You’ve got time to think about volunteering in 2020

It might seem like a strange time to circulate a newsletter about volunteering however you might be thinking about social engagement while you are social distancing. There are lots of opportunities inside from a variety of different organisations. Some of the opportunities can be carried out now but the majority are for you to consider when the country returns to normal.

You may find that there are roles available that you haven’t considered before. If you are interested please contact the organisations direct. You can try contacting them now as many Volunteer Coordinators are working from home. For those that are not, they will be grateful to hear from you when back at work.

If nothing appeals, then email our team to discuss other options - volunteering@imago.community.

The Imago Volunteering Team
Coronavirus Support for your Local Community

Sevenoaks
If you want to volunteer please visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityvolunteer or if you’re a resident with a request for practical assistance visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/requesthelp.

To register please either complete the online form available here https://myaccount.sevenoaks.gov.uk/community-help/ or call the Council’s Contact Centre on 01732 227000.

Tunbridge Wells
TWBC are working hard to create and coordinate a one-stop shop where local charities and organisations can help each other or offer the help they can give to support the community during the Covid-19 crisis and enable vulnerable people to get the assistance they need. To register contact them via this link.

Tonbridge and Malling
TMBC have created a directory of organisations offering support during the crisis. To access the list and to offer support go to: https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/community-and-living/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-community

To find out what’s happening in other areas have a look at the Imago website.
We’re calling for fit and healthy people to join NHS Volunteer Responders to help the most vulnerable during the Coronavirus crisis

- Delivering food and medication
- Driving patients to appointments
- Befriending phone calls

You can register here: https://www.goodsamapp.org/NHSvolunteerresponders

**Update:** We asked for 250,000 NHS Volunteer Responders, we got 750,000!! All signed up to help relieve pressure on the NHS in England. Recruitment has been paused and we kindly ask anyone who is still interested in applying to wait a few weeks until we reopen.

Thank you everyone!
Feeding Children Today, Educating Children for Tomorrow

Can you spare 6-8 hours every 3 months to help us collate and stuff envelopes with our Charity Newsletter?

Kisumu Children Trust helps transform a little Kenyan community by helping families support their children through education and into their chosen vocation, providing a family income.

We’re a little, faith-based charity in Tonbridge with a friendly home/office environment. We’d love to have 1-2 volunteers to join us around Feb/May/Aug/Nov to help us out.

You’d be coming in on Mon/Thursday mornings or afternoons.

**Covid-19** – we’ll happily deliver the materials to your house

Thank you so much.

For more info: please contact Lynn Allen,

E: Office@kisumuchildren.org.uk

T: 01732 369303 (Mondays or Thursdays)

Kisumu Children Trust, Charity No. 1091477
Find new experiences at Ightham Mote

Do you love meeting people, learning new things and spending time in beautiful surroundings?

At Ightham Mote we’re looking for Room Guide Coordinators and Guides, Premises Assistants, Fresh Flower pickers, Welcome Volunteers, Fundraising & Raffle ticket sellers.

Mary
Volunteer, Ightham Mote

For more information, please contact us on:

IghthamMoteVolunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk

01732 810378

nationaltrust.org.uk/Ightham-mote

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Volunteer at Bedgebury

Brighten the rainiest day

Our wonderful team of Visitor Experience Volunteers play a key part in providing a warm welcome and giving our visitors all the information they need for a memorable visit.

Make new friends, help a great cause and work in the amazing surroundings ... all great reasons for volunteering at Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest!

Full training provided.

If you love meeting new people, this role is for you.

Please contact bedgebury@forestryengland.uk, phone 01580 879820 or call in at the Visitor Centre for a volunteer application pack.

forestryengland.uk/bedgebury
BOARD MEMBERS SOUGHT

About us
Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival, a Community Interest Company, is the biennial live puppetry festival based in Tunbridge Wells supported by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Kent County Council and The Arts Council of England.

www.twpuppetryfestival.org

What we’re looking for:
The Festival is looking for new and additional Board members to assist in guiding the organisation though a period of growth and transition.

In particular we seek people with experience of: accountancy; law; marketing, especially in the cultural and arts sectors; performing artists interested in contemporary art forms; and venue management. The time commitment is attendance at 4-6 board meetings a year, plus support for staff in the various areas of work in which you are experienced.

