



The local voice for volunteers

Spring 2009

30 Volunteers receive Exceptional Contribution Awards from the Mayor, Cllr Martin Whelton



North Wimbledon Girl Guides receive their Awards from the Mayor



Volunteer Madeleine Osei-Baffoe receives her Award from the Mayor



Advocacy Partners volunteers and staff with the Mayor

Success stories for VCM

Supported Volunteering:

- ◇ **33 Mitcham means Business** volunteers develop skills through volunteering
- ◇ **Ground breaking mentoring project.**



Gill Nunn, Volunteer Co-ordinator, talks about the many roles of volunteers at St Raphael's Hospice

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Volunteer Awards Ceremony Thursday 26th February 2009



On 26th February, at Vestry Hall in Mitcham, the Mayor of Merton presented certificates to 30 volunteers, who have made longstanding or exceptional contributions to their organisations. Volunteers' contributions ranged from 1 year

of exceptional commitment to 23 years of dedicated service. The roles carried out by the volunteers demonstrated the wide variety of volunteering opportunities available and included: advocacy for older people, office administrator, lunch club helper, trustee, animal and farm volunteer, Girl Guider leader, home visits library volunteer, grief support volunteer, advocate for children in care, mental health support worker, hospice volunteer, charity shop helper, coordinator of activities for older people, and events volunteer.

The volunteers who received awards were: Chas Foulsham, Kathy Hughes, Deborah Raymond, David Ingham, Michael Lawlor, Marjorie Catlin, Cedric Daley, Jean Wisbey, John Mays, Andrea Ruddock-West, Pauline Sullivan, Janet



Goodere, Becky Kew, Anna Garrett, Rosey Hickson, Mair Rabagliati, Jane Conroy, Eve Everett, Stella Ogun, Ann McDonnell, Malcolm Hall, Kay Hessey, Patricia Johnson, Philomena Kennedy, Irene King and Eddie Whitehouse.

Thirteen organisations were represented at the ceremony :

Advocacy Partners, CareConnect, Christian Care, Commonsense Community Development Trust, South Thames Crossroads, Deen City Farm, Wimbledon Girl Guides, Home Visits Library Service, Jigsaw4U, Rethink, Saint Raphael's, Wimbledon Guild and Vinvolved.



Gill Nunn, Volunteer Coordinator at St Raphael's and Helen Reed, Division Commissioner for North Wimbledon Girl Guides, gave short presentations on the importance of volunteers in their organisations and Mayor Whelton thanked all the

volunteers present for their contribution to the community.

Serina Matharu, Youth Volunteer Advisor at Volunteer Centre Merton, also gave a short talk introducing her project, Vinvolved, and a 'v' certificate was presented to Madeleine Osei-Baffoe, a young volunteer with the VCM Youth Action team, who has completed her first 50 hours of exceptional service and is working towards her 100 hours.





contact either Sarah Hannigan at sarah@volunteercentremerton.org.uk, or Hannah Kendrick at hannah@volunteercentremerton.org.uk to let us know. We want to make sure that no one misses out on receiving a certificate and being invited to our awards ceremony.

If you are an organisation and think that any of your volunteers may have completed 100 hours within a 12-month period since 1st April 2007, do please contact Sarah or Hannah to let us know.



100 Hours Awards Ceremony Thursday 4th June

Our next awards ceremony will take place on Thursday 4th June, during Volunteers' Week, and will be to reward volunteers who have completed 100 hours within a 12-month period since 1st April 2007.

There are many volunteers achieving the 100 hours target and we are planning further ceremonies throughout the year; but your organisation may wish hold its own ceremony to recognise the achievements of your volunteers. Please let us know if you would like VCM to be involved; or if you would like to do a short presentation on your organisation at the next VCM awards ceremony.

