



Volunteering News

Issue date:
13 January 2012

Issue date: 13 January 2012

Contents:

[General news](#)

[Managing Volunteers](#)

[Funding](#)

[Events](#)

[Case studies](#)

[Return to contents](#)

General news

The London 2012 Games are coming to Cardiffand YOU can be part of it!

Cardiff's Millennium Stadium will see the first action of the 2012 Olympic Games - two days before the opening ceremony, when it plays host to the first of 11 Olympic football matches taking place in Cardiff. The City will also play host to Pre-Games Training Camps for a number of Olympic & Paralympic teams - this means that in the summer of 2012 we will be welcoming visitors to Cardiff from all over the world. We want to make their time in Cardiff and their experience of the Olympic & Paralympic Games the best possible and our 'Ambassadors' will play a key role in doing this.

What is an Ambassador?

An 'Ambassador' is the title given to the official Olympic & Paralympic volunteers who will be representing Cardiff by welcoming visiting spectators and teams to the City. Volunteer roles will be diverse and could range from assisting Oscar Pistorius with training at the Cardiff International Sports Stadium to directing spectators to the Millennium Stadium for Olympic football matches!

Getting involved

Getting involved couldn't be easier. If you would like to be a part of the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games and feel you have the enthusiasm, commitment, and ability to make a good 'Ambassador' then you're in the right place - simply visit www.sport-cardiff-vsbs.com and register today!

What's required?

Apart from requiring lots of enthusiasm you will also need to be willing to undertake our generic and role-specific training days and also be able to commit to giving a minimum of 5 days volunteering during the months of July - August 2012.

If that's you then what are you waiting for? [Sign up to be an Ambassador today!](#)

Training and recruitment of trustees

The Charity Commission has produced the first in a series of 'registration bulletins'. These will analyse data on new charities joining the register by looking at, among other things, their geographical spread, aims and incomes. They will also explore particular themes in more depth, this time based on the findings of a trusteeship survey conducted with over a hundred new applicants to the register. The press release highlights that many of these organisations were not providing any training to new trustees,

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_reg_bulletin.aspx, while a connected article on The Guardian's [Voluntary Sector Network](#) points out that some may not be looking far enough to recruit the right trustees. The actual report *More than just a Number: Themes and trends in charity registrations* is at

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About_us/About_charities/More_than.aspx.

Source: VolResource Newsletter No. 500

Wales' first equalities charity launches

Diverse Cymru, Wales' first equalities charity, launched at the Senedd on 2 December 2011 in an event hosted by Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Finance and Leader of the House.

The charity aims to combat inequality and discrimination in Wales. It embodies a new approach to tackling inequality that recognises that people experience discrimination through multiple channels and on the basis of multiple perceived characteristics, so simply focusing on one aspect of their experience of inequality is inadequate.

This single equalities approach has already been adopted by the UK and Welsh Governments and is rapidly being taken up by service providers, organisations and businesses across the UK, who are now also obligated under the Equalities Act 2010 to ensure that people who have been identified as having 'protected characteristics' are not discriminated against. Until now, Wales has not had a central hub that could bring together Welsh equality expertise and provide these organisations with the advice and support that they need.

Diverse Cymru also provides support and services to people who experience inequality or face discrimination, such as advocacy and independent living support. The charity works to create opportunities for participation and champion the voices of people who come from groups that are underrepresented.

Speaking at the launch, Cllr Judith Woodman, Deputy Leader of Cardiff Council and Diverse Cymru's honorary President, said: 'Diverse Cymru is a first - the first pan-equality organisation to deliver services across Wales. I believe that it will provide real and lasting benefits for the people of Cardiff, and of Wales.'

Jane Hutt stated that the Welsh Government shared Diverse Cymru's vision: 'Like you, we are committed to ensuring that every citizen of Wales has the opportunity to contribute to the social and economic life of Wales. We all want a society where people are valued as individuals, where there's diversity and equality and respect for all.'

'To truly make a difference we need the support of public bodies across Wales, working with us, with the third sector and with each other to make equality and inclusion a reality.'

Chief Executive of Diverse Cymru, Charles Willie, said: 'This is an exciting development for Wales. Equality issues will affect us all at some point in our lives. This could be because of the colour of our skin or our sex, as we get older or if we become disabled or on the basis of any other characteristic that is perceived as 'different'. We now have the means to challenge this head on, and to support the needs of a diverse Wales.'

For full details of all training courses available, please contact Sadia Ahmed 029 2036 8888; sadia@diversesecymru.org.uk or visit www.diversesecymru.org.uk

First MV50 Sports Certificate awarded

Eighteen year old Rhyl College student, Anthony Williams from Prestatyn has become the first ever young person in Wales to be presented with the MV50 Sports Certificate for completing over 50 hours of volunteering at Prestatyn Football Club. Anthony also volunteers at Rhyl Rugby Club as well as Claire House Hospice and Shelter Cymru Charity Shops in Prestatyn. Anthony said 'I really like volunteering. It helps other people and the clubs, and I make lots of friends'.

Anthony was presented with his MV50 Sports Certificate at a special Match Day Presentation at Prestatyn Town Football Club by Club Chairman Phil Merrick and Player Manger Neil Gibson. Also on hand to help with the presentation was former Welsh International and Arsenal footballer John Hartson.

