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Formerly known as Thornbury & District Volunteer Link - Member of NCVO – Registered Charity No1180775

Annual Report 2022-2023

For the year ending 31 March 2023



Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration of the contribution millions of people make across the UK through volunteering in their communities.

It takes place 1-7 June every year and it's a chance to say thank you, to celebrate and inspire. The aim is to show that there's more than one way to volunteer and encourage people to take that first step into volunteering.

Do you want to volunteer but don't know where to start? Volunteers' Week is a great time to find out more. There are all types of volunteering roles available, all requiring different levels of commitment, experience and time availability and each contributing to many different causes.

Volunteers' Week is an ideal time to have a chat with Thornbury Volunteer Centre and let them know what you're interested in and find out more about local volunteering opportunities.

As well as helping others, volunteering has been shown to improve the wellbeing of the volunteer, it is human nature to feel good after helping someone out. Volunteering can also help you gain valuable new skills and experiences and boost your confidence.

So, to all the new volunteers who have come forward this past year and to all those who volunteer regularly please accept our very grateful and massive thanks, you are the people who make our communities strong. To those of you who are thinking of volunteering we look forward to hearing from you.

REDUCED SUMMER OPENING

Our offices will be open Monday and Wednesday mornings only from Monday 24 July until Friday 1 September. Normal hours of Monday-Friday 10.30am-12 noon resume on Monday 4 September.

Thornbury Volunteer Centre is run by a team of volunteers and a part time employee with the aim of promoting all aspects of voluntary work in Thornbury and its district. A registered charity, we fulfil the Charity Commission's aim of ensuring that all charities are of benefit to the public and the communities which they serve.

The Accounts

Copies of our annual accounts are available on request. The Centre's reserves policy is to maintain its reserves at such a level as to ensure that as at the 1 April each year sufficient funds are available to maintain at least two years' activity broadly at the level of 2022-2023, thereby enabling, if necessary, an orderly winding up of the charity to be achieved. In setting the level of reserves the costs of any statutory redundancy payments or other legal payments for which the Centre might be liable will be taken into account.

Volunteer Co-ordinators

The Centre operates with a team of volunteer co-ordinators who attend the office daily on a rota. The co-ordinators are the backbone of the Centre and donate their time on a regular basis. This year we have welcomed Benedict O'Donohoe to our team and we hope he enjoys his time with us. So, to all past and current volunteers we offer our grateful thanks.

Trustees

Our Management Committee has remained the same this year and our trustees ensure that we operate within the guidelines set by our Constitution, the Charity Commission and NCVO.

The Centre

The office is open to the public between 10.30am-12 noon Monday to Friday. We have a large database of current volunteering opportunities, both locally, regionally and nationally.

Paid Workers

Kim Webb is our paid employee working 15 hours a week, funded in part by South Glos Council.

Website and IT

Michael Quinion, our long-standing IT Manager, continues to maintain and improve our user-friendly and accessible website. The website continues to raise our profile and that of volunteering in general with all our news and events being posted and both volunteers and organisations able to register with us online.

Social Media

Our social media accounts help to keep us in touch with all members of the community. This year we have welcomed Pauline Szeiler to our team and Pauline is responsible for all of our social media. Since Pauline has started we have seen a massive growth in followers and enquiries.

Publicity

We enjoy a good relationship with the local media, with ongoing articles appearing in The Gazette, Thornbury Voice, local Community Magazines, local websites and e-bulletins. We have had displays in the St Mary Centre and Thornbury Library and we have a Community Spotlight advert on Thornbury Radio.

Published Material

The following 3 publications are all available to download from our website.

Sources of Help for Specific Needs in and around Thornbury.

Good Practice Guide and Employer Supported Volunteering.

THIS MONTH, MAY, WE ARE THE SWAN CHARITY OF THE MONTH



In May 2023 we have been chosen as the Charity of the month at the Swan in Thornbury.

Sand and her team are aiming to raise an incredible £1000 for the Volunteer Centre with the proceeds from the following events:

QUIZ NIGHTS

These are held each **Wednesday evening** starting at **8.30pm**. It's a fun evening with a curry and a pint on offer to the raffle winners.

COFFEE MORNING

Join us for scrumptious cakes, tea and coffee between **10am-12 noon on Thursday 25 May**.

FAMILY GARDEN PARTY

Sunday 28 May. Live music, Bouncy Castle, BBQ and more.

MONTHLY RAFFLE

Wednesday 31 May. Buy a ticket throughout May.

SWEET TUBS

Sand sells tubs of sweets for £1 each and all proceeds throughout May go to us!

Huge thanks to Sand and her team and her unwavering support of Thornbury charities.