If you are a volunteer who started volunteering after 1st April 2007 and think that you have completed 100 hours within a year since the date you started; and if you have not yet received a 100 Hours certificate, please



Many congratulations to all the volunteer

Forthcoming Awards Ceremony for Longstanding and Exceptional Volunteers: October/November 2009

We know that there were organisations who were keen to nominate more of their volunteers for awards, so we are planning another ceremony for Longstanding and Exceptional volunteers in the autumn. Date and details to follow.

involved Programme

v Awards for volunteers aged 16-25

v is a national charity working to improve volunteering for 16-25 year olds across England. We believe in recognising the amazing things you do, so we have developed the vAwards to record, recognise and reward the positive impact you have made through your volunteering.

The vAwards are designed to recognise and celebrate the time and effort you have invested, and to show colleges, universities (recognised by UCAS as an extra-curricular activity) and potential employers the positive impact you've had on your community. This is also an opportunity to take part in a Volunteer Awards Ceremony, in which the Mayor of the London Borough of Merton will present you with the Award you have gained.

The v50 Award is available to volunteers aged 16-25 who complete **50 hours** of volunteering in any twelve-month period (or less). The 50 hours will include travel, meetings and trainings done as part of your voluntary work. If you volunteer for more than one organisation, the hours done in all the organisations will be collated.

The v Thank You Certificate is available to volunteers aged 16-25 who have volunteered on a one-off basis for any number of hours within a day or 24 hours. Alternatively, a v Thank you may be awarded for exceptional voluntary work.

The vimpact Award is available to volunteers aged 16-25 that have already completed the v50 Award and are keen to take on a new challenge. The vimpact Award is available to volunteers aged 16-25 who complete 100 hours of volunteering. It's all about making an impact, making a difference, changing the world, and changing yourself for the better. The vimpact Award is designed to recognise and celebrate the time and effort you have spent volunteering, and to enable you to explain to friends, colleges, universities and potential employers the positive difference or

impact you have made through your volunteering, and the skills you have developed and gained through your volunteering experiences.

vAwards Booklet

Drop by Volunteer Centre Merton for a vAwards booklet. Otherwise feel free to call or email for one to be posted to you.

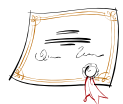
Remember to let me know once you have done 50 hours for a v50 Award or you have attended a one-off volunteering session or event for a v Thank You certificate. Don't forget to record your hours in total and fill in your vAwards booklet! Include any time you spend preparing, planning, training, traveling to or attending meetings – it's all involved activity. Remember to get it signed by a person of responsibility where you are volunteering. To support your volunteering, collect some evidence of your work e.g. leaflets, email printouts, photos, copies of work. And do let us know how your voluntary work is going.

Congratulations to Madeleine Osei-Baffoe

Special congratulations and a big Thank You to Madeleine Osei-Baffoe who has achieved a v Thank You Certificate for Exceptional volunteering. She attended the Awards Ceremony at the Vestry Hall in Merton to receive her certificate from the Mayor.

Madeleine has also worked hard for her first v50 Award and is now working towards 100 hours recognition for volunteering. Many best wishes to you Madeleine for your future in volunteering.

Another volunteer who received a v Thank you for Exceptional volunteering is **Britta Haal**: who has produced various publicity for Volunteer Centre Merton.



Youth Action



YAT (Youth Action Team)

As part of the Youth Action Team at Volunteer Centre Merton we are looking to update our marketing and publicity materials. Above is a poster designed by one of the YAT members, we are looking to adapt using landmarks in Merton to advertise volunteering for 16-25 year olds in the local borough.

We are looking for young dynamic people 16-25 who may be interested in joining the **involved Youth Action Team in Merton**. This is the chance for you to speak out to people your age in the community by producing something – poster, leaflet, newsletter, DVD - or organise an event which will attract more young people aged 16-25 into volunteering. There will be the chance to speak to various people and organisations within the Merton Borough. So, if you have a skill or interest you want to develop or you simply want to show how useful volunteering is and get to know more people then call me or email to find out more and arrange to come in for a chat or for the next get-together. Email: serina@volunteercentremerton.org.uk or telephone 020 8640 7355.

New Drop in Sessions

The youth team now hold regular drop in sessions at both Connexions in Wimbledon and Insight in Mitcham. These sessions vary from month to month so please contact the organisations to find out when we will be there and feel free to pop in and see us!

New volunteering opportunities March/April 2009

Tooting & Mitcham United Football Club
 Volunteers will be required for new after school and Saturday clubs.

