

West Kent Volunteer Centre

hooray for
April

Yay!

Everyone in the office is thrilled that April is now here. Lovely light evenings and the run up to the Easter break (and accompanying chocolate) make us happy people

There's a great selection of volunteering opportunities in the newsletter this month...

...outdoor activities, trustee, committee, and admin roles

Make sure to check out the final page to read about Bianca's marathon challenge!

Spotlight on Tree of Hope



Tree of Hope is a national children's charity that helps the families of children and young people with a disability or illness by supporting them to raise the funds required to access the specialist care for their child which is not freely available through the UK healthcare system

Although the team is small, the charity's impact is huge. Last year Tree of Hope raised over £2 million and supported in excess of 800 families. With the UK Health Service facing increasing financial pressures and greater demands, Tree of Hope is committed to increasing the amount raised so the charity can support the ever increasing number of children and young people who benefit from our support. This may range from paying for a cochlear implant, funding sessions of intensive physiotherapy or assisting a family to fundraise for a Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy operation. This procedure has the potential to enable a child with cerebral palsy to walk unaided and until 2014 was available on the NHS. Indeed many of the families fundraising through Tree of Hope are referred by the UK Health Service to enable them to self-fund for operations, therapies and treatments.

The charity receives no statutory funding and relies on funding from corporate partnerships, grants from Trusts and Foundations, donations from individuals and numerous fundraising events. These include the Starfish Races in Bexhill, an annual Golf Day, Celebratory Dinner and Dragon Boat Racing. As the charity enters its 25th anniversary year in October, more events will be planned both to commemorate this milestone and to maximise the fundraising opportunity.

A motivated volunteer is sought to support the Fundraising Manager in all aspects of fundraising as we approach our anniversary year and the extra work this will entail. It is expected the volunteer will help in the planning and implementation of events, researching trusts and foundations for suitable grants, acquiring prizes for raffles and auctions and marketing events.

To apply for this role please contact Kate Bourne (Fundraising Manager) at kate.bourne@treeofhope.org.uk or 01892 535525.

Additionally, a proactive volunteer is sought to support the Finance Team with work on our supplier database. It is expected the volunteer will help with contacting suppliers, undertaking due diligence checks, inputting information onto our database and discussing discounts for our families to make their fundraised monies go further.

To apply for this role please contact Cath Marsh Finance Officer accounts@treeofhope.org.uk or 01892 579248.

Either role would be perfect for someone looking to gain experience in the charity sector whether considering a career change, looking to return to work after a career break or a recently retired individual looking for a new and exciting challenge.

Ideally we would look for individuals who could work with us around 1 or 2 days a week on these and other specific projects. More hours are available. Reasonable expenses will be paid.

GARDENING FOR DISABLED TRUST needs YOU!

We are looking for new committee members to help us distribute (financial) support to enable disabled people to continue to enjoy gardening. Typically, this would be awarding grants to purchase raised beds, adapt gardens to give wheelchair access or for special tools. We hold monthly meetings in the Kent/East Sussex border area to award the grants and to plan a series of fundraising activities in beautiful places. Why not get in touch to discuss it more, or come to one of our meetings to see what we are doing; you will be sure of a warm welcome. Driving and computer skills are essential.

www.gardeningfordisabledtrust.org.uk

info@gardeningfordisabledtrust.org.uk



Care Navigators

Looking for some office experience or to use your existing skills? Confident with computers and talking to people on the phone?

The Imago Care Navigator team are looking for volunteers to carry out evaluations with clients over the telephone, record comments and update spreadsheets. This is a greatly valued service and collecting feedback helps develop and improve future activities.

The team are looking for volunteers in both their Sevenoaks and Gillingham offices and full training is provided. We anticipate the role will require a commitment of 2 half days per week.

For more information, contact sharon.overy@imago.community or phone 01892 530330

VOLUNTEER VACANCY

Administrative Support

Do you have good organisational and office skills?
are you PC literate?

You could help our busy community transport project that supports disabled and older people to stay independent, helping them attend medical, social and other appointments

You would be taking bookings for drives over the phone, and matching our lovely volunteer drivers to bookings.



