

West Kent Volunteer Centre



After the summer we are in back to school and work mode. If you find that you have time on your hands then volunteering is a really good way to spend that time while helping others. We have included a variety of volunteering opportunities in this edition including admin roles, scout leaders and train guards!

We hope that you can find something of interest in the newsletter. If you are looking for a specific opportunity that isn't featured here then get in touch with our team by email volunteering@imago.community or call 01892 530330.

Best wishes

The Volunteering Team

**citizens
advice**

**North &
West Kent**

We need you!

We are urgently seeking new volunteer Advisers to help us meet the demand for advice from people in our community.

We will give full training and ongoing support , so if you are:

- ✓ A good listener
- ✓ Have good digital skills
- ✓ Open minded and non judgemental
- ✓ Have a desire to learn new skills
- ✓ Want to help others
- ✓ Can commit to at least 1 day per week volunteering in Sevenoaks or Tonbridge (we will cover your travel expenses)



then this could be the perfect volunteer role for you!

**To find out more about, please email
helen.beckerson@nwkent.cab.org.uk**

VOLUNTEER ADMIN SUPPORT

Look Ahead provide support to high risk victims of domestic abuse. We have a team of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and are currently looking for some support with our admin tasks. You will need to be computer literate, reliable, flexible and discreet.

There will be an induction process and Look Ahead will provide training and will apply for your DBS. This is a rewarding role within a friendly team.

Please contact: Kentdomesticabuse@lookahead.org.uk for further details.



Volunteer at the Spa Valley Railway

The Spa Valley Railway is in need of volunteers. As a railway and like many organisations we are desperately short of volunteers right now especially guards and signalmen. If you'd be able to give some of your free time to helping fill those essential roles we'd be delighted to hear from you.

The Spa Valley Railway operates trains through 5 miles of glorious High Weald countryside and is run by a 100% voluntary workforce! Enjoy the delights that a heritage railway has to offer, it is a great way to socialise and make friends for life!

Don't delay email volunteering@spavalleyrailway.co.uk today and get involved with our wonderful railway!

Volunteer Manager (Group Scout Leader)

Small team. Big rewards.

We prepare young people with skills for life.. But who supports the volunteers who make this happen? People like you.

You can inspire, motivate and plan ahead. You'll enjoy working with adults and young people in your local area and seeing the impact of your efforts. You'll be organised, diplomatic and know how to get the best out of people.

We're not going to pretend this is easy. This is a big role. With big rewards.

And because you believe in the power of Scouts to help young people you'll know it's all worthwhile.

Sound like you? Great. Let's talk.

Chairperson

This could be your best decision yet.

Scouting relies on strong leadership. So, if you can motivate others, keep a cool head and balance a variety of views then you would be an ideal chairperson for Swanley Scouts. With experience of steering meetings to produce excellent decisions, you'll be equally willing to speak your mind as encouraging others to express their views.

You will use your strong communication skills to help our team of committed adult volunteers who make up our Executive Committee arrive at good decisions that will benefit young people. Able to work as part of a team, you will also contribute to the direction and development of the district.

No previous experience of Scouting is necessary. What's more important is your own skills and experience as well as empathy with our mission and values. We will provide all appropriate training and ongoing support.

More comfortable behind the scenes?

Believe it or not you don't have to work with children to be a volunteer for Scouting.

We need people to help with the planning and administration at a number of local Scout groups. Things like organising trips and outings, making telephone calls and keeping records of who has badges. It's a vital job that means that the adults working in the sections have more time to spend at what they do best: working with the children.

If you could give a few hours a month to help out, please have a chat with Swanley Scouts to find out more.

Hextable Scouts

1st Swanley (Hextable) Scouts is part of the Scouts, offering fun, friendship and skills for life to over 460,000 young people across the UK

Interested?

Contact Frances Wallace on 07976 227906 or email dc@swanleyscouts.org.uk.



Volunteers Wanted

Your Commons Need You!



Have you been thinking about doing some practical conservation volunteering?

We need your help on the Sevenoaks Greensand Commons Project!

Join us on our twice weekly task days to help manage this unique habitat and create a home for heathland species.

No previous experience required.

All tools and equipment will be provided.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Project Officer, Joanne Bradley on 07710 143711 or email at

joanne.bradley@kentwildlife.org.uk

These events are part of the Sevenoaks Greensand Commons Project and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other partners.