Merton Youth Justice Team

Volunteers are needed to mentor a young person on a one-to-one, non-judgemental relationship. To help young people with education, training, employment or other personal development issues, work towards raising a young person's low self esteem and achievements.

We are also looking for volunteering opportunities in Administration, Computers Technology & Website Design, Environment, Sport and Health & Social Care. If you feel your organisation could benefit from some young, enthusiastic volunteers then please contact ellie@volunteercentremeron.org.uk.

Linking Communities Starts Final Year

Bringing more young people from different communities together in volunteering. Our Linking Communities Project is up and running again. Our new part-time Project Co-ordinator, Bec Yusuf, will be managing this project with the support of Serina Kaur Matharu.

Working with young people 16-25, Bec will support them in the development of group projects which they can participate in with their friends in the local area, such as cultural events.

In the near future, Bec will also be running a Mentoring Project along with the Youth Justice Team. This opportunity will be for one-to-one mentoring with young people aged 8-16. Volunteers would have to be 18+ and will be trained to support younger peers. We are also hoping to create more scope in mentoring support through group activities later on in the year.

Recruitment and Marketing

Recruitment Outreach

Merton Libraries have kindly agreed to host a series of recruitment drop-ins for the Volunteer Centre. We have already held one at Wimbledon Library and will be at the following venues:

Friday 6 th March	10 - 2pm	Mitcham Library
Tuesday 31 st March	10 - 2pm	Morden Library
Friday 24 th April	10 - 12.30	Donald Hope Library
Tuesday 19 th May	10 - 2pm	Raynes Park Library

We will also be at Sainsburys/Marks and Spencer
in South Wimbledon every couple of months.

Other dates when Volunteer Centre Merton will have a stand:

1-7 June (Volunteers' Week)	Centre Court shopping centre
13 th June	Mitcham Carnival
20 th June	Wimbledon Village Fair

Come along and talk to our staff and volunteers about the range of volunteering opportunities available in Merton.

Sports and Events Volunteering

We are continuing to develop our sports opportunities and aim to recruit more people into sport, both as volunteers and as participants.

Our group of around 90 Events Volunteers continues to be active and with the Olympics fast approaching, there are many sporting and cultural events which people can get involved in. Over the next few months events will include the Mitcham Rugby Club Minis Festival on 8th March, the Daffodil Collection for Marie Curie on 14th March, London Marathon cheering squad for Well Child on 26th April and the Cultural Olympiad in Colliers Wood recreation ground on 2nd May.

If you are organising a local event, do please let us know in plenty of time so that we can find some volunteers to support you.



Merton Adult Education

Volunteer Centre Merton is working in partnership with Merton Adult Education for the referral and support of volunteers on training. The role of the Volunteer Centre will be to refer eligible volunteers to Merton Adult Education for enrolment on LSC funded Train to Gain courses. At present these include NVQs at Levels 2 and 3 in Business and Administration, Customer Services, ITQ, Early Years Childcare and Early Year and Childcare Apprenticeship.

Marketing

Philip Barrow, one of our volunteers, has taken the lead in forming a new Marketing Sub-group at VCM and is currently carrying out a strategic marketing review. This will look at the image and profile of the volunteer centre and identify areas which need updating or improving. Priorities include improving the website, redesigning leaflets, posters and other literature, updating our photo archive, increasing our media profile and looking at the possibility of online registrations by volunteers.

Sarah Hannigan
Recruitment and Marketing

Learning Disabilities Volunteering Project

Hi everyone!

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break, and are recovering from the snow that brought Britain to a standstill!

For the Learning Disabilities Volunteering Project, volunteers are referred directly to VCM by the Learning Disabilities Employment Team; and we have just heard that this project is to continue next year. The project supports 10 volunteers and this issue we are profiling one of these volunteers, Cat Munro, and the contribution Cat makes as a volunteer.



You may remember Cat from the front of the last newsletter! Cat Munro has been volunteering for the Scope Charity Shop in Morden for over six years now, and for the past 18 months has been part of the Learning Disabilities Volunteering Project.

