

## West Kent Volunteer Centre



### **There are lots of ways to volunteer**

When you think about the ways that you could volunteer you may not be taking into account the full range of opportunities available. There are many worthwhile local organisations and projects that could really benefit from your time, expertise and passion. There are opportunities to work with animals, children and young people, older people, heritage, the environment, sport... there is a role out there for you.

If you are interested in any of the vacancies in the newsletter you can contact the organisations direct as contact details are given with each advert. If you would like to explore other opportunities email [volunteering@imago.community](mailto:volunteering@imago.community) or call our volunteering team on 01892 530330.

# Could you volunteer to make a difference?

**Use your skills**  
**Gain experience**  
**Meet new people**

- No specific experience required - full training and support will be given
- Citizens Advice Tunbridge Wells and District are committed to equality and diversity
- Students who can volunteer during holidays are welcome
- Various roles available including: Adviser, Admin, Research and Campaigns and Media

The logo for Citizens Advice, featuring the words "citizens advice" in white lowercase letters inside a dark blue speech bubble shape.

**citizens  
advice**

**Please Apply Online**  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/support-us/volunteering/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/support-us/volunteering/)  
**Twitter: @CA\_TWaD**  
**Facebook: @CitizensAdviceTWandD**



Sevenoaks Town Council (STC) secured a £755,600 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant towards the refurbishment of the Bat & Ball Station Building, thanks to money raised by National Lottery players. The Station Building, a Victorian property constructed in 1862, was the first station in Sevenoaks and used by Queen Victoria when visiting Knole in 1867. Boarded up since 1991 the building gradually deteriorated, however now the refurbishment is complete the building has come back to life. The station facilities, due to open in March, will become a vibrant community resource offering a café, toilets and rooms for hire.

The HLF Activity Plan running alongside the refurbishment project involves delivering several events and activities to engage the local community about the heritage of the building. STC are now looking to recruit a team of volunteers to assist with the planning and running of these community events and activities.

STC are looking for people who are passionate about local history, confident, approachable and enjoy meeting new people plus have some time to give. These roles will help people to learn new skills, develop an excellent knowledge of local history, gain customer facing experience and bring history to life for visitors.

There are a variety of roles available including Heritage Explainer, Education, Arts & Craft and Oral History volunteers.

**Heritage Explainers** will research the heritage of the building and provide inspiring short talks about the history of the station and the restoration project at public events such as Heritage Open Days. By getting involved Heritage Explainers will use their people skills, make new friends and become part of a motivated team of volunteers, helping visitors to discover more about this local heritage landmark.

**Education Volunteers** will work with staff and other volunteers in the delivery of education workshops relating to the historic aspects of Bat & Ball Station. We want people who are interested in heritage education, able to bring to life the stories connected to the station, keen to share ideas and help to prepare and develop resources.

**Arts & Crafts volunteers** will support and deliver children's arts and craft activities at one-off events at the station or help to make and create Victorian style children's dressing up outfits and props to use in our education workshops.

**Oral History Volunteers** will help to create oral histories by talking to and encouraging past employees, residents etc. to reminisce about their association with the station, then will record and transcribe the data.

For more information about Bat & Ball Station, volunteer role descriptions and to download an application form go to the Bat & Ball Station website [www.batandballstation.com](http://www.batandballstation.com).

#### **Further information**

For further information please contact Linda Redden at [heo@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:heo@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)



ENGLISH HERITAGE

## Bayham Old Abbey – Site Volunteer

### Why does English Heritage need my support?

Bayham Abbey, built from golden local sandstone, includes much of the 13th to 15th-century church, the chapter house, and a picturesque 14th-century gatehouse. Bayham Abbey is now set in grounds designed by famous landscape gardener Humphry Repton, who also planned the grounds of Kenwood House in London.

We are looking for **5** volunteers to help us provide presentable site and a friendly welcome for visitors to the site. At many English Heritage sites there is no site-based management team, although our staff and contractors do visit on a regular basis. We also need the support of local people who are prepared to visit and monitor the site, report issues to us, and in some cases to do work that helps to keep it in good order.

Bayham Old Abbey would benefit from your involvement as a volunteer to provide day-to-day oversight of the monument to help care for it.