Volunteer with us



Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity in Kent where you can meet new people but also have the flexibility to decide when and where you volunteer?

We are looking for a team of volunteers to organise NCT events and activities to support local parents. You will be directly involved in deciding what type of events and activities you think are most needed locally.

We welcome volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds and you do not need to be a parent yourself. All our roles are family friendly.

You will be supported by our central Volunteering Team and our amazing NCT family of volunteers across the UK and Channel Islands who will help support you every step of the way.

The roles we are looking to fill are:

- Volunteer Team Leader
- Parent Support Coordinator
- Treasurer
- Fundraising volunteers
- Bumps & Babies Volunteers
- Walk & Talk volunteers
- Grant Coordinators

Volunteering with NCT is a great opportunity for anyone who is passionate about making a difference, is organised and friendly. We would love to discuss the roles with you in more detail so please do get in touch.

Contact volunteering@nct.org.uk for more information or visit:
<https://www.nct.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering>



Royal British Legion Sevenoaks Branch



In 2021 the Royal British Legion is celebrating its Centenary

Do you have a passion for supporting our ex-Service men and women within the community, bringing comradeship and supporting local events?

Come and join us!

The Sevenoaks Branch is looking for new members and Committee Members. Men and women of all ages are welcome to become a member, whether you have served in the Armed Forces or not.

Our members play a vital role in ensuring that the RBL can continue to provide lifelong support to the Armed Forces community as well as upholding the importance of Remembrance.

If you would like to know more the please contact the County Chairman, Richard Cast, on 07787 476879 or email kent.chairman@rbl.community.



Latest Vacancies

Voluntary positions available

Making A Difference to Maidstone (MADM) is a Christian Charity, with an active Outreach Centre, Foodbank, two Charity Shops and storage areas. Our loving, dedicated, loyal and compassionate team of staff and volunteers strive to help, support and reach out to the community of Maidstone.

The services we offer are diverse and are in response to the realities of life in the Maidstone community in which we serve. We put our faith into action by offering support; including fighting against injustice, advocacy and so much more to a complex clientele namely those who are homeless, in addiction, socially isolated, vulnerable, in crisis, ex-offenders, domestic abuse, asylum seekers.

Due to the complex nature of our work, all positions must maintain full confidentiality and demonstrate sensitivity. An enhanced DBS check will be carried out.

Come and be part of a team who are seeking to be led by the Holy Spirit and see God's will lived out.

For more information and an informal initial chat, please contact Amanda Sidwell (Founder): 01622 687414 or 07769 268962

Email: madmstone@gmail.com.

Address: Outreach Centre & Offices - 48 Church Street, Maidstone ME14 1DS

Volunteers needed for a Christian after school youth café

Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ has just opened The Youth Centre on Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. The Centre will be open after school, Monday to Friday, for young people to drop in for cakes and drinks, games and craft. Our prayer space will be open and Wednesdays session will focus on mental well-being and resilience.

We are looking for Christian volunteers to:

- Make drinks and serve cakes as the young people come in
- Chat with the young people and build appropriate relationships with them
- Play games with them (table football and Uno are popular)
- Organise and demonstrate craft activities
- Support them using the prayer space



We are also looking for people who bake to provide homemade cakes for the young people.

If you are able to help on one or more days, or offer cakes, please email Karen Cox, Centre Director on centredirector@tunbridgewells.yfc.co.uk for more information.



Volunteer as a Tutor with The Access Project

Volunteer as a tutor with The Access Project 1 hour a week online to support disadvantaged young people

The Access Project is looking for volunteers to support disadvantaged young people aged 14-18 for 1 hour a week with their academic studies, through our easy-to-use dedicated online platform. All volunteering is done online so you can be based anywhere in the UK!

- **Support a young person** in one school subject to achieve the GCSE / A level grades they deserve and to fulfil their potential
- **Inspire, motivate and raise aspirations** towards higher education & the world of work
- Students supported by The Access Project typically **achieve a grade higher at GCSE** and are **four times more likely than their peers to progress** to a top-third ranked university.