Cat is a very dedicated volunteer. She splits her time between many tasks: sorting clothes and toys as they are brought in, putting clothes and corresponding size pegs on hangers; pricing items; working on the till; tidying the shop. In fact, Cat does a bit of everything, and works so efficiently and quickly that Scope's manager Steve Schulper and Jo Haylor call her their 'little bulldozer'!

Cat has used our regular meetings to discuss how her volunteering is going, what she loves about it, what she might find difficult, and how to resolve any issues. We discuss how life is going outside her volunteering, how her volunteering affects her life, and vice versa. We also discuss how the skills she is learning and developing could help her in future employment.

Mitcham
means Business

The two year project, Mitcham Means Business, will shortly be coming to a close and VCM has met all the project targets and supported 33 volunteers to find a suitable volunteer placement, and make the most effective use of their volunteering to progress towards employment. They have all been offered the opportunity to be helped into employment by John Dempster, the Mitcham means Business Employment Adviser.



I have really enjoyed working with everyone on this project, and encourage you to continue to contact me if you need any further support or want to talk about your volunteering.

Hannah Kendrick
Recruitment & Placement Support Worker
020 8640 7355

hannah@volunteercentremerton.org.uk



VCM Help Service



The Volunteer Centre Merton Help Service exists for older people resident in the London Borough of Merton. We are constantly looking for new volunteers to assist us in our work.

Many of our service users are alone, unable to go out, and desperately in need of company. For some we can provide a befriender who will visit someone in their own home. Others need help with gardening and some need transport. Often we are asked for someone who will push a wheelchair enabling someone just to get outside their front door.

We need volunteers to provide these services and I am hoping that if you can answer 'yes' to any of the questions below you may think about volunteering with the Volunteer Centre Merton Help Service.

- ❖ **Do you have a couple of hours to spare each week?**
- ❖ **Would you like to put this time to good use?**

Are you the kind of person who could:

- ❖ **Befriend an older person who lives near you? Having a cup of tea and a chat with them?**
- ❖ **Take someone out in your car? Perhaps do their shopping with them, or to visit a relative in hospital?**
- ❖ **Push someone in a wheelchair to enable them to visit local shops, or keep an appointment?**
- ❖ **Help someone to keep their garden tidy?**

There are many possibilities. If you feel you would be interested in this kind of volunteering, please call Helen Parmiter for an informal chat and she will arrange to meet with you at a mutually convenient time and venue.

All our Help Service volunteers are CRB (Criminal Record Bureau) checked and references are taken up. We offer a full day's training before matching a volunteer to a user of the service. There is always on-going support. The Help Service Co-ordinator is at the end of a phone and can arrange to meet with a volunteer whenever the need may arise.

***The next training day is on
Saturday 14th March 2009
here at The Vestry Hall
9.45 am - 3.00 pm***



Help Service Support Session

Date and time as follows:

Wednesday 25th March 2009 6 - 7.30 pm
Friday 3rd April 2009 10 - 11.30 am

Both here at The Vestry Hall

If you would like to attend either, or even just drop in, that's fine. There would be no benefit in attending both as these are just a chance to discuss any problems or successes you want to share with other members of the Help Service team.

If you have any ideas how I can make these sessions more attractive, please do not be afraid to share. There will be tea/coffee and biscuits at both sessions.

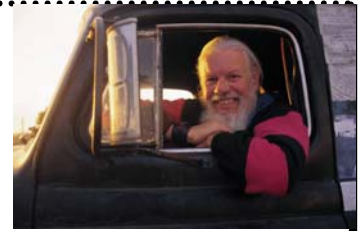
Many thanks

Helen Parmiter
Help Service Co-ordinator





Volunteer Drivers Wanted



The Home Visits Library Service is urgently looking for people willing to give a couple of hours a week delivering books to housebound people who are not able to get to the library themselves.

Volunteers are also needed to help select the books ready for delivery. Driving not a requirement for this post.

Both the above are based at Mitcham Library

If you think you can help, please contact Helen Parmiter at helen@volunteercentremerton.org.uk or on 020 8640 7355

Do any of your staff or volunteers need CRB checks?