What we can achieve together:
We can make a difference for residents and visitors of Tunbridge Wells by delivering a high-quality, accessible festival open to all.

Please send an expression of interest, including what you feel you can bring to the Board, to: matthewjamesadcockbrown@yahoo.co.uk.

Further information
Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival (TWPF) has continued to grow in size and ambition since the first festival in 2015. In 2015, the festival received a warm welcome as a new arts experience for the people of Tunbridge Wells and surrounding areas. The second festival, in 2017, built on the success of the first, generating 40 press mentions. The third festival, which took place in October 2019, overachieved in audience numbers, earned income and excelled in receiving an enormous amount of press coverage.

We presented 22 different shows with 55 performances, 7 workshops, 1 exhibition and achieved 63 different pieces of press coverage in 2019.

The feedback this year has been amazingly positive:

'Best day ever - it’s wonderful and lovely people!'
'Really so enjoyed making my thoroughly, absolutely confused Magpie’
'Fantastic show!'
Role **Book Group Volunteer (Kent)**

Service Older People

Love reading? For many of our older residents, reading is a useful mental exercise to aid memory, discuss literary themes and debate issues in a lively atmosphere which improves service users’ quality of life.

Location Various schemes across Kent (Tonbridge and Snodland).

Commitment A minimum of 2 hours per week, during office hours between Monday and Friday.

We hope the volunteer will stay for a minimum of 4 months.

DBS This role requires us to carry out a check through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Activities Inviting service users to decide what they wish to get out of the weekly book groups.

Inviting service users to suggest books, as well having your own input.

Choosing a book(s) for residents to read for the following week’s discussion.

Creating a comfortable atmosphere which will encourage and motivate service users to maximize their learning and build confidence.

Exploring books from service users’ generation and/ or home country.

Discussing book and film adaptations.

Support Volunteers receive a thorough induction and have access to any relevant in-house and external training.

Volunteers have a named supervisor providing support and encouragement.

Reasonable travel and lunch expenses will be reimbursed.

Interested in applying for this role or have any questions? Please get in touch on 0300 333 6712 or drop us an email Volunteering@clarionhq.com.
Did you know that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will experience some form of domestic abuse?

We are currently looking for male and female volunteers who are able to commit just one day a week to help us provide desperately needed emotional support, practical safety advice and advocacy services to victims in West Kent.

Full accredited training provided.

Just think... by committing just one day a week you will be helping local men, women and children rebuild their lives.

Interested? Want to find out more? office@davss.org.uk

Thank you.
Could you be a Fundraising Volunteer?...

Tree of Hope is a children’s charity that helps the families of children and young people with a disability or serious illness. We support them by helping them to raise the funds required, to access the specialist care for their child, which is not freely available through the UK healthcare system.

We are looking for volunteers to support our fundraising in the community, who are able to work without supervision – no experience necessary, just a big heart for the support that Tree of Hope provides and lots of enthusiasm.

So, if you would like to run fundraising events, support our fundraising activities, distribute collection pots, or become an Ambassador volunteer our Fundraising Manager would love to hear from you!

For more information please contact Karen Warner (Fundraising Manager) karen.warner@treeofhope.org.uk 01892 335311
Remap: making things possible

Remap is a national charity that helps disabled people of all ages to live more independent lives by designing and making customised equipment free of charge.

The unique contribution of Remap is that its network of skilled volunteers design and custom make equipment for each individual – after all, everyone’s needs are different. This helps to improve quality of life and increase independence for disabled people of all ages. The service is provided free of charge; the charity receives no statutory funding and depends on donations and grants.

Recent examples of Remap’s work range from a microphone/amplifier system for five year old James who has vocal cord palsy, to adapting Rosie’s wheelchair so she could complete a sponsored climb of Mt Snowdon. From adaptations at a charity shop so wheelchair user Jade can continue to volunteer in support of her local hospice, to an ingenious adaption of a church door to include a handrail despite its listed building status.

