



Fancy volunteering, but don't know what's available out there?
 If this is the case, why not visit www.do-it.org.uk?

This brilliant website holds a national database of volunteering opportunities available all over the UK.

To narrow down your search and find something local to you, click on **"Find a Volunteer Centre"** and enter your postcode.

This will bring up the nearest Volunteer Centre to your home address. You can then click on **"View our opportunities"** which will bring up a list of different opportunities from various volunteer-involving organisations. From here you can refine your search by choosing an interest, activity or location.

Once you've found an opportunity you would like to register an interest in, click on **"apply for this opportunity"**, this will take you to a page where, if you haven't already registered, you can click **"online registration form"** to take you to a simple to fill form, then back to the page where you add your e-mail address and password (set up during the registration process) and click on **"enter it!"**

Once you have applied, your opportunity form will go either to the organisation who posted it on the website (most often the local Volunteer Centre) or the organisation providing the opportunity. The details will be sent through to you by email and you will be contacted by your local Volunteer Centre or the advertising organisation.

The Volunteer Centre Team:



Amanda Harris - VC Co-ordinator



Jeannette Helson - Assistant VC Co-ordinator



Your VC

Issue No: 6
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The Newsletter for RRAVS Volunteer Centre

Rayleigh, Rochford and District Association for Voluntary Service

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 Website: www.rravs.org.uk

Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday 9.00 - 3.00 pm
Friday 9.00 - 1.00 pm

Home Office announces limits on Criminal Record Checks

Volunteers and staff will need criminal records checks only if they work "closely and regularly" with children and vulnerable adults under plans for a wide-ranging reform of the vetting and barring system announced by the government today.

Under the proposals, part of the new Protection of Freedoms Bill, about 4.5 million people who would have had to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority under the vetting and barring scheme initiated by the Labour government, would not have to have criminal records checks.

The Labour system, which was never implemented and which the Coalition government halted in June, would have involved carrying out the checks on nine million people. Under the proposed new system, only about 4.5 million people would be subject to criminal records checks. The new proposal would also make criminal records checks portable so that individuals would not need separate checks by each organisation they worked or volunteered for.

This means far fewer people will come within the scope of regulated activity under the new system. The only people needing checks will be those working most closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults. The government also plan to monitor the scope of criminal records checks to make sure they were not deterring people from volunteering.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the bill was expected to become law by early 2012, with the new system being introduced soon afterwards.



VOLUNTARY SECTOR TRAINING

VST moved offices over the Christmas period. The new address is:

45 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1DQ

The telephone number will remain the same - 01371 876747.

Vetting and Barring Update Session

9th March - Braintree, 1/2 day course

Business Development for Arts Organisations

9th March, Rochford, 1/2 day course

Trustee Essentials

16th March, Basildon, One day course

Seeking Grant Funding

24th May, Brentwood, 1/2 day course

To view the full course calendar and check availability, visit
Voluntary Sector Training at:

www.voluntarysectortraining.org.uk



Expenses

MP expenses have been in the press a lot this past year, but it is also an important issue with charities. Volunteers, including your Trustees, should not be out of pocket as a result of the work they carry out on behalf of their charity. The charity commission recommend that all charities have an expenses policy which explains to trustees, volunteers and staff what expenses may be claimed and any restrictions that may apply.

For the Charity Commission guidance publication visit:

www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/cc11.aspx

FREE COURSES - Sign Up Now

If you live in the Rochford District, are aged 19+, unemployed, hoping to return to work, or do not have any formal qualifications. These free courses are designed to help you along the path to employment or further training. The course includes CV writing, interview skills, on-line Job Search and Basic Computer Skills.

The sessions are held at Rochford Parish Council Rooms in Rochford on Saturday and Monday mornings until the end of June 2011, For more information, contact 01268 772796.

Volunteers Week - 1st-7th June 2011



RRAVS VC are looking to set up a programme of events during the first week of June in celebration of Volunteers' Week. If you are a local community group, residential home, sports club, support group who would like to engage with volunteers who can help to tidy your premises/grounds, or put on a celebratory event etc, why not give the Volunteer Centre a call. We will help you look for suitable volunteers to undertake these projects.

We know June is a long way off, but the more notice we have, the more success we will have in securing volunteers. We look forward to hearing from you all!

Get the App!

V-inspired is aimed at 16-25 year olds living in England and wanting to volunteer. Their new phone app allows you to search and apply for thousands of volunteering opportunities, record hours and upload photos to your inspired.com profile directly from your phone. From volunteering at the biggest music festivals, helping out and winning tickets to see football clubs or even micro-volunteering from the comfort of your own home - however and whenever you want to make a difference, this app helps you give something back. It's easy to use and you'll be able to find opportunities and get involved more easily than ever before.

(please note, both downloading and uploading data on this app could incur a cost if you dont have a data allowance in your call plan or if you have already exceeded it. Contact your carrier for more information. This app is brought to you by V. The national young volunteers service).

Essex Dementia Care

The ultimate aim of Essex Dementia Care is to contribute to the health and well-being of families living with dementia in Essex. We are opening a new day care/drop-in centre/lunch club in Rayleigh for people with dementia. We need volunteers to support our staff at this club with welcoming and befriending, driving clients to and from the club or assisting in the kitchen. If you can help, please call RRAVS Volunteer Centre on 01268 772796 who will help you with your application.

Does Your Organisation Need Support?

Then let RRAVS do it for you - From recruiting volunteers, finding funding for charities, social groups, sports clubs, to promoting your organisation to the local community, RRAVS are here to help.

Come in and chat to us about how we can help you to help yourselves, or call us on 01268 772796