Volunteer Centre Merton is an Umbrella Body registered with the Criminal Records Bureau. This means they can carry out CRB checks on your behalf. If your staff member is paid, the CRB levies its own charges, these are: £36 for an Enhanced Disclosure and £31 for a Standard Disclosure. If you are checking a volunteer member of staff, there is no charge levied by the CRB.

Additionally, the Volunteer Centre Merton makes a £15 admin charge per application, regardless of whether the person is a paid staff member or a volunteer. There is a sliding scale according to how many people you are checking in one go. There is no registration fee charged to use the Volunteer Centre Merton's service. The only charges are those you see above.

If you want to talk to us further about this, please contact Helen Parmiter at:

Volunteer Centre Merton, The Vestry Hall
London Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3UD
Tel: 020-8640-7355
email: helen@volunteercentremerton.org.uk

Wanted

18yrs + helpers/trainee
leaders for North
Wimbledon Brownie & Guide
groups

Mondays 5.30 - 7.00pm
in central Wimbledon
Wednesdays 6.30 - 8.00pm
close to Wimbledon Village

Contact Anna on
annagarrett123@aol.com

or
Tel: 020 8540 3148



VCM Supported Volunteering Programme

GROUND BREAKING ACE PROJECT APPROACHES END OF FIRST YEAR

Our partnership with the South West London and St George's NHS Mental Health Trust to recruit volunteers for their ground-breaking ACE Project (helping some of the most excluded and disadvantaged members of Merton's community), nears the end of its first year.

Many of the vulnerable adults the team has been working with are now beginning to engage with appropriate services and to make positive changes in their lives, including applying to become volunteers through Volunteer Centre Merton's Supported Volunteering Programme.

A special word of thanks is due to those of you who have responded to this important challenge by joining our team as Volunteer Mentors. We now have four in place but are still actively recruiting as we need more Volunteer Mentors to develop this vital work further.

All Volunteers receive specialised training and support. The next dates for training sessions are 6th and 13th March and 24th April, the latter subject to confirmation. Volunteers will also have access to free training provided by South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust.

*Please see our recruitment details in this issue
If you are interested in joining this challenging and rewarding programme and making a real difference please call me on 020 8640 7355 or email me at sue@volunteercentremerton.org.uk.*

THOUGHT ABOUT GIVING YOURSELF A SPORTING CHANCE ?

Our partnership with Sport England is providing an ever increasing range of sports activities and projects for people to join as participants or volunteers – or both! And with longer and warmer days approaching there couldn't be a better time to get involved.

People using the services of South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust can be referred to the Sporting Chance project. Opportunities include football training and joining the team that is now second in the PMA (Positive Mental Attitude) League, Tennis (Fulham FC are providing the coaching staff), and Basketball.

Otherwise anyone interested in taking part or volunteering can just contact me, Sue Batley on
020 8640 7355

email: sue@volunteercentremerton.org.uk



SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERING AWARDS

Have you done or are you nearing 100 hours of volunteering?



If so we should like to recognise your commitment to volunteering in the community by awarding you a certificate for your exceptional contribution. Not only is this award recognition of your community spirit and commitment, your completion of 100 hours of volunteering helps us to show what a major impact volunteers have in Merton.

All you need do at this stage is call, email or write to me stating how many hours you have volunteered since April 2007 to now, and who you have been volunteering with. I'll take it from there. You will get a 'phone call, email or letter from us asking these same questions!

Thanks to all of you for your commitment.

Sue Batley
Supported Volunteering Co-ordinator
Tel: 020 8640 7355
email: sue@volunteercentremerton.org.uk

First of all, sincere apologies for cancelling our Support Group on 3rd February. Unfortunately The Vestry Hall was closed due to the bad weather and we had to rearrange for 3rd March.

Dates for Your Diary!

Why not come to our informal group and meet some other volunteers? We get together to chat about our experiences of volunteering and any related issues, like getting into work or how to access benefits and services.

Who's it For? The groups are for anyone who is or wants to volunteer through the VCM *Supporting Volunteers* Programme. You may have personal experience of, and be in recovery from, mental health or addiction problems, head injury or early dementia.