Across the country Remap has about 900 skilled volunteers, organised into local groups including Remap Kent. Last year they completed over 3,800 projects, helping a wide range of disabled people of all age groups. Its volunteers include engineers, technicians and electronics specialists as well as people who organise, promote and fundraise. The charity is run from a small office in Kemsing where a small team of paid staff look after volunteer recruitment, fundraising and promotion for the UK. To find out more, visit Remap’s website or send an email to the team at data@remap.org.uk.
Citizens Advice
Tunbridge Wells & District

Volunteer roles available

- No specific experience required
- We are committed to equality and diversity
- Various roles including adviser, admin, research, media & fundraising
- Apply online www.catwd.org.uk
Helpline advisor volunteer

About the role
We’re looking for two new helpline advisors to join our small, friendly team in Maidstone. In this office-based role you’ll be providing high quality, relevant, up-to-date information, to people with convictions, their friends, families and supporters. Full training will be provided.

We’re looking for somebody who .....  
• Is a person with a criminal record  
• Is confident, with experience in a customer-facing role  
• Has a passion for making a difference and challenging inequality  
• Loves working in a small team but is self-motivated enough to excel without supervision  
• Has excellent verbal and written skills and is able to communicate effectively with a wide range of people  
• Is confident in using computers  
• Is able to commit to volunteering 2 days per week for at least 6 months  
• Lives near to our Maidstone office; we have a limited travel budget but travel costs can be covered where agreed in advance.

Interested?
• Closing date – Monday 27th April 2020  
• For further details about the role and an application form, please email debbie.sadler@unlock.org.uk or write to Debbie Sadler, Unlock, MCSC, 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1HH
Fundraising volunteer

What will you do?

We’re looking for a proactive fundraising volunteer to fundraise in Tonbridge and Sevenoaks and occasionally in other areas across North & West Kent.

The role will be on a flexible basis with a variety of fundraising activities such as manning awareness stalls, bucket collecting at various venues, circulating posters and flyers and generally researching opportunities to raise funds and promote awareness.

What’s in it for you?

- make a real difference to people’s lives
- work with a range of different people, independently, in a team and within your local community
- have a positive impact in your community

And we’ll reimburse expenses too.

What do you need to have?

You don’t need specific qualifications or skills but you’ll need to:

- be friendly and approachable
- have a positive attitude towards fundraising

How much time do you need to give?

We can be flexible about the time spent and how often you volunteer so come and talk to us! Contact Carol Hunt to find out more about this role - by email carol.hunt@nwkent.cab.org or call 01732 373839.
Could you support the RNLI Fundraisers?

The Sevenoaks branch had organised some dates to fundraise in Sevenoaks town centre and in Chipstead in May. These will go ahead if our current situation changes but if not they will be re-arranged.

This is a difficult time for those charities that rely on donated items and fundraising events.

Please support your local branch to help them to build up their funds again.

If you are interested please contact Peter Hawker, Branch Chairman, by email peter@thehawksers.info or phone: 01732 832343.
Can you help volunteer for TOKI?

We are a new community group that supports a group of Adults with Learning Disabilities where we come together to explore the space of:

- Healthy Eating (Food shopping & Cooking)
- Healthy Body (Physical Exercise workouts)
- Healthy Mind (Mindfulness & Positive Affirmations)

We believe it’s important to have a balance in these areas, which can improve our outlook on life, the way we see ourselves and others, and enhance the ability to connect on an emotional level.

Do you have an interest or already work in the above? Or would you just like to help impact the lives of others?

TOKI [www.thrillseekersofkent.org](http://www.thrillseekersofkent.org) We’re also on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com)

Linda: 07588 291110 thrillseekersofkent@gmail.com

Are you a parent/carer of an adult with learning disabilities that would like to join our group? We’d love to hear from you!

There’s more than meets the eye to Learning Disabilities
Are you looking for a new challenge and to help others at the same time?

We have a number of volunteering opportunities at our village in Aylesford, Maidstone:

- **Catering Assistants** to help with the smooth running of our onsite community café and hub, helping to prepare food, serve customers and general tasks.
- **Van drivers** to help with local deliveries for our onsite Social Enterprise, Britain’s Bravest Manufacturing Company. Deliveries will be made using RBLI’s Transit Curtainsider.
- **Receptionists** to assist in our Emergency Veteran Accommodation - helping with answering the telephone, booking appointments, booking in visitors plus general back office tasks;
- **Office Assistants** to assist with data inputting;
- **Befrienders** to support our residents living in our onsite nursing home - providing valuable social interaction.

If none of these appeal, we are always on the look out for willing new volunteers who may have particular skills that can help our charity. Full training will be given - and travel expenses will be payable in accordance with our Expenses Policy.