LET US HELP YOU

Are you a local charity or voluntary group based in the Thornbury & District area?
Are you aware that we offer

Mono photocopying – only 5p per A4 sheet

Colour photocopying – only 50p per A4 sheet

Free usage of 6 portable display boards, ideal for exhibitions (Deposit required)

Call into the office, ring 01454 413392
or email mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk for information.

A 2022 Retrospective

June - Celebration Afternoon Tea

On Wednesday 22 June we welcomed more than 50 volunteers and representatives from volunteer-involving organisations to a Celebration Afternoon Tea in Turnberrie's Community Centre, Thornbury.

This lovely summer event was our first in three years and allowed us to say thank you for the hard work and commitment this section of the community has given over the past two years. It was lovely to welcome guests and treat them to a delicious afternoon tea whilst giving them the opportunity to meet with each other and share experiences.

We were joined by guest speakers Marie Isles, Operations Manager of PHASE Thornbury, and Nigel Lane, Director of Thornbury Radio. Both speakers gave informative and interesting talks on their organisations, the help they can offer and the help they need in order to continue and promote their work.



Marie Isles of PHASE, speaking at the event



The annual [Alan Hudson Award for Volunteering Achievement](#) was awarded to Ruth Williams and the team behind the I Can Offer Thornbury (Covid19 Support) for the excellent service they undertook for the residents and community of Thornbury throughout the Covid pandemic.

Pictured left: Ruth Williams receiving her award from Barbara Ray, the Volunteer Centre chair.



The inaugural [Clare Fardell Young Volunteer Award](#) in memory of our founder and committee member Clare, was presented to Millie Eastaugh-Waring, a Bristol Grammar School pupil and Jake Cooper a Castle School pupil.



Pictured left is Jake Cooper and right Millie Eastaugh-Waring being presented with her Award by Clare's husband Martin Fardell.

July - Volunteer Fair 2022

On a sunny 21 July, we hosted a volunteer fair in the St Mary Centre for ten local charities and organisations. The aim was to promote the organisations, publicise their volunteer opportunities and in some cases, raise funds.



Thornbury Radio played throughout the morning and Thornbury Town Mayor, Cllr Chris Davies, visited and spoke to all the stallholders. The lovely morning resulted in many visitors, with more than £200 being raised, at least 13 potential volunteers coming forward and many people taking away information.

Our thanks to the St Mary Centre management team and South Glos Council for their support.

November - Christmas Fair 2022

We held a highly successful Christmas tabletop sale at Alveston Methodist Church Hall on 5 November.



We were joined by a dozen local charitable groups and individuals. They sold a great range of goods, including cards, toys, knitted jumpers, home-made fudge, crafts and vintage bric-a-brac while also raising awareness of their work in the local community.

We served tea and cake to the crowds of visitors and held a giant Christmas

raffle with donations from Tesco, Aldi, the Co-op, Boots, the Ship Inn in Alveston, the Swan Inn in Thornbury, Berkeley Castle, Woodchester Mansion, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and many more. Altogether, it was a hugely enjoyable event. Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who made it a success. We raised more than £500 for our own funds.

Grants and Donations

This year we thank the following people and organisations for assisting us in our work. Without this support we would not be able to operate at our current levels.

Thornbury Town Council and **South Gloucestershire Council** for their continuing support in providing our core funding.

South Gloucestershire Council Regeneration Scheme of £168.70.

Thornbury Town Council Small Grants Award of £445 towards the Summer Volunteer Recognition event in 2023.

Legal & General CAF donation of £100.

Amazon Smile for donations totalling £25.49 raised through their charitable scheme.

Penny Taylor for a donation of £25.

Alan Payne for a donation of £35.

Sources of Help for Specific Needs in & around Thornbury



This in-demand booklet offers guidance for people in need of sources of practical and expert help in cases of specific need.

This edition contains more than 300 listings of statutory organisations, community interest companies & charities. It includes contact details for national organisations where assistance isn't available locally.

Copies of the booklet are available from our offices at Thornbury Town Hall. Alternatively, it can be downloaded in PDF format from our website at volunteer-thornbury.co.uk/bklt . You can also search the text online at volunteer-thornbury.co.uk/soh .



We are very grateful to Thornbury Lions Club for contributing to the printing costs of this booklet.



Volunteer Police Cadet Leader - Patchway Cadet Unit

Could you make a difference and help shape the lives of the young people in your area?

We need adult volunteer leaders to support our cadet units which provide an environment for young people aged 13–17 where they can learn about roles within policing, support their community and develop valuable life skills.

