



Volunteer newsletter



Autumn 2024

Welcome to our newsletter for volunteers throughout Northern Ireland

This time of the year often sparks the thoughts of hibernation with the leaves falling and the dark evenings getting earlier and earlier. However, for many organisations the need for volunteers to be out and about supporting their work is greater. With Christmas just around the corner we are encouraging people to think about putting volunteering on their New Year resolution list - what will be on yours?? With over 500 opportunities on our website we hope that you will find something of interest but please remember that we are here to help too.

Befriending Week

Befriending Week took place 1-7 November and we shared on our website the fantastic story of Amy and Mike's friendship. Amy says "Despite there being 60 years between us, he now feels like one of my closest friends in the world". Read her story [here](#).



Photo: Volunteer Now befriender Amy Donald pictured visiting with Mike

Trustees' Week

Trustees' Week also took place earlier this month to celebrate the achievements of nearly one million trustees across the UK. [Visit our website](#) to read Samantha's experience of volunteering as a Trustee with Volunteer Now's board, and you'll also find a few volunteering opportunities there too.

Trusteeship is a brilliant way to bring your passions to life and use your talents to make a difference to a cause you care about!



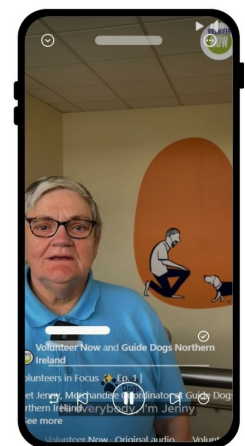
Photo: Marc Scott, Chair of Volunteer Now, pictured with trustee Samantha McClatchey

Share your volunteering story!

If you follow Volunteer Now on social media you will hopefully have seen one of our new series of volunteer videos!

Would YOU share your volunteering journey so we can inspire others to get involved?

[Click here](#) to see one of our wee videos just so you know what to expect! Let us know if you would like to get involved - contact Kate, our Digital Media Assistant: kate.jackson@volunteernow.co.uk



Volunteering Opportunities at Events

Volunteer at some of the great events taking place across Northern Ireland! There are lots of large and small events and festivals that just couldn't take place without the support of volunteers. Have a look at our [Events Calendar](#) to see what's coming up. Most of these are one-off events - bring a friend and enjoy the craic! And if there's nothing there you fancy at the minute, check back in a week or two as this calendar is always being added to!



Need training as a volunteer?

Did you know that Volunteer Now offers training to volunteers as well as to your organisation? Check out our [training calendar](#) for courses that may be of interest, e.g. the keeping safe training for staff and volunteers, befriending and more!

Featured volunteering opportunities

To apply for any opportunities on our website, click 'apply now' and enter your details on the Be Collective platform. Your details are then sent directly to the organisation advertising the opportunity and they will come back to you with more information.

Belfast City Council - Donegall Pass Community Centre - [After School and Homework Club](#) or [Tuesday Lunch Club](#)

National Museums NI - [CEDaR Photo Volunteer](#) or [CEDaR Outreach Volunteer](#)

NSPCC NI - [Schools Service Volunteers - Speak Out. Stay Safe.](#) or [Building Connections Volunteer](#)

Bolster Community - [Seasonal Volunteers for Christmas Fairs](#)

RSPB NI - [Give Corncrake a home project](#)

Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse - [Advisory Panel](#)

South Antrim Community Transport - [Volunteer Drivers](#)

Trauma & Orthopaedics Research Charity - [Christmas Carols Bucket Collection](#) (Belfast - 30 Nov)

Cancer Fund for Children - [Bucket collection at Christmas Fair](#) (Magherafelt - 22 Nov)

Diabetes UK - Live Well Champions in [Ballymena](#), [Lisburn](#), [Bangor](#) or [Mid Ulster](#)

Find a full selection of volunteering opportunities by using the [Opportunity Search](#) on our website

Need some inspiration? Have a look at some of the [latest volunteering opportunities](#) in your area.



Need any help finding opportunities? Email info@volunteernow.co.uk - just let us know where you live and we can send you a few opportunity suggestions

Join the #iwill movement today!

#iwill is a youth led movement that empowers, supports and amplifies youth social action across the whole of the United Kingdom including Northern Ireland. Volunteer Now have been the delivery partners of the #iwill movement in Northern Ireland for last decade, directly supporting ambassadors and champions alike.



If you are aged between 10 and 25 years old and are passionate about making a positive difference in your community and society as a whole, you can register today as an #iwill champion. Whether you fundraise for a cause you are passionate about, collect items for a food bank, lobby for change at a local, regional or national level, **YOUR SOCIAL ACTION MATTERS.**

By joining the #iwill movement you will be part of a group of young people that aim to amplify the importance of youth voices. As an #iwill champion you will have access to resources, training and unique opportunities that will aid you in your social action journey.

You can sign up as a Champion here: www.iwill.org.uk/join-iwill/become-an-iwill-champion/ or contact Matthew, our Volunteering Participation Officer, at matthew.williams@volunteernow.co.uk

Step by Step Guides

We have put together a quick guide to using your volunteering account on Be Collective and how to search for volunteering opportunities. You'll find it on our website at www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/inspire-me/



If you are aged **under 16**, there is a slightly different application process due to child protection issues and you can find the guide for younger volunteers at <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/youth-volunteering/young-volunteers/>

If you need any help searching for opportunities or with using your Be Collective account, please let us know - contact info@volunteernow.co.uk or phone 028 9023 2020

And don't forget, if you are under 25 years, the Volunteer Now Impact Awards can recognise you for your commitment. Simply join the [Volunteer Now Impact Awards group](#) once you've signed up on Be Collective and remember to tick the box to share your hours.



Get social with us!



We love it when you interact with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and share opportunities and news with your friends and family! (If you haven't visited us for a while, please do pop over and see what's new!!)

Feel free to share this newsletter too!

all links to volunteering opportunities are current at time of publication

www.volunteernow.co.uk



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