**To find out more or to apply please contact Volunteer@RBLI.co.uk or call 01622 795924.**

Royal British Legion Industries is the UK’s leading charity helping ex-Armed Forces Personnel into employment. Established in 1919 to help soldiers returning from WW1, we have a proud heritage as a military charity. Today we use our skills and experience to support people in the wider community with disabilities and health conditions and those struggling to find work.
Emma's Volunteering Story
“I’ve been a Home-Start volunteer for 2 years now, and I love it! I visit families in Malling usually, and especially enjoy seeing new mums and dads’ confidence growing. Sometimes new parents just need someone to listen, who won’t judge them as they learn the basics.

It’s been great to be able to share all the advice my mum gave me when my children were young with families who have no one else to support them in the early days.”

Read our Volunteering FAQ

If you would like to volunteer with Home-Start contact the office by calling 01892 524916 or email contact@home-startswk.org.uk

Volunteer Meet and Greet Evening Receptionist Opportunity

Relate are looking for evening meet and greet volunteer receptionists to welcome clients and support our counsellors in our Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks centres.

Please email jennie.worthley@relate.org.uk to express an interest or for more information.
Tunbridge Wells has a repair café!

Western society revolves round consumption. We increasingly buy more things and throw away more than ever. As soon as these items show the slightest defects – such as a stool with a wobbly leg, a CD player with a lid that won’t open or a woollen jumper with a hole in the elbow – we throw them away and buy a new product. The trouble is, lots of people have forgotten that they can repair things themselves or they no longer know how.

The Repair Café allows valuable practical knowledge to be passed on and things can be used for longer and don’t have to be thrown away.

The Repair Café teaches people to see their possessions in a new light and once again, to appreciate their value. The Repair Café helps change people’s mindset. This is essential to kindle our enthusiasm for a sustainable society.

But most of all, the Repair Café shows how much fun repairing things can be, and how easy it often is. Since starting in 2009, the number of Repair Café’s has grown to over 2000 worldwide and the number is growing. Experience from other successful cafes has shown that the aim is not to take away business from local businesses. Often staff or owners of local businesses can volunteer and if a larger repair is needed people can be given an idea of the cost and they may choose to get it repaired via the local business thereby boosting business.

The first Tunbridge Wells repair café took place in March in Trinity Theatre. They mended textiles and clothes, bicycles, computers, phones, tablets, jewellery, mechanical items, small household electrical items, furniture and toys.

To find out more visit their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/TunbridgeWellsRepairCafe or drop them an email on twellsrepaircafe@gmail.com.
If you have been compelled to volunteer and help your local community, we would love you to join our team. Over the last 20 years Dial 2 Drive has supported thousands of vulnerable adults and older people to get out and about in their community. Local volunteer car drivers use their own vehicles to take older and less mobile people, or those with disabilities, to their medical appointments, shopping or to lunch clubs and support groups. A friendly chat along the way means they are kept up to date with local happenings and in touch with the wider community. Some passengers need a helping hand around the food shop, others guided in the right direction within the hospital corridors. If you could spare a couple of hours once a week to share the gift of independence, we would love to hear from you.

We aren’t driving at the moment, most appointments are cancelled and destinations are closed, so we are calling and chatting to the would-be passengers instead. We are making sure they are OK and if they need anything that the organisations set up to help are alerted. If you would like to register now, so that you can be up and running when we are, please complete our application form here: https://www.imago.community/Community-Services/Dial2Drive/Volunteer and we will contact you to chat through the role. Expenses are reimbursed so that you are not out of pocket.
Are you a people person? Have you missed interacting with people? Do you love to have a chat and brighten people’s days? Then our charity shop in Tunbridge Wells could be just the place for you! We have a friendly team, taking on tasks such as keeping the shop looking tidy, serving customers at the till, sorting and pricing donations, steaming clothing before going on sale, answering customer queries.

If you can spare 4 hours one afternoon a week from 1-5pm, like customer service and making a real difference to the people Imago supports - thanks to the funds raised - then please get in touch.

The shop is currently closed, but if you want to apply for a role when it re-opens please request an application form now and we can get the process started. Join the team, make a difference, meet new people, have fun!

To have a chat about the role, please email volunteering@imago.community and the Shop Manager will be in touch.