

vinvolved

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January 2011

Christmas Crafts

Festivities & fun

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Spotlight Project, Youth In
Focus & more..



Wigan & Leigh CVS

supporting the voluntary
and community sectors

The Youth Action Team's Latest Activities

Christmas crafts project, bulb planting, CLIC Sargent and more..



01
Christmas crafts &
festivities

► The Youth Action Team has recently organised and run two volunteering opportunities within the community. Firstly there was the Christmas crafts activity with some of Adactus residents at Pennington House Sheltered Housing in Leigh and residents from their young mums unit and their children. Vinvolved Wigan's Youth Action Team recruited an additional 7 young volunteers to help plan, prepare and run this event and make it successful.

This event took place from 10am on Friday 26th November with everyone working together to create Christmas Decorations, including candy canes, garlands, snowflakes, Christmas tree decorations, and then there was tea and cakes and carolling.

The Christmas crafts project was aimed to create handmade decorations for the residents to put up to brighten their shared lounge area and individual flats. Everyone got started and before we knew it the room was full of paper, glitter and candy canes in a variety of festive colours all set to a Christmas soundtrack that had people singing along in no time.

By the time we were finished we had more than enough to dress the room including, snowflakes for the windows, lots of hanging decorations and some lovely tree embellishments that can be used year after year.

The Youth Action Team's Latest Activities

Christmas crafts project, bulb planting, CLIC Sargent and more..



02
YAT helped local residents plant winter bulbs

A big thanks to young volunteers Amy Durrant, Adele Pennington, Hannah Amoura, Melanie Ratchford, Issak Said and Daniel Gilmore for helping out with this event, and also to Youth Action Team members Nicola Broxson, Melissa Flynn and Rory Wilding.

Just after the weekend we were back for a second visit to plant some winter bulbs with the residents in their communal garden. The bulb planting morning on Monday 29th November was just as enjoyable and importantly was what the residents had first expressed they would like to do when asked by the team.

Although we were thwarted by the cold weather and impenetrable, icy hard ground, we managed to plant some spring bulbs in planters. Wrapped up warm in the frosty garden some of the residents and the team got to work on planting the bulbs and placing them around the garden in pots.



03
Issak Said, fundraising @ Tesco for CLIC Sargent

I'm sure that they will be blooming in no time to add a bit of colour and a lasting reminder of our visit. Both of these events were one off chances for young people who are interested in volunteering to give it a try and sample some of the stuff that the Youth Action Team gets up to. These days were both successful and the residents and young mums seemed to enjoy the activities and having some new faces around.

On **Friday 10th December** volunteers Melanie Ratchford, Issak Said, Melissa Flynn and Daniel Gilmore spent the day in Tesco's dressed as Christmas Presents to persuade passers by to donate any change to a collection on behalf of CLIC Sargent, the national charity for children with cancer. The shoppers at Tesco in Hindley were very generous, helping to raise £319.95.

The Youth Action Team will be planning more one off volunteering events during January to March. If you want to be involved email us on vinvolved@cvswl.org to find out more.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Youth in Focus is a new £30 million Big Lottery fund to help vulnerable young people lead active and fulfilling lives. We decided to target this funding on some specific groups of young people, where evidence suggests that it can make a big difference. The groups we are targeting are young carers, young people leaving care and young people leaving youth offenders' institutions.

We want young people to be at the heart of Youth in Focus. So we are creating a committee of 5 young people and 5 adults to decide which projects should receive the £30 million in grants. We are currently looking to recruit five young people to sit on our Youth in Focus decision-making committee. If this is of interest to you, please read on.....

Are you aged between 15-25?

Do you know what kind of services young people need?

Have you experience of young caring, residential care or the criminal justice system?

Can you make a number of daytime meetings in Birmingham between March and May 2011?

Have you experience of making difficult decisions as part of a team?

Can you read and understand detailed papers?

Could you help choose the best Youth in Focus projects?