You don't need knowledge of policing. We will provide all training and resources. You will be a positive adult role model for young people.

The Volunteer Cadets meet on Tuesday evenings during term time 1900 to 2100 at the Patchway Police Centre.

Closing date for applications: 22-5-23

Contact the Volunteer Centre for further information.

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE



**VOLUNTARY SECTOR
NETWORK**

Informal Networking Event

For those who work in the voluntary and community sector in South Glos, you are invited to join us to share ideas and build collaborations.

10am-12 noon Thursday 8 June 2023

Pendennis Good News Church, Pendennis Road, Staple Hill. BS16 5JB.

If you work in a community group, charity or social enterprise and would like to connect with other groups across the sector this is the event for you. The event will include inspiring talks, group discussions & an open networking session. It's time to share your successes, voice your challenges and support each other at a time when we could all use a helping hand.

10:00-10:15 Welcome & Introductions

10:15-10:45 Talks from S Glos voluntary groups on their successes and key learning points

10:45-11:30 Topical discussions in groups (please send your theme suggestions to yanlau@southernbrooks.org.uk)

11:30-12:00 Networking time

To book your place email yanlau@southernbrooks.org.uk

Vale of Berkeley Railway – Bringing back Rail to the Vale

Our aim is to reopen the Sharpness branch line, in Gloucestershire, to passengers as a heritage railway tourist attraction, rebuilding some of the key structures that once adorned this historic joint GWR & LMS Severn & Wye Railway.

We have established an engineering facility based in the Old Engine House by the docks, to restore heritage locomotives, rolling stock and other items from a bygone era, and to serve as an initial base for the Vale of Berkeley Railway. Now we are working on developing the original Sharpness freight sidings site.

We offer opportunities for people from all walks of life to help restore the Sharpness Branch line. It's a great way to learn lots of new skills or develop existing ones in a fun, friendly and enjoyable environment.

Volunteer activities

Engineering and Machining	Permanent Way (Track)
Public Events Support	Museum Artefact Refurbishment & Cataloguing
Signal & Telegraph	Marketing and Fundraising
Woodworking	Locomotive, Carriage & Wagon Refurbishment
Permanent Way (Track)	Public Events Support
Planning Application	Finance
Legal	Project Management
Administration	Facilities maintenance and Ecology

Contact Thornbury Volunteer Centre for further information.

CURRENT VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Forget Me Not Appeal: Volunteer for as little as two hours this May so we can give help and hope to people living with dementia. Collection buckets at your local Morrison's store during Dementia Action Week, 15th - 21st May.

Information and Advice volunteer (home-based): You will visit older people in their own homes to offer free confidential help on welfare benefits and services. You will review clients' situations, tell them about benefits they may be entitled to and provide assistance in completing benefits application forms.

Civilian Air Cadets Committee volunteer: Civilian Committee members ensure local, independent, non-RAF control of the Air Cadet Squadron. Much time is devoted to fund-raising for the Squadron and cadet recruitment. The Committee meet once every 6 weeks, usually Wednesdays.

Short Term Administrators: Can you give a day, or two, from now until mid-June? Supporting a small team in central Bristol you will work on the annual Loneliness Awareness Week campaign.

Befrienders: Volunteers are needed in South Gloucestershire to visit older people who are living on their own and need companionship and possibly some simple errands run. Volunteers will visit in their own time on a regular basis and form an ongoing relationship. Full training and support given. Just 1 hour pw.

Refreshment Server: to cover a morning or an afternoon shift on a regular basis, making teas and coffees and having a chat to the customers at local tearoom.

Supported Lodgings Host (South Gloucestershire): Supported Lodgings Scheme helps young people aged 16-25 to move into independence by placing them with a host family for 6-24 months. Hosts offer support with practical skills; cooking, shopping, encouragement, guidance.

Conservation: a variety of differing roles including; breeding assistant for wild birds, compost site maintenance, wildlife cataloguer, orchard maintenance and woodland management.

Secretary: A small local group needs a secretary to deal with correspondence, take minutes of meetings and the AGM. Meetings are normally held 4/5 times a year in committee members' private houses.

Events and Fundraising: Several local charities are seeking fundraisers/event volunteers help to deliver a variety of different events from planning/preparation to setting up and running activities on the day. You may be asked to steward & marshal guests/visitors at large events, sell entry tickets & merchandise, man a stall, bucket collecting, helping with a raffle or tombola.

Office Administration: As part of a busy office team you will undertake a full range of general office duties including answering telephone calls and directing them as appropriate, processing incoming enquiries and referrals, data entry, word processing, scanning, filing etc.

Contact mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk for further information.

These are only a very small sample of the opportunities currently available.