Geoff Parsons, from Merton Platform User Involvement Project, will be joining me again to facilitate the group and help boost your confidence. Hope to see you there!

WHEN?

Thursday 21st May 2009

Thursday 9th July 2009

Tuesday 15th September

WHAT TIME?

2.30 – 4.00pm (all dates)

We'll lay on the tea/coffee and biscuits



WHERE?

Meeting Room
Vestry Hall,
London Road,
Mitcham CR4 3UD

(please note we may be using the upstairs meeting room, just ask at Reception)

Please come along and take part – just turn up - or contact Sue at VCM on 020 8640 7355 email sue@volunteercentremerton.org.uk

We'll look forward to seeing you there!

In partnership with

ADULTS FACING CHRONIC EXCLUSION

Volunteer Mentors

**Are you committed to Social Inclusion?
Looking for ways to develop?**

**We are now recruiting
volunteer mentors!
Full training Provided**

Would you like to be part of a cutting edge new project - one of only 12 in the UK – from the Social Exclusion Task Force, supporting the Government's social exclusion programme?

Help us to engage some of the most chronically excluded adults in society.

For further information and informal discussion please contact:

Sue Batley
Supported Volunteering Co-ordinator
Volunteer Centre Merton
Tel: 020 8640 7355
Email: sue@volunteercentremerton.org.uk



Making a difference

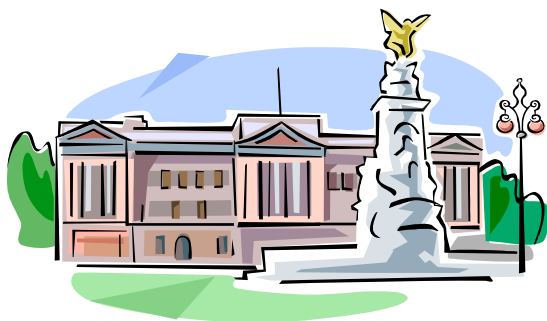


The magic of Christmas! Two Help Service Volunteers take a Merton couple on a trip to remember!

A few weeks before Christmas, Mr Brett left an answer phone message for Helen's Help Service, saying it would be a dream come true if someone could drive his 99-year-old wife up to London to see the Christmas lights, for what he said might be her last opportunity. I immediately called my friend Opal and added to Helen's message we would be very happy to sign up to the Help Service in order to make their wish come true!

Having spoken to Helen and signed Opal and I up for the Help Service, I contacted Mr Brett to tell him the good news. Mr Brett was astonished that Helen had been able to find volunteers so close to Christmas, and told me that his wife knew about Helen already as she receives books through the Home Visits Library Service.

On the 28th of December at 5pm, Opal and I arrived to pick Mr and Mrs Brett up. Sitting in the back of the car with Mr Brett I heard many stories about Mr and Mrs Brett's life together; how they met; where they worked; places they had been. We even discovered that Mrs Brett had been a volunteer through Volunteer Centre Merton, or Merton Volunteer Bureau as it was known then!



With Opal driving, and me giving directions, we drove up along the Embankment, past Trafalgar Square, along Regent Street, past Piccadilly Circus and Oxford Street, then back past Trafalgar Square, along Pall Mall to Buckingham Palace, then through Wimbledon to our final journey along Lower Morden Lane!

Opal and I stayed for tea and biscuits, and were enjoying our conversations so much we didn't realise how quickly the time passed. We totally and utterly loved our evening with Mr and Mrs Brett, and have promised to take them again next year all being well. We are certain that Mr and Mrs Brett also enjoyed the evening as we received a beautiful card from Mrs Brett saying '*Thank you both again for our fantastic experience. The company and the driving made up an unforgettable experience. What driving! And what navigating!*'

Volunteering is giving freely of your time, your skills, and your experience. I had an absolutely fantastic time, developed my skills in giving directions from the back seat whilst having an experience I shall never forget of meeting and getting to know the lovely Mr and Mrs Brett!

Hannah Kendrick
VCM Recruitment/Placement Support Worker



CAN YOU HELP?

