



# The V Word

## Good Practice in Volunteering

### 2011 Designated European Year of Volunteering

Issue 16

Spring 2011

2011 has been nominated the European Year of Volunteering.

December 2010 and will reach London by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011, ready for the UK's Volunteers Week.

This is an exciting opportunity for voluntary organisations across the EU to join together in a celebration of volunteering and a discussion on the importance of volunteering on a local, national and international level.

In London there will be a marquee with information about volunteering and all sorts of activities and events taking place. Volunteer journalists have been selected from each member state and there will be doing a relay to report on activities in different countries. The tour will then finish in Valetta in December 2011.

#### The aims of the year are:

- To create an enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering in the EU
- To empower volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering
- To reward and recognise volunteering activities
- To raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering

There will also be 4 conferences across Europe during the year designed to:

- Promote dialogue among stakeholders
- Communicate recommendations towards policy-makers for the future of volunteering
- Actively involve volunteers in the organisations and implementation of the campaign, thus re-inforcing ownership

There will be a volunteering tour of all the EU member states during the year, making a stop in 27 cities. The tour started in Brussels on 3<sup>rd</sup>

For further information please contact:

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Telephone: 01446 421782. Email: [info@vvb.org.uk](mailto:info@vvb.org.uk). Website: [www.vvb.org.uk](http://www.vvb.org.uk)

- Attract media interest and participation through volunteering related content

Volunteer Centres and Volunteer Involving Organisations in Wales will be organising all sorts of events throughout the year to highlight, promote, reward and recognise the value and importance of volunteering.

For further information visit:  
[www.eruopa.eu/volunteering](http://www.eruopa.eu/volunteering)

## Short-term Volunteering For the New Year

It has come to my attention that there are many young people in the Vale (I focus on 16-25s but I'm sure the same would go for other age groups!) who would welcome the opportunity to be involved in a short volunteering project in the New Year.

This could be anything from a one day to a several week long project or activity, in any kind of volunteering capacity.

I would welcome any input if there are time limited opportunities that you might have available. If you have ideas regarding any volunteering opportunities that you would like to discuss, this would also be fantastic.

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I am also aware that there are a number of young people who would like to get involved in **group volunteering**.

For example a local school completed two big group volunteering days recently.

If your organisation can accommodate group volunteering or if you yourself know of a group who would like to take part in group volunteering please contact:  
**[holly@vvb.org.uk](mailto:holly@vvb.org.uk)**

## Do You Require Volunteers?

Are you an organisation that requires volunteers? If so, we can assist you with this.

We offer a one-stop resource for information, advice and guidance on all aspects of volunteering for both volunteers and recruiting organisations.

We would require you to go through our simple registration process and then discuss the way in which we aim to work together.

Once this is completed we will then advertise your volunteering opportunities in a variety of places.

## Volunteers Not Covered by Anti-Discrimination Law, says Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal has today handed down its first decision on the issue of the status of volunteers which considered whether volunteers are protected from acts of discrimination on grounds of disability.

A woman who was asked to stop volunteering at a Citizens Advice Bureau had claimed disability discrimination.

Volunteers without contracts are not covered by anti-discrimination legislation for workers, the Court of Appeal has ruled.

The judgement was made in a case involving a female volunteer, referred to as X, who claimed she had been discriminated against on the grounds of disability when she was asked to stop volunteering for the Mid Sussex Citizens Advice Bureau. X claimed she was covered by the [Disability Discrimination Act 1995](#) and the European Framework Directive. The [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#) supported X in her appeal.

However the court upheld previous tribunal rulings and found that X did not come under the scope of the

legislation because she did not have a contract with the CAB and was unpaid. The case had been heard by two employment tribunals and one appeal.

Lord Justice Elias, one of the three judges, said it was "far from obvious that it would be thought desirable to include volunteers within the scope of the discrimination legislation relating to employment".

Volunteering organisations have told *Third Sector* that they sometimes have informal written agreements with volunteers that are not enforceable in the courts.

Contracts are not regarded as best practice because it means volunteers can go to employment tribunals.

Jason Galbraith-Marten, a barrister from the employment and discrimination chambers Cloisters, which represented the CAB, said after the hearing that this was a significant victory for the voluntary sector.

"This is because much of the sector is reliant on volunteers, and cannot shoulder the financial burden that enhanced rights for volunteers such as X would bring," he said.

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The need to make adjustments for the disabled, and the cost of litigation, successful or otherwise, that would be generated from the extension of anti-discrimination rights, would be too great a financial burden for many of them to bear."

No one from Mid Sussex Citizen Advice Bureau or the Equality and Human Rights Commission was available for comment.

## Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards 2011

Supported by [CCLA](#)

Is there an inspirational individual in your community? Or a group that selflessly and tirelessly gives up their time to help improve the lives of others?

If so, why not nominate them for a Wales Volunteer of the Year Award?

It's your chance to get these remarkable people the recognition they deserve.

There are five categories for nominations:

- Adult (25 years and over)
- Young person (under 25 years)
- Green volunteer (individual of any age)

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- Trustee
- Groups (2 or more individuals, whether as an informal group or a formally constituted organisation)

The judging panel will select up to 3 winners in each category.

All winners will be invited to attend an award ceremony to be held in Cardiff in June.

In addition, all eligible nominees will receive a certificate of commendation.

**You must get permission of the individual or group you wish to nominate.**

For more information contact WCVA Helpdesk on:  
0800 2888 329 or you can:

Click [here](#) for a Word version of the nomination form

Or click [here](#) for a PDF to print out and fill in by hand.

All forms need to be returned by **15th April 2011** to:  
Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards  
WCVA, Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff, CF10 5FH

**Don't let the efforts of some exceptional people go unnoticed!**