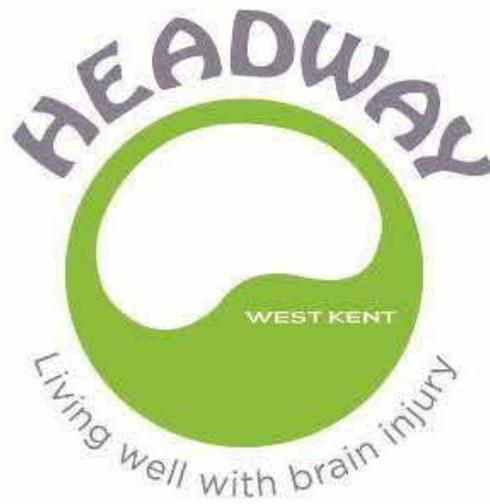
Vacancies:

Monday afternoon
Tuesday morning or afternoon
Wednesday afternoon
Thursday morning or afternoon
Friday afternoon

Just drop in or call 01892 530330 for further information

Volunteer with

DIAL 2 DRIVE



Call for Trustees

Headway West Kent is a small, friendly registered charity providing information, support, and services to people who have sustained a brain injury, their family and carers. We are affiliated to the brain injury association, Headway UK.

We provide social, leisure and therapeutic activities to help people following a brain injury to live a life not dominated by their injury.

There is a small, dedicated and experienced staff group who are supported by an equally dedicated, talented and creative group of volunteers.

You can see more about us at: <http://www.headwaywestkent.org/>

The Board of Trustees are currently seeking people who would be interested in joining them in supporting the future of this charity. We meet every other month, on a Monday evening. People with backgrounds in business, enterprise, marketing and human resources would particularly enhance the current skill-mix of the Board. However we welcome approaches from people with other skills, experience or interests including those who have experience as a partner or carer of someone who has had a brain injury. The post of Trustee is a voluntary position.

Contact: Richard Witts - Acting Chair of Trustees 01892 619001 for more details

URGENTLY NEEDED!

VOLUNTEER ADMIN ASSISTANT

Approx 10 hours per week at our T.Wells based office. Normal admin work.

If you can spare some time, are well organised, and want to do something really worthwhile, please contact office@davss.org.uk

Are you the next David Dickinson or Tim Wonnacott? Are you a great bargain hunter? Do you love exploring museums? Mencap are looking for a Visiting Volunteer to support a 59-year-old gentlemen in Edenbridge, Kent, who loves visiting museums, going to the theatre and going shopping - especially to antique fairs!

As a Mencap Visiting Service volunteer, you will be visiting a person with a learning disability in their local community to spend time with them doing the things they want to do. You will be reducing social isolation, helping them to form relationships and supporting them to enjoy activities.

In your role as a Mencap Volunteer Visitor you will make 6 visits per year to your matched beneficiary. These visits are flexible. Each visit is unique to the individual being supported. Please note that this is a long-term opportunity to take place at weekends.

The Mencap visiting service was launched in 1963 and was designed to be a befriending service to adults with a learning disability for after their parents passed away.

To find out more, please contact Kathryn.Harrington@mencap.org.uk or 07811 290219 or visit <https://jobs.mencap.org.uk/vacancies/vacancy-details.aspx?VacancyID=7153&Display=1>



We're looking for volunteers to join our

Habitat Survey Team

If you have a passion for conservation you can help us to survey and collecting data on plants and habitats across Kent.

You will need an interest in botany and wildlife but do not need any prior knowledge. You'll receive full training from our experts.

Our groups work between spring and late summer and we're looking for volunteers who can commit to a day's activity – 9am – 4pm.

For more information email:

volunteering@kentwildlife.org.uk or call
01622 662012





We're looking for volunteers to join our

Events Volunteer Team

We're looking for friendly and outgoing volunteers who can help us design, develop and deliver events at Sevenoaks Visitor Centre and at Bough Beech Reserve.

Volunteers must be over 16 and confident to talk to members of the public.

Dates are:

Sevenoaks - Thursday 1 June

Bough Beech

Tuesday 11 April

Tuesday 30 May

Sunday 23 July

For more information email

volunteering@kentwildlife.org.uk or call
01622 662012



Virgin Money London Marathon

Imago was delighted to be awarded a place in the Virgin London Marathon Charity Ballot and on the 23rd April 2017 our runner will join thousands of others running for great causes.

Bianca works for Imago and has run the Marathon once before, so knows how much work it takes to train and undertake this mammoth event. She is excited to be running it again and for a charity she is so passionate about.

Bianca works on both the Kent Young Carers and Short Breaks for disabled children services, so sees first-hand the difference funding makes to the lives of the people we support. We are so proud of her for taking on this challenge for our charity!

To find out more about Bianca please visit <http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/BiancaReynolds> where you can also sponsor her online.

Alternatively, you can send a cheque, payable to 'Imago' to
Marathon/ Imago
17-19 Monson Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent. TN1 1LS



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