North Wimbledon Girl Guides/Brownies

Were you a Brownie or Girl Guide? We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers one evening a week to help out with Brownie and Guides packs in Wimbledon. Help with a wide range of activities, including swimming, horse riding, canoeing, bowling, arts and crafts. Opportunities to participate in camping trips.

Kids City

Playworkers needed for after-school clubs and nursery care in local Mitcham school. CRB checks carried out.

Christian Care

Youth Club leader needed to coordinate team of volunteers for weekly youth club. Also, Youth Outings Coordinator required to organise trips and activities.

M.A.S.H. (Merton Association for Single Homeless)

Experienced gardener wanted to take charge of large garden at foyer. Could use some of the garden to plant vegetables and instruct young residents on how to care for garden.

Spire

Minibus driver needed to transport clients to and from the drop-in.

Polish Family and Children Group

Urgently need volunteers to help with mother and toddler group on Friday mornings. English speakers particularly welcome, as the mothers would like to improve their spoken English!

Mitcham Rugby Club

Volunteers needed to help with admin, as trustees and for events and festivals.

LBM Leisure

River and Cloth project. Volunteers needed to help with local arts and craft project.

Paul D'Auria Cancer Centre

Volunteers needed for admin/support one day or half a day. Volunteers must be warm and friendly as well as computer literate and flexible. We generally like people to commit for a minimum of six months.

Help Service

Volunteers needed to befriend older people in their own homes. Also volunteer drivers, and gardeners willing to adopt a garden for a frail, elderly or disabled person. Training given.

Home Visits Library Service

Drivers are urgently needed to deliver and collect books for housebound users of the library service. Commitment is half a day per month. Book selectors also needed.

The Wandle Trust

River clean-up volunteers for the second Sunday of every month. No special skills required, except a liking for getting muddy!

VCM Supported Volunteering Programme/SW London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust

Are you a trainee or professional in the voluntary or statutory sector, with an interest in the field of health or social care, mental health, psychology, counselling or addictions? We are currently recruiting a team of volunteer mentors to help support chronically excluded adults by accompanying them to appointments or activities, and encouraging them to get the most from what is on offer.

London Fire Brigade

Fire Community Safety Champions required to work in the community. You will deliver short presentations or talks to promote the Free Home Fire Safety Visit campaign to members of the community. Based at Wimbledon Fire Station. Time flexible.

Fulham FC Community Sports

Match day and away match Mini-bus Driver to collect disabled and non-disabled supporters from Fulham FC training ground and transport them to Craven Cottage and back again. The driver will have the opportunity to watch the match. Must have a D1 entitlement on their license. Saturdays/Sundays.

Commonside Community Development Trust

Mentors for people seeking employment. Volunteers with experience of recruitment, form-filling, or working in HR/training. Good interpersonal skills to work on a one-to-one basis with local people who need assistance and moral support in applying for jobs. Commitment from 2 hours a month to 2-3 hours per week, any time during the day or early evening.

SMART Centre (Pupil Referral Unit)

Peer Mentors for lunchtime and after-school clubs. Flexible, well organized, diplomatic people with skills in specific areas to run clubs for a small group of students. Your club could be in sports, homework support, bike maintenance, music, dance, drama, or any other area of interest. Also looking for anyone who could run a group on hair and/or beauty or do tasters in any trade.

St Raphael's Hospice

Charity Shop volunteers; Fundraising volunteer to organise community events; Bereavement Telephone Support Volunteers needed

Headway

Looking for trustees to take a lead role in one or more of the following areas: Secretarial duties, fund-raising, performance review or development of registration as a company and associated procedures. Developing and maintaining relationships with grant making trusts and public funding bodies.

High Path Community Outreach Team

Thursday Night Curry Club volunteers needed to befriend and support adults with learning difficulties to eat out at different venues.

Gym Club volunteer needed on Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons to support adults with learning disabilities to access the gym and support them with their training programme.

YMCA Skills Academy

Volunteers needed to help with literacy, numeracy, lifeskills etc for Education to Employment programme for 16-18 year-olds. Mon-Thurs, 10-3.