### How much time will I be expected to give?

It will require about 30 min visits in the morning to open up and at the end of the day to lock up as well as checking the monument to help create a great visitor experience. Overall this means a commitment of about 1 hour each day or longer if you wish to spend time talking with the visitors or enjoying the site alone when locking up or opening up.

### Where will I be based?

You will be volunteering at the English Heritage site at Bayham Old Abbey

### What will I be doing?

You will:

- Visit the site at Bayham Old Abbey on a daily basis or when rota'd
- Unlock and lock the gate at the agreed times
- Engage with visitors at the end of the day when locking up
- Collect any litter found on site, provided it is safe to do so
- Provide timely feedback to your English Heritage contacts about any damage or other urgent problems that you identify, including safety issues
- Respond to questions from visitors to the site, as far as you feel comfortable to do so.
- Other questions and issues should be referred to your English Heritage contacts
- Keep signs at the site in a clean condition.

Ali Naylor | Free Sites Partnership Manager | South

English Heritage, Eastgate Court, 195-205 High Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3EH

Mobile: 07876818542

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/englishheritage](https://www.facebook.com/englishheritage)

[www.twitter.com/EnglishHeritage](https://www.twitter.com/EnglishHeritage)



# Lifeboats



**COULD YOU SPARE  
A COUPLE OF  
HOURS TO  
VOLUNTEER WITH  
THE RNLI  
SEVENOAKS  
BRANCH?**



**Please contact Claire Cardwell for  
information: 07818581893  
claire\_cardwell@rnli.org.uk**

**[RNLI.org/volroles](https://RNLI.org/volroles)**

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea  
Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England (no. 208893) and  
Scotland (SC037183). Registered charity number 20893328 in the Republic of Ireland.



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**



## The Kent Downs Trust seeks Financial, Legal and Arts focused Trustees

### Trustees wanted

The newly established Kent Downs Trust is seeking three additional trustees:

- One with finance/accounting experience
- One with legal experience
- One with experience of the creative and arts sector

These are voluntary posts and you will be supported by specific founding trustees from the existing committee and Kent Downs Trust officers. You will be joining at an early stage in the development of the Trust and will have an opportunity to help shape our future strategy.

### About Kent Downs Trust

The Kent Downs Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which focuses on conservation, education, health, wellbeing and citizenship in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Kent Downs Trust works to ensure that the qualities and distinctive features of the Kent Downs AONB are valued, secured and strengthened. The organisation has 3 distinct aims:

1. To promote the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty, landscape, wildlife, cultural, scientific and historic value of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its setting for the benefit of the public.
2. To advance education in and around the AONB, in the natural beauty, landscape, wildlife, cultural, scientific and historic value of the Kent Downs AONB and its setting, for the benefit of the public.
3. To improve the health and wellbeing of people and promote citizenship of those living in or visiting the Kent Downs AONB and its setting by promoting free access to nature for fresh air, exercise and visual amenity.

### How to apply

Send your CV, supporting statement and details of two referees to [nick.johannsen@kentdowns.org.uk](mailto:nick.johannsen@kentdowns.org.uk) by **midday 26 March**. Please ensure that your supporting statement is a maximum length of 2 sides of A4 and provides concise and specific examples to demonstrate (a) why you want this role, (b) how your skills address the role description you are interested in being considered for and (c) what added value you can provide to ensure KDT develops as an effective and professional organisation.

Further information on Kent Downs Trust, including Trustees Terms of Reference, can also be obtained from Nick Johannsen at [Nick.Johannsen@kentdowns.org.uk](mailto:Nick.Johannsen@kentdowns.org.uk), Tel 01303 815 170.

For an informal discussion about the specific roles please call  
Caroline Arnold – Potential Financial Trustees – Tel: 07799 111997  
Richard Haynes – Potential Legal Trustees – Tel: 07775 928226  
Nick Johannsen – Potential Arts and Culture Trustees Tel: 01303 815 170

Interviews for shortlisted candidates are anticipated to take place between 1 and 5 April.



## Helpline monitoring volunteer

### About the role

We're an independent and highly respected social inclusion charity based in Maidstone, Kent. In this office-based role you will be following up with clients to ensure that the needs of our helpline users have been met.

