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

Annual Report 2023-2024

For the year ending 31 March 2024



Volunteers' Week celebrates the amazing contributions volunteers make to communities across the UK.

The celebration starts on the first Monday in June every year. It's a chance to recognise, celebrate and thank the UK's incredible volunteers for all they contribute to our local communities, the voluntary sector, and society as a whole.

Volunteering is important because as well as helping others, volunteering has been shown to improve volunteers' wellbeing too.

It's human nature to feel good after helping someone out. Volunteering can also help you gain valuable new skills and experiences, and boost your confidence.

Want to volunteer but don't know where to start? Volunteers' Week is a great time to find out more. There are all kinds of volunteering roles out there, all requiring different levels of commitment, experience, 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.

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 22 July until Friday 30 August. Normal hours of Monday-Friday 10.30am-12 noon resume on Monday 2 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 2023-2024, 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, long standing Tuesday co-ordinator Val Brown retired and we have welcomed Sue Hallett and Kerry Annett to our Tuesday morning team and we hope they enjoy their time with us. So, to all past and current volunteers we offer our grateful thanks.

Trustees

This year we have welcomed two new volunteers to our board, Catherine Mason and Frank Tustin. Their ideas and expertise will be of great benefit in the coming years. 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 Gloucestershire 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. Volunteer Pauline Szeiler is responsible for all of our social media and does a marvellous job promoting volunteering across South Gloucestershire.

Publicity

We enjoy a good relationship with the local media, with ongoing articles appearing regularly 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

Please see our website for details of publications which are available to download.

A Retrospective of 2023-2024

April – Easter Table Top Sale

On Saturday 1 April we were joined by 12 local charitable groups and individuals who were selling a wide range of goods to raise much needed funds for their organisation. It was also an opportunity for them to raise awareness of the valuable work they undertake in their local community. Although the weather was dismal we still welcomed a good crowd of visitors.



We served tea and cake and held an Easter raffle and it was a lovely relaxed event. We raised approximately £250 for our own funds and would like to thank everyone for their support.

June - Celebration Lunch



On Wednesday 7 June, as part of our celebrations for Volunteers' Week, we welcomed more than 60 volunteers and representatives from 24 volunteer-involving organisations to a Celebration Lunch in Turnberrie's Community Centre, Thornbury.

This summer event allowed us to say thank you for the hard work and commitment this section of the community has given, and continues to give, to the Thornbury and district area. It was lovely to welcome guests and treat them to a delicious lunch whilst giving them the opportunity to meet other volunteers and organisations and share experiences.

They were joined by guest speakers Eryl Daniels and Terry Ray. Terry gave an interesting and informative talk on Thornbury's oldest charity, Thornbury Town Trust. This charity supports people in need in the Thornbury area by allocating hardship grants and donating Christmas presents to children in need.

Eryl spoke movingly about the joys of hosting a Ukrainian family for the past year and how the local community have welcomed Ukrainians into their homes and supported them through clothes donations, weekly cafe, English lessons and much more.



Eryl Daniels speaking at the event

The annual [Alan Hudson Award for Volunteering Achievement](#) was awarded to Thornbury Litterbusters for their outstanding efforts over decades to keep Thornbury clean.



Thornbury Litterbusters started at least 20 years ago and currently has about 30 members who meet on the first Saturday of the month to ‘blitz’ the streets of Thornbury, with special focus on certain areas known to be especially problematic.

The group also helps clean up after many special events in the town and most members do a regular circuit of streets near where they live to make sure they are litter-free.

Pictured above: The Litterbusters team receiving their award from Barbara Ray, the Volunteer Centre chair.

The [Clare Fardell Young Volunteer Award](#) was presented to Mike Rogers. Mike was nominated by the Krunch South West youth club team, for whom he has been a member since he was 11. Mike has become a valuable member of the Krunch team, setting up and packing down at youth club, helping at the tuck shop, cooking and coming up with ideas of activities. He is particularly good at recognising when other young people with additional needs require support and will make them feel welcome.



Pictured right is Mike Rogers receiving his award from Barbary Ray of the Volunteer Centre and Penny Baker of Krunch.

June – Volunteers’ Week Awareness

National Volunteers’ Week is held in June each year. To raise awareness of this week we held a display of opportunities in the St Mary Centre throughout the week, beginning the week with a sale of donated vintage items on 1 June.

This raised £58 for our funds and allowed us the opportunity to talk to passers-by about volunteering. Over the course of the week new enquiries from 9 potential volunteers were received.

September - Volunteer Fair



On 14 September we hosted our annual Volunteer Fair in the St Mary Centre for ten local charities and organisations. The aim was to promote the organisations, publicise their volunteer opportunities, attract new volunteers and, in some cases, raise funds.

Thornbury Radio played throughout the morning and Thornbury Town Mayor, Cllr. James Murray visited and spoke to all the

Stallholders. It was a lovely morning with many visitors, resulting in over £150 being raised and at least 22 potential volunteers coming forward, with many more people taking away information.

Our thanks to the St Mary Centre Management team and South Gloucestershire Council for their support.

November - Christmas Fair

On Saturday 11 November we held a highly successful sale at Thornbury Methodist Church Hall. We were blessed with good weather which ensured a great turnout of customers for the local charitable groups and individuals who were present. They sold a great range of goods, including cards, toys, Christmas crafts, and vintage bric-a-brac while also raising awareness of their work in the local community.



We served tea and cake to the visitors and held a giant Christmas raffle with donations from Tesoro Lounge, Hawkes House, Tesco, Aldi, Foxhills Café & Gifts, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Oldown Country Park 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.