Interested? You'll need to:

- Either have an undergraduate degree/equivalent qualification or be currently studying for an undergraduate degree at a UK university
- Have an A Level in the subject you wish to tutor at GCSE or an undergraduate degree in a subject you wish to tutor at A level
- Be able to spare 1 hour a week in school term time over the next academic year to tutor (starting early autumn), plus approx 30 mins a week preparation time
- Be prepared to undertake an enhanced DBS check (at no cost to you) and provide two references (personal or professional)

Volunteers who are able to support **with Science and Maths** would be particularly welcome. There are also opportunities for volunteer tutors in other subjects including English, humanities, social sciences and languages.

No prior experience is necessary, full training is included.

How does it work?

1. Sign up at www.theaccessproject.org.uk/volunteer
2. Training: We'll then invite you to choose any of our 2.5hour training sessions to suit you. During this session you'll learn everything you need to know for your weekly 1 hour tutoring sessions.
3. You'll complete a DBS check (criminal records check) and an online safeguarding course
4. We'll match you with a student who is looking for support in your subject.

Questions? Please email volunteering@theaccessproject.org.uk



What will motivate you to become a volunteer?



Volunteers are essential to the support 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 and Application form please Log on to www.victimsupport.org.uk Under “Get involved”, click on “Volunteer” to see the roles on offer in Kent.

www.victimsupport.org.uk

Registered charity number: 298028
Registered address: Victim Support, 1 Bridge Street, Derby. DE1 1HZ



Do you enjoy walking in Sevenoaks District's plentiful green spaces?

Are you personable and interested in helping people access and explore their local area?

You might be interested in becoming a volunteer walk leader for the Sevenoaks District Wellbeing Walks programme. We need people to share their enthusiasm for the benefits of walking with others in their community by leading and/or supporting group walks in their local area.

You'll get to meet new people within our friendly walking groups and know that you are making a difference to residents lives by helping them to:

- Benefit from an accessible form of exercise which has fantastic benefits on their long-term health.
- Feel the mental health benefit of being in nature
- Giving them access to a social, friendly group where they can meet new friends.

You can commit as much time as you wish to this volunteering opportunity, but what better way to volunteer than by going on a walk with a group of friendly, like-minded people.

If you are interested, please contact us on healthy.living@sevenoaks.gov.uk, we look forward to hearing from you.





Putting you in the driving seat

Transport is a means to independence, but when you are unable, too poorly or wary of using public transport then isolation and loneliness can become the normal.

Dial 2 Drive has a fantastic team of volunteer drivers who use their own cars to offer a lifeline to local older or less mobile people, helping them get to their appointments and with trips out and about.

If you are looking for a volunteering role that is flexible enough to fit around your other activities, where you can volunteer for one drive a month or more, with expenses reimbursed, then look no further!

Dial 2 Drive supports people living in the Kent districts of Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks and we are also looking to recruit drivers to meet the demand from residents in Swanley, Dartford and Gravesham. Our drivers have been busier than ever as we have been helping transport people to Covid vaccination appointments.

To find out more, visit our website for details and an application form. One of our Coordinators will be in touch to have an informal chat and answer any questions. If you both feel the role is right for you then we would take up references and carry out a DBS check before offering you a drive. It is a great role and one that makes such a difference to those who need it.

“Meeting new people, seeing new parts of my local area and helping those who need it the most— that’s why I volunteer for Dial 2 Drive.”

<https://imago.community/Community-Services/Dial2Drive/Volunteer>

Email driving@imago.community

Call 0300 777 1200



Volunteer Telephone Befrienders

Do you like talking to others? Are you a good listener? Could you give an hour of your time each week to be a listening ear for others?

We are recruiting **Telephone Befrienders** to support those who are elderly, have mental health issues, facing homelessness or living with a disability and resident in Dartford, Gravesham, Swanley and Swale. Through weekly phone calls, which you would make from the comfort of your own home, you would enable clients to become more confident and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.

You will receive training including safeguarding, we will match you up with a suitable client and provide you with continued support throughout your time volunteering with us. References and a DBS check are required for this role so you will need to hold valid ID. Applicants need to be 18+.

If you want to help reduce social isolation and can engage with others, then complete our online form <https://imagocommunity.typeform.com/to/IRTVir> and we will be in touch for an informal chat.



@Volunteering_WK



VolunteeringWK

volunteering@imago.community

01892 530330

www.imago.community