### 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 (up to a maximum of £15 per day)

### Interested?

**Closing date – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

For further details about the role and an application form please email: [debbie.sadler@unlock.org.uk](mailto:debbie.sadler@unlock.org.uk) or write to Debbie Sadler, Unlock, MCSC, 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1HH



# The Young Lives Foundation

Making a Difference

Do you have a passion for helping young people?

Become a Volunteer Mentor with YLF

Once a week

“Being a mentor is such a rewarding role with the opportunity to make a real difference to a young adult and their family “

*Will - Volunteer Mentor*

“My volunteer mentor never gave up on me. They were always there for me and the only person I could rely on. They believed in me, so I finally started believing in myself” *Sally, 16*

Contact us on 01622 693459

[www.ylf.org.uk](http://www.ylf.org.uk) | [enquiries@ylf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ylf.org.uk)

**DAVSS**



1 in 4  
Women



1 in 6  
Men

experience  
domestic  
abuse

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

YOU can make THE difference.  
**BECOME A VOLUNTEER**

Interested? Want to find out more?  
Email us at [office@davss.org.uk](mailto:office@davss.org.uk)

We provide emotional support, practical advice and advocacy services to victims of domestic abuse in West Kent.

Can you provide 5-10 hours a week?

You will be given our accredited domestic abuse training, be making a difference to your community and be part of a leading Kent charity.

This is **YOUR** opportunity to make a difference

**DAVSS** Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services

## Help us to make a difference

Compaid is a charity based in Paddock Wood supporting disabled people in a variety of ways, and we are looking for volunteers to assist our work.



Join our **Volunteer Computer Trainers** who support our clients to discover the magic of computers in a relaxed and informal way, and help individuals to gain in confidence and ability.

This support is needed for our Training Centre in Paddock Wood and also for our **Outreach Team** visiting a residential home in Seal.

Join our team of **Volunteer Minibus Drivers** providing a vital lifeline to many disabled people, helping them to remain as independent as possible.



Join us as an **Events Volunteer**. No experience is needed – just enthusiasm and commitment to help raise vital funds to support our work with disabled, elderly and vulnerable people.

Join our dynamic Board as a **Trustee**. The Board meetings are held four times a year in Paddock Wood and each Trustee is also expected to serve on a quarterly sub-committee.



**If you have a few spare hours a week we want to hear from you.**

Judith Williams, H R Administrator

t: 01892 834539

e: [judith.williams@compaid.org.uk](mailto:judith.williams@compaid.org.uk)

[www.compaid.org.uk](http://www.compaid.org.uk)



PILGRIMS'  
FRIEND  
SOCIETY

# We are looking for volunteers!



If you are interested in helping with any activities. We are looking for active people to help us make sure Milward House is a great place for our residents to live.

Milward House is a lovely Christian home situated in Tunbridge Wells near Dunorlan Park.

- We offer opportunities tailored around the time you can offer, in the areas where your time will have the most impact.
- We know your time is precious and we will do our best to make sure that every moment you spend volunteering with us will be rewarding for you.
- Helping at our home is a rewarding, life-affirming way to put your faith into action and to make a positive difference to older peoples' lives.
- We are keen to involve younger people in our work and encourage the involvement of church youth groups, school children, college and university students.
- Volunteering is one way to bring older adults and young people together. The key is to change social norms to encourage relationship building between generations.

## Contact Details:

Lorraine Pargeter - Activities Coordinator

**Email:** [activities.milward@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk](mailto:activities.milward@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk)

**Tel:** 0300 303 1460

Thank you!

## Find new experiences this year at Sissinghurst Castle Garden

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

Whether you have a few hours or a few days to spare there are a range of roles available in our friendly visitor services team



For more information contact Kate on  
email [kate.dickinson@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:kate.dickinson@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
phone 01580 710 700  
[nationaltrust.org.uk/sissinghurst](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/sissinghurst)



## Join us on a Sense Holiday

Meet new people, try new challenges, explore new ways of communicating and visit new places – all whilst supporting disabled people to enjoy these experiences too. If this sounds like your kind of holiday, then why not join us this year!