Tooting and Mitcham United Juniors FC

Assistant coaches needed to work alongside senior coaches at weekends and some evenings.

Child Welfare volunteer, plus Community Relations Officer.

St Raphael's Hospice

Volunteer drivers urgently needed to bring patients into the Hospice Day Centre in the morning and return them home in the afternoon. Petrol expenses paid.

Hanover Housing

Volunteers urgently needed to help with activities (bingo, raffle, tea and coffee) for older people at sheltered housing in Mitcham.

Faith in Action Homeless Project

Looking for volunteers to welcome and check in clients at the drop-in; help choose clothes; assist in filling in forms for doctor etc; chat and befriend. Also volunteers who will accompany clients to appointments regarding housing, benefits etc.



Registered Charity
 The Vestry Hall, London Road, Mitcham
 CR4 3UD
 Telephone: 020 8640 7355
 Fax: 020 8646 7549
 Email: info@volunteercentremerton.org.uk
 Website: www.volunteercentremerton.org.uk
 Director - Andy Norrell
 Help Service Co-ordinator - Helen Parmiter
 Recruitment/Placement Co-ordinator - Sarah Hannigan
 Supported Volunteering Co-ordinator - Sue Batley
 R&P Support Worker - Hannah Kendrick
 Good Practice Co-ordinator - Rosemary Tilley
 Youth Action Co-ordinator - Ellie Germaine
 Linking Communities Co-ordinator - Bec Yusuf
 Youth Volunteer Advisor - Serina Matharu
 Admin Officer/Reception/Book-keeper-Angela de Leon
 Volunteer Admin Assistant - Iris Hackers
 Volunteer Admin Assistant - Jennifer Sattaur
 Volunteer I T Support - Dorothy Mellor
 Volunteer Help Service Support - Gordon O'Hair
 Volunteer Interviewer - Jenny Cumbo
 Volunteer Interviewer - Jenny Trow
 Events Volunteer - Pat Entwistle
 Admin/Events Volunteer - Mitsuyo Ogino
 Volunteer Photographer - Auriel Glanville
 Volunteer Photographer - Manoj Sharma
 Volunteer Admin Assistant (Supp.Vol.) - Philip Barrow
 Office Maintenance Volunteer - Eric Leppard
 Volunteer Admin Assistant - Catherine
 Help Service Volunteer - Mary Goodridge

VCM thank the following for their support

London Borough of Merton
 Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust
 Big Lottery Fund
 Dorus Trust
 Government Office for London
 London Councils
 London Development Agency
 Volunteering England
 Merton MIND
 Merton Voluntary Service Council
 Do-It, and Youth Action Network

VCM Core Values

- Personal care and attention given to volunteers and users of our services
- Upholding quality standards for volunteer-involving organisations
- Developing individuals by providing support to volunteers and valuing their contributions
- Equality of opportunity and diversity in volunteering for all groups and communities
- Working for a better quality of life for Merton communities and individuals
- Involving people in building their community

VCM Mission Statement
Volunteer Centre Merton involves people through volunteering in helping those in need and building active and vibrant communities in Merton

VCM Services

- **A Recruitment and Placement programme** promotes volunteering and recruits volunteers, offering a personal placement service to match volunteers with the requirements of organisations, and providing support for new volunteers.
- **Good Practice programme** provides training, information and support to volunteer-involving organisations on managing their volunteers well.
- **The VCM Youth Action programme** engages, recruits, places and supports young people as volunteers, working with local schools and colleges.
- **The VCM Help Service** recruits, trains and supports volunteers to provide a befriending, driving and gardening service for elderly, isolated or disabled Merton residents, and assists them to remain in the community.
- **The Supported Volunteering Programme** offers extra support to people with mental health problems to enable them to volunteer.
- **The Supported Volunteering Programme (Disability)** offers extra support to people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities to enable them to volunteer. This includes the Learning Disability Development Fund and Mitcham Means Business Projects.

A Vision for Volunteering in Merton

In 2009 VCM will have stronger core support services that establish a platform for developing quality and innovative programmes to meet the needs of diverse communities in Merton, by providing more person-centred, customised and flexible volunteering opportunities.

