will work alongside the Visitor Experience Team to deliver craft, workshops and activities suitable for a range of audiences.
- * You are important in making sure things run as smoothly and safely as possible – this includes getting to know health and safety and evacuation procedures.
- * Trails and crafts for children are a big part of what we do so be prepared to get creative and covered in glitter.

In return you can:

- Learn what is involved in event delivery.
- Receive training and induction.
- Use and develop your communication skills to help people feel at home.
- Join an enthusiastic and varied team and make some new friends.
- Work in extraordinary and beautiful surroundings.

Please visit our website to find out more <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole>



Volunteer at the Arts Festival Weekend

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th March, at Kent College, Pembury

Why not help out at the Tunbridge Wells Arts Festival Weekend. There are adjudicated music performances in strings, piano, brass, singing, and also in Speech & Drama. Most participants are children aged 7 up to 18, but some adults also compete. We use professional adjudicators for each class.

There are several different roles available, all with full instructions, job descriptions, etc. Roles include Session President, Adjudicator's Clerk, Entrance Steward and Reception Steward. All these roles are fairly straightforward and can be performed with minimal training beforehand. We also have a need for refreshment helpers over the weekend, serving coffee, tea, soft drinks, snacks, etc; and also for more general help, at times in the car park, and/or as stewards in the open areas of the school, or where programmes are being sold.

Volunteers need to be willing to attend for a minimum of half a morning, and/or half afternoon, so say roughly two hours minimum. People would be very welcome to do two or more sessions, up to both whole days.

See www.twaf.co.uk for more information about the Festival in general.

If you are interested in volunteering contact Chris Morgan by email chris.morganmh@gmail.com or on 07817 246129.



Could you help us train more puppies like Jade to support deaf adults and children?

We have a variety of volunteering opportunities available and would love to hear from you if you think you can help us!

- Fundraising Group Member – join your local friendly group and help raise money and awareness through events and collections
- Collection Box Coordinator – A flexible role placing collecting tins in local shops and businesses, emptying them every couple of months
- One off Collection and Event Volunteers – Join our mailing list for one off volunteering opportunities such as collecting at your local supermarket for a couple of hours or supporting one of our local events as a marshal or stall helper
- Volunteer Speaker – help us spread the word about our charity by giving short talks to local community groups and schools

Please contact Emily on 07435 964466 or email emily.lyle@hearingdogs.org.uk for more information.

The Shaw Trust is looking for volunteers in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Ashford

Community Wellbeing Volunteers

Community Wellbeing volunteers - could you provide on-going mentorship and buddy support to a peer so they can access activities in their local community? Their clients want to improve their everyday living, become more independent and confident, meet new people and reach their goals.

Social Activity Lead Volunteers

Social Activity volunteers - do you have a hobby or talent that could be shared with others? They are looking for people to run: gardening groups, IT groups, craft groups, walking/running/ cycling groups and reading groups.

To find out more about becoming a Shaw Trust volunteer please email Karen Warner – Community Wellbeing Volunteer Coordinator karen.warner@shaw-trust.org.uk



Kent Association for the Blind

Vacancy for a Volunteer Club Leader in Sevenoaks

We are looking for someone to run a small social group in the Sevenoaks area. The group are a lovely fun group and they meet once a month in the Community Centre.

The role will include attending the group and talking with the service users, organising some entertainment for example a speaker, musician, dancer for which there is a budget. Selling raffle tickets, and collecting money for transport.

A dedicated group of volunteers come along and help at this group already so you would be in good company. Full training and support is available.

Volunteer Visitors Required

At KAB we are keen to recruit some more volunteer visitors especially in the Tunbridge Wells area. I have many requests for people in these particular areas

Westerham
Southborough
Lamberhurst
Tunbridge Wells
East Farleigh
West Malling

We have a number of men on our waiting list and it would be great to give them some male company so applications from men would be especially welcome. In addition I also have someone who would like to talk to someone about dogs!

Volunteering visiting is great for people with existing commitments as you are able to structure your visits around your diary it is also fantastically rewarding.

For further details please contact Jo Wilkinson at KAB on 01622 691357.