Role profile (the people skills we are looking for)

- Communication skills
- Able to work in a team
- Listening skills
- Ability to make judgements and decisions
- Social skills
- Ability to compromise
- Personal experience of being a young carer, or involved in the care system or criminal justice system

The Committee will meet in Birmingham on Thursday 7th April and Thursday 5th May 2011. You will need to be available for both of these dates - this may require an overnight stay (if so, we will pay for this). You will need extra time to read all the papers in advance (there will be lots of them!).

What's in it for you?

We want this to be a positive experience for you and so we will offer some training and support to help you participate fully. As well as providing great practical skills, this will also be a great experience to put on your CV and boost your career development. We hope you will find it a really rewarding opportunity and gain personal satisfaction from knowing you have been part of the process to decide where millions of pounds of Lottery money will go. We will of course pay your expenses and an attendance fee.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS OPPORTUNITY YOU NEED TO CONTACT VINVOLVED WIGAN TO GET AN APPLICATION FORM.

Email Pauline, Youth Volunteer Adviser on pmckittrick@cvswl.org OR CALL 01942 686234 FOR AN APPLICATION FORM FOR YOU TO FILL IN. THERE WILL BE A SHORT-LISTING PROCESS BY YOUTH IN FOCUS. YOUTH IN FOCUS WILL THEN CONTACT THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

Youth Action Team

Become a member and get involved in some great opportunities!



Member Profile:

► At 16 Daniel Gilmore is in his first year of A Levels at Winstanley but still manages to fit in a remarkable amount of volunteering in his local community.

Each week, on his half-day free from college he helps out at Abraham Guest school assisting Year 10 and 11 pupils in the Physics lessons.

In the evenings he is part of the Wigan Youth Parliament and the Youth Consultancy Group for the proposed Wigan Boys and Girls club.

Daniel also gets a great sense of achievement through his volunteering via Vinvolved Wigan - recently undertaking activities such as helping to plan Christmas decoration making with elderly residents and assisting with a supermarket collection to raise funds for CLIC Sargent.

He really enjoys the buzz of working with other young people to a common aim; there's a lot of chat and humour along the way which makes volunteering events really good fun.

As a member of Wigan Wheelers, Daniel is also a keen cyclist and has put his enthusiasm for this to good use by raising money via sponsored cycle rides for British Heart Foundation and Christies Hospital, the latter being an impressive 100 miles round trip! He is an Explorer Scout and enjoys the social life and outdoor activities that this brings his way and is working towards his Silver Duke of Edinburgh award.

Daniel doesn't see anything special in what he does and simply enjoys getting involved in such a wide variety of activities with some great people and would encourage anyone to get involved in volunteering.

**Get involved... phone Pauline on 01942 686234
or Email: pmckittrick@cswl.org
www.cswl.org/vinvolved**

Aged 16 – 25?

Are you aged 16 – 25 and interested in becoming involved with volunteering? Maybe you have just left school and would like something new and interesting to do.

Joining the **Wigan and Leigh Youth Action Team** will be a great way for you to use and improve your skills, gain valuable experience that could help towards employment and meet new people with interests like you.

There are many volunteering opportunities available and we can help you to find one that is just right for you.

This Month's Opportunities...

Greater Manchester Including Young People (Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People)

Task Group Member

Assist in the development of local forums for young disabled people.

Volunteers will be involved in developing local forums for young people with disabilities. Specific tasks could be developed around the skills and preferences of volunteers - this could include administration, I.T., leadership roles, engaging others and public speaking, participating in debates, coordination and other roles or tasks. No specific skills are required

Spotlight Project - Supporters to work with Criminal Justice Intervention Team

You will support the needs of the CJIT team and offenders in the criminal justice system through the following methods:

supporting assessments; facilitating group work; Partnership outreach interventions; Service user group development; consultation with users and communities; mentoring; supporting leisure activities; attending appointments with offenders; supervising group activity; IT case management support; office admin tasks; translation and support services for non-english speaking offenders.

No formal skills or qualifications are required but we would like people who are reliable and enthusiastic with good communication skills and committed to helping individuals with offending and substance misuse needs. Individuals currently active in the criminal justice system

would not be eligible for the volunteering programme and any previous convictions must be spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, 1984.