## Our holidaymakers and you

On Sense Holidays, groups of disabled people with complex needs - children, young people and adults - pack their bags for a jam-packed week of new activities, friendships and lots of laughs.

As a Sense Holiday volunteer, you'll be part of a team making sure each break is the very best experience it can be for everyone involved. You'll need to be enthusiastic, positive, open-minded and willing to be flexible. In return, you'll have a one-of-a-kind experience. We welcome volunteers each year from a huge range of backgrounds. The unique contribution each volunteer makes, no matter your skills and experience, enables each and every holidaymaker to try new things and make new connections in a safe and supported environment.

Every year we take groups of people with complex needs - children, young people and adults – away for a jam-packed week of new activities, friendships and lots of laughs. The volunteers support our holiday makers to ensure everyone has an enjoyable break.

We have holidays this year in your area.

**For more information contact Sam Murphy, Volunteering Assistant**

Direct Number: 07769293994

<https://www.sense.org.uk/support-us/volunteer/volunteer-on-a-sense-holiday/>



## Voluntary Group Chairperson Dartford

Stroke Association Voluntary Groups provide long term social support to people affected by stroke. They organise events and meet together to reduce social isolation and rebuild the confidence of members. The Chairperson and Committee members organise and ensure the smooth running of the groups.

The Dartford Stroke Group who cover the North West - Swanley, Dartford and Gravesend are looking for a new Chairperson. Dartford Stroke Group is a group of stroke survivors who meet to have exercise classes, speakers, art sessions and outings in a relaxing friendly atmosphere. The group meets every two weeks for an exercise class and a social meeting at the YMCA, Roundhouse, Overy Street Dartford.

If you are interested in this role or would like further information on any aspects of our work then please contact:

Louise Hornagold Volunteering and Community Officer

Email: [Louise.hornagold@stroke.org.uk](mailto:Louise.hornagold@stroke.org.uk)



**A friendly and helpful volunteer who enjoys meeting people is needed as a receptionist to join our busy team at Tonbridge on Monday mornings, preferably from 9am-1pm, at our offices based in the Castle. You need to be computer literate and enjoy meeting people from all walks of life. Travel expenses and/or parking costs are paid and the work is interesting and varied.**

**Please contact [anne.eaves@nwkent.cab.org.uk](mailto:anne.eaves@nwkent.cab.org.uk)**

# Leonard Cheshire



Are you a friendly, assertive person who likes helping people? Do you know your Excel from your eBay? If so, we have the perfect volunteering opportunity for you!

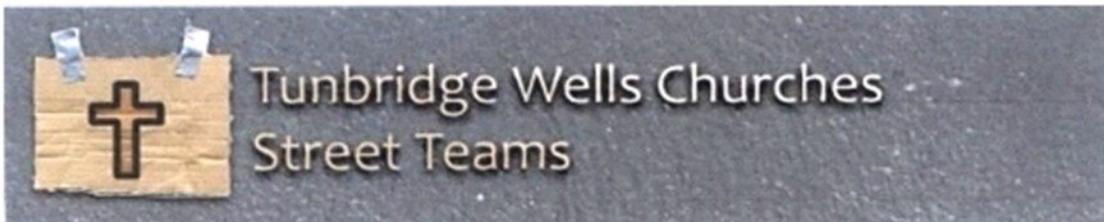
Leonard Cheshire are looking for a Digital Champion for disabled people. You will support people to get online, create email address, explore their interests and keep in touch with friends and family.

Ongoing training and support will be provided along with expenses, as it's important to us that our volunteers are not out of pocket because of volunteering with us.

Please note that, for this role, we are looking for volunteers **18 years old and over**.

Interested? Apply via this link: <https://volunteering.leonardcheshire.org/volunteering-opportunities/digital-champion-tunbridge-wells-kent> If you have queries, please call me on the number below or email [digitalchampions@leonardcheshire.org](mailto:digitalchampions@leonardcheshire.org).

**Molly Sweeney**, Partnerships Coordinator, Partnerships Team, Leonard Cheshire  
Telephone: 02032420281  
Email: [molly.sweeney@leonardcheshire.org](mailto:molly.sweeney@leonardcheshire.org)



Can you help us help the homeless? Each night we send out a team of volunteers to feed the homeless and rough sleepers in Tunbridge Wells. This much-needed service relies on our remarkable pool of volunteers but we urgently require more people for specific roles.