Multiple Sclerosis People's Help a donation of £5000.

Swan, Thornbury a donation of £1215.

St Mary Centre Management a donation of £120 towards the Volunteer Fair.

Penny Taylor a donation of £25.

Amazon Smile £25.40

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

Call into the office, ring 01454 413392

or email mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk for information.

Employer-supported volunteering

Employer-supported volunteering (ESV) or corporate volunteering is where an organisation's employees take paid time off to volunteer during work hours. This may be in the form of individual volunteering, team building days or in a programme developed by the employer, such as an on-going arrangement with a community partner. The volunteering activities can be practical or skills-based. This type of volunteering benefits both the employer and employees at the same time as supporting the wider community.

We, at Thornbury Volunteer Centre, hold a list of local community and charitable groups who would welcome support from this type of volunteering. If this is something which may be of interest to your company contact us at mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk for more information.

Join us at a

Volunteer Fair

**Wednesday 11 September 9am-1pm
in St Mary Shopping Centre**

Visit the Information stands of local organisations who are seeking volunteers, collect information, ask questions and find out how you can help.

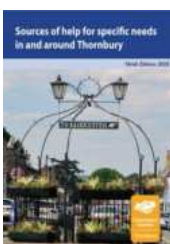
To reserve a table at the Fair please contact the Volunteer Centre;

**01454 413392 or
mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk.**

There is no charge but places are limited and will be allocated on a strictly first come first served basis

Our grateful thanks to the St Mary Centre Management team for their sponsorship and support of this event.

Sources of Help for Specific Needs in & around Thornbury



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 .



In partnership with



Tesco Stronger Starts supports thousands of local community projects and good causes across the UK.

The scheme is open to all schools, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations, with priority given to projects that provide food and support to young people.

Organisations apply for a grant of up to £1,500. Every three months, three local good causes are selected to be in the blue token customer vote in Tesco stores throughout the UK.

Thornbury Tesco would welcome applications from local organisations.

For further information visit: <https://tescostrongerstarts.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

Care Quality Commission Pilot Project.

The Care Quality Commission, regulates health and social care in England. They are undertaking a pilot project over the next few weeks to gather feedback from people who use healthcare services, focusing on the following theme:

The experiences of people from ethnic minority backgrounds with long-term physical health conditions in primary and secondary care.

They would like to hear from people in the local area who may be interested in participating in *focus groups or individual feedback sessions (undertaken via MS Teams or telephone) to answer some questions based on the CQC Quality Statements to give them some feedback on their experiences to support them in this project. Alternatively, they can send a short questionnaire which can be returned via email.*

For further information contact Kirsty.Treloar@cqc.org.uk



- rnid.org.uk
- [rnid](https://www.facebook.com/rnid)
- [@rnid](https://twitter.com/@rnid)
- [@rnid_uk](https://www.instagram.com/@rnid_uk)

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People offer a free, online and quick hearing check to all members of the community. All you need is a laptop or phone, a quiet spot to sit in and their website will do the rest.

It's designed to encourage people to regularly check their hearing, similar to checking their teeth or eyesight to improve their overall health and wellbeing.

Volunteer Organisers Forum: Celebrating our Volunteers

Thursday 6 June 2024, 13:30 - 15:00, Online via Zoom

June's Virtual VOF is taking place in Volunteers Week. We'll be hearing from a panel of speakers, discussing their experience of rewarding, recognising and celebrating volunteers throughout the year. Sign up at: [Volunteer Organisers Forum: Celebrating our Volunteers Tickets, Thu, Jun 6, 2024 at 1:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

CURRENT VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Walking Advocates: help a new organisation promote walking and public transport in the district. You could; collect signatures, inspect and report on public footpaths in the district, help with clearing footpaths, work with other organisations.

Trustee: local charity needs trustee to help; take its objectives forward, assess and mitigate risks, help develop relations with charity's funders. Current/recent business or public service experience essential and volunteering sector connection desirable.

Visitor Experience volunteers: several historic places close to Thornbury seek a friendly face to welcome visitors and answer any questions they may have. Properties open March to October and all can be flexible with volunteers hours.

Digital Communications volunteer: Do you want to help unpaid carers in Bristol/South Gloucestershire? They are seeking a digital whizz to help run social media accounts and produce video for their digital channels. Suit student.

Parkrun volunteers: Saturday mornings throughout the year. Marshals, stewards, tail walkers, time keepers. No experience needed.

Event Helpers: can you help a small group who run several events throughout the year in the local community at these events, before, during and after? This could be putting up/taking down banners, signage, setting up tables, gazebos, stewarding.

Welcome Home volunteer: You will provide short/medium term support to those who have been discharged from hospital to stay well in their own homes. You will visit a client regularly, support them and feedback any issues/concerns.

Conservation/Gardening: a variety of differing roles including; light gardening, historic garden maintenance, wildlife cataloguer, orchard maintenance and woodland management.

School Governor: A new school for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities opening Sept. 2024 seeks Governors to support/challenge the Head Teacher and her team. Meet once a term Thursday afternoons.

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

Care Home Welcome volunteer: you will welcome visitors to the home with a friendly personality and a welcoming smile. Ideally you'll be happy to answer the phone, look after the front desk and keep the area looking ship shape. 2 hours pw.

Engineering/Carpentry volunteers: local Railway Trust needs experienced carpenters or metal-workers to work in its fully equipped machine shop & carpentry workshop. Will be able to bring your own design skills to bear on repair/conservation issues that arise when repairing historic railway artefacts.

Donkey/Hedgehog Care: volunteering at local sanctuaries. Hours to suit.

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

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