This is a good opportunity for anyone looking to work with offenders or generally in the voluntary sector

Gulf War Anniversary Service

On Sunday 20th February it's the 20th Anniversary of the 1st Gulf War. A remembrance service is taking place at Leigh Parish Church from noon to 1pm organised by Wigan Borough Veterans Council. They need smartly dressed, responsible volunteers to attend and help out. Volunteers will be required to:

- Arrive at 11pm to help prepare the event
- Meet and greet members of the public and local dignitaries
- Take part in the remembrance service
- Provide refreshments and help to clear up 1pm

Volunteer at the V National Awards in London – you are needed between 7 Feb and 18 Mar 2011 - Apply by 21 January!! V will pay for your travel!

A huge range of memorable volunteering opportunities to choose from including photography, front of house volunteers and dj, production and back stage opportunities. If you want to do this - check out the details and register your interest at:
www.vinspired.com/vinspired-national-awards2010/opportunities

Training

12 weeks that could change your life forever....

Princes Trust 12 week Self Development Programme for 16-18 year olds

Covers:

- Meeting new people
- Action Planning
- A week away trying new things & team building
- Plan and run a community project
- 2 week work placement
- CV & Interview practice
- Show case your skills to the team and employers

Starts: Monday 24th January 2011

Free to take part – to find out more or to sign up contact:

Simon Reynolds or Sarah Hill
Princes Trust
Groundwork Lancashire West & Wigan
Tel: 01942 821 444

Already volunteering?

Don't forget that you can earn your V50 Certificate and Vimpact Award free!

All you have to do is go to the vinspired website www.vinspired.com/vfifty and set up a profile and then start logging your hours. You can also upload photos of yourself volunteering, write up your experiences, and put together a showcase of all the work you have done while volunteering. This is useful for you to show prospective employers or to include in your UCAS application. And once you have completed 50 hours you will receive your V50 Certificate to evidence all the hard work you have done. If you want to you can then go on to earn your V Impact Award once you have logged an additional 100 hours.

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Thank you for reading!

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer for Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service?

Our volunteers, who are better known as the CAT (Community Action Team), play a vital role in the success of many community initiatives, acting as support to the Service, and providing a friendly focal point of contact within the local community.

If you think you can help – you can.

If you are over 18 and would like to learn new skills and make a difference through community volunteering – take the first step and come along to one of our CAT open days.

Wigan – Saturday 29th January 2011
Wigan Fire Station, Robin Park Road, Newtown, Wigan WN5 0UU

Bolton – Sunday 30th January 2011
Bolton Central Fire Station, Moor Lane, Bolton, BL3 5DB

Tameside – Saturday 12th February 2011
Stalybridge Fire Station, Rassbottom Street, Stalybridge, Tameside, SK15 1RF

Bury – Sunday 13th February 2011
Bury Fire Station, The Rock, Bury, BL9 5AH

10.30 to 15.30
RTC demonstrations at 11.30 & 14.30
For more information call us on 0161 608 9225 or visit us at www.manchesterfire.gov.uk/become-a-volunteer

Get involved at your museum!

Are you interested in Museums? Aged 15-21? Wigan Heritage Service are looking for young people to get involved in a new youth forum – the Youth Heritage Action Team.

Help organise projects and events and present your views and opinions of the work and future exhibitions of the museums and galleries across Wigan and Leigh. Drop in to one of the meetings – 4.30 to 6pm at the Museum of Wigan Life. Free pizza and refreshments provided!

It is a fantastic opportunity to explore what happens behind the scenes in a museum, share ideas, have fun and make friends. All the time you put into YHAT will be recorded and a certificate will be issued to you.

Interested? Contact Jenny Roberts on 01942 828 128 or email j.roberts@wlct.org

**For more information on anything in the newsletter, contact:
Pauline or Emma from the Vinvolved team
01942 686234 or 07593 544223
vinvolved@vcswl.org**