- Volunteers for Thursday, Saturday and Sunday night teams. Ideally you will commit to one night a week for 2 or 3 hours.
- Website / Social Media Manager. Maintain our existing website and establish a social media presence.

Our aim is to make a positive difference in the lives of the homeless and vulnerable. We exist to feed, encourage and listen to all who come to us as well as providing emergency information and provisions. If you can help, please contact us at [twstreetteams@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:twstreetteams@yahoo.co.uk) or call on 07902 389212.





The Cancer Research UK charity shop in Tunbridge Wells Shop needs more volunteers.

We are currently looking for volunteers on: Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays.

We need support with: steaming, processing stock, till work and even help to fundraise on our donation stations.

We are looking for anyone who can give a little bit of time. We offer a great opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and play a vital part in beating Cancer.

If you know anyone who would be interested please contact Raymond either via email - [TunbridgeWellsShop@cancer.org.uk](mailto:TunbridgeWellsShop@cancer.org.uk), phone 01892 530452 or to pop into the shop to meet any of our wonderful team who would be happy to help.



# Girlguiding

The new Edenbridge Guides Group runs on Thursday evening and they are looking for volunteers.

If this is something that you would like to help with please contact them at [1stedenbridgeguides@gmail.com](mailto:1stedenbridgeguides@gmail.com).



# Peer Volunteer Opportunities Available

**Have you heard of Social Prescribing?  
Make a difference in your local area,  
become a Peer Volunteer with Imago!**

Social Prescribing is a way for health services to refer patients with non-medical needs to local community groups and services enabling individuals to take control and connect with others.

**Requests for volunteer support have included:  
befriending, getting people online, household budgeting  
and support to attend social activities.**

For further information and an application form please  
contact [volunteering@imago.community](mailto:volunteering@imago.community)

*Working with GP's & Local Care Teams across  
Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley*



## Volunteering Opportunities with Imago

March 14<sup>th</sup> was [Social Prescribing Day!](#)

We have volunteering opportunities available with the Imago Social Prescribing team in Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley. Here is why one of our volunteers joined the team: "I became a volunteer to help others that are less fortunate than myself. It gives me a great sense of pleasure knowing I have helped, even if it is just lending an ear to listen. Or helping them get out and about. Or just generally trying to help with building their confidence. That's what inspired me to become a Social Prescriber Peer volunteer."

Interested? [www.imago.community/Supporting-People/Social-Prescribing](http://www.imago.community/Supporting-People/Social-Prescribing) for more details and an application form.

We have two charity shops to support our work

I'm a Charity Shop – 17 Monson Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1LS.

Open Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm. Clothing, accessories, toys, games and homewares

Emporium – 14 Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LU. Open Tuesday-Thursday 10am-2pm

Books, music, films, pictures, collectibles, clothing all only £1 per item

Income generated by both shops will directly benefit the people Imago works with and support local projects such as Young Carers, Short Breaks for Children & Young People with disabilities and Dial 2 Drive.

The team are recruiting volunteers for a range of customer facing roles. This is a great opportunity for anyone with an interest in retail, excellent customer service skills or who would like to help locally.

So, come along and see us... browse, shop, volunteer, donate and help us support local people. Contact [volunteering@imago.community](mailto:volunteering@imago.community) for an application form.

Dial 2 Drive is a community transport scheme for people unable to access public transport due to older age, illness or disability living in Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and the surrounding areas. Volunteer drivers use their own cars to take clients to medical and social appointments. These drives include appointments at local surgeries, hospitals, day centres, hairdressers, opticians, lunch clubs and shopping. The support clients' receive enables them to stay active and independent in their local community for longer. To apply simply complete the application form found here <https://www.imago.community/Community-Services/Dial2Drive/Volunteer> and the team will be in touch.

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

**Tonbridge & Malling, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells**



@Volunteering\_WK



VolunteeringWK

[volunteering@imago.community](mailto:volunteering@imago.community)

01892 530330

[www.imago.community](http://www.imago.community)