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



Local Residents, we need you!

Volunteering can be wonderful and fulfilling, it can provide help and support to those who need it the most. At Macmillan Crossroads Care Kent & Medway Volunteer Service, we support people affected by cancer and their carers. Our team provide quality information and guidance, along with a helpful assessment process to understand what support is needed. Currently our volunteers provide:

- companionship
- emotional support
- light housework or gardening
- social outings
- shopping
- escorting to medical appointments

One of our valued volunteers Isabel has expressed the following; "I became aware of the Macmillan Crossroads volunteer opportunity whilst volunteering for Pilgrims Hospice and they asked me to come in for an interview. The rest is history (well over 3 years of it) I visit people in their homes do bits of light gardening, light housework, shopping trips, health appointment visits and cups of tea and chats. I even get to work once again with students as I am lucky enough to be part of training and supporting 6th form students in this type of care work. The rewards are immense I have learnt so much from these people about lives led challenges faced and to still be faced, all is put into perspective. Life is for living and sharing even when time maybe in short supply. Give it a go. Every visit is different and being part of a team is very enjoyable."

Can you spare some time each week?

Do you have a good listening ear, the first and most important part of helping?

Do you have a special interest or skill that someone could benefit from?

Volunteering is a very positive addition to your CV as it can demonstrate your commitment to a work ethic and your caring nature. There is also in-house training available for all volunteers and volunteering expenses can be reimbursed in line with our volunteering policy.

Local volunteers are required to help local people. At the moment, volunteers travel from all over the west Kent area to help local residents.

If you feel you'd like to make a difference when someone needs a helping hand, contact Jen or Charley on 01622 817114, charley.macmillan@crossroadskent.org or find us on Facebook Macmillan Crossroads Volunteer Service.



Taylor Made Dreams

Taylor Made Dreams is a charity set up in memory of Taylor Mitchell. Our vision is that children with a life threatening conditions will have the opportunity to fulfil their dreams and also provide their family with support by trained therapeutic professionals.

Primarily our aim is to assist in the creation of a unique 'Bucket List' which is 'TAYLOR-MADE' to meet the specific needs and desires of the individual child with a critical illness.

The charity needs volunteers and in particular they need a bookkeeper for 3 hours a week.
For more information contact Suzi Mitchell - taylormadedreamscio@gmail.com
For more information about the charity go to <http://www.taylormadedreams.net/>



Stone Ness Walled Garden

We are a small charity providing therapy through horticulture at our Victorian garden. Gardening has been shown to improve both physical and mental-well-being. It brings us closer to nature and has obvious social benefits. Everyone who comes to Stone Ness Walled Garden will finish each day with a sense of satisfaction and benefit from the peace which can be found as soon as they enter the garden. We need volunteers to help our clients in the garden. We also need a handyman.

If you are interested in volunteering contact our Project Manager Jean Burgess on: 01892 740305 or email info@stonenesswalledgarden.org

For more information about the charity go to: <http://www.stonenesswalledgarden.org/>



STONE NESS
WALLED GARDEN



Imago opportunities

Young Carer Activity Volunteer Join us in supporting Young Carers

We deliver a 12 month rolling programme of workshops for Young Carers aged 8-18, who have caring responsibilities for a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health or substance misuse issue. Workshops run for 2 hours, once a month, and are led by Imago Young Carer staff. We are looking for volunteers who can make the monthly commitment to support the group.

The workshops are designed to support Young Carers to develop confidence, self-esteem and resilience, while learning important life skills and having fun. It's a great opportunity for them to meet other Young Carers, which helps reduce social isolation.

The workshops are themed, and activities are based around topics such as healthy eating, first aid, stress and teamwork. We also have time to play games and eat a snack together. Social interaction is important, so we expect volunteers to take the time to talk to Young Carers and encourage them to join in the activities. Volunteers will help staff set up and pack away resources, deliver activities, help the group as a whole, and provide one-to-one support as needed.

To find out more or offer to help in Kent or East Sussex please email volunteering@imago.community with the postcode and area you live in so we can send you the appropriate application form.



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