Gerry Frobisher, Youth Volunteering Co-ordinator with Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council said 'On the 1 September 2011 a brand new Millennium Volunteer Certificate was

launched in Wales. The MV50 Sports Certificate is presented to young people who carry out voluntary work within a sporting environment, either as a coach, trainer or even as part of the club volunteers who help out on the turnstiles, catering stall, club shop, marshalling, selling brochures and general maintenance jobs around the club’.

Minister for Local Government and Communities Carl Sargeant said: ‘My congratulations go to Anthony on becoming the first ever young person in Wales to be presented with the MV50 Sports Certificate for his volunteering work’.

‘The Welsh Government is committed to promoting, encouraging and extending volunteer work across Wales. We have targeted funding available so as to maximise our support for youth volunteering programmes such as GwirVol and Volunteering in Wales’.

‘Young people are the future of volunteering in our communities and the Welsh Government remains committed to ensuring that there is an effective support mechanism for youth volunteering’.

The 2,000th Millennium Volunteer recruited by the Denbighshire Volunteer Centre is 17 year old Jordan Greenfield of Prestatyn who is a 1st Year Sixth Former at Prestatyn High School.

Jordan is an active member of Prestatyn Indoor Climbing Club and Prestatyn Running Club where he is on hand to help, encourage and coach younger members. As part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award, Jordan volunteered at the Prestatyn Abandoned Animals Association Centre throughout the summer and still helps out there on Saturdays.

Gerry Frobisher said ‘The Millennium Volunteer scheme is growing in strength. The 2,000th young person to become a Millennium Volunteer in Denbighshire is truly a milestone in Millennium Volunteering and shows that there are many young people committed to volunteering in Denbighshire. I know there are a lot more youngsters volunteering just as hard throughout the County who would benefit greatly from becoming Millennium Volunteers. The Millennium Volunteers are involved with over 175 local organisations and groups who have the need for volunteers’.

Millennium Volunteers sponsored by the Welsh Government, is a National Award Scheme for young people aged between 16 and 25 years of age. Certificates are presented to the young volunteers when they achieve 50 and 100 hours of volunteering. On completing 200 hours of volunteering, the young volunteers are presented with an Award of Excellence Certificate signed by the First Minister of the Welsh Government Carwyn Jones AM. These certificates play an important part of any young person’s CV when applying for employment, college or university. For information, please visit the [GwirVol](#) website.

Charity Commission publishes three-year Strategic Plan

The Charity Commission announced its Strategic Plan for the next three years on 7 November 2011, setting out their two key strategic priorities going forward, which are:

1. Developing the compliance and accountability of the charity sector, and
2. Developing the self-reliance of the charity sector.

The Plan sets out the Commission’s new Vision, Mission and Values, with the Vision being ‘Charities you can support with confidence’. The publication of the Strategic Plan follows the Commission’s extensive Strategic Review consultation which began in October 2010 and involved numerous charities, professional advisors, umbrella bodies and members of the public.

Sam Younger, Chief Executive of the Charity Commission said ‘this is a clear,

understandable plan for the future which explains our role in acting on behalf of the public when regulating the charity sector. We are grateful for the input of all those who have shared their thoughts with us about what our future priorities must be, taking into account our reduced funding position over the next three years. This plan should give the public confidence in what they can expect to see both from us and from the charities they are interested in regardless of whether they are a donor, volunteer or employee or beneficiary.' To read more about this click [here](#).

The Down's Syndrome Association

The Association helps people with Down's syndrome to live full and rewarding lives providing information and support for people with Down's syndrome, their families and carers and the professionals who work with them. They strive to improve knowledge of the condition and champion the rights of people with Down's syndrome.

Jane McIlveen is the new Development Officer for the Down's Syndrome Association in North Wales. She will be raising awareness of the association and ensuring that individuals with Down's syndrome, their family carers and the professionals who work with them are aware of the support the organisation provides.

Jane said 'We are planning to move forward with a programme of development across the region that will hopefully see us engage with new families, attract new volunteers and devise a programme of events that will meet the needs of families of children and adults with Down's syndrome of all ages. We have also secured additional funding to facilitate a North Wales conference which will be held during the summer of 2012'.

'We provide an information service on all aspects of living successfully with Down's syndrome and have a particular knowledge of how services operate across Wales and what support is available. We support a network of volunteer, parent-led Support Groups across Wales and can put you in touch with someone local to you, should you wish'.

'We provide a comprehensive training service for professionals working with people with Down's syndrome living in Wales. These are targeted across health, education, social care and voluntary sectors. We are always very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to discuss their fundraising ideas with us or those who would like to participate in our events'.

For further information please contact:

North Wales: Jane McIlveen 01492 621066/07703714740; jane.mcilveen@downs-syndrome.org.uk

Cardiff: Julian Hallett (Wales Manager) 02920 522511 wales@downs-syndrome.org.uk

National: 02086145100 www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

How do you use the internet? The government wants to know!

The Government has launched a survey looking at how voluntary and community groups use websites and social media for networking and learning.

If you're a fan of i-volunteer then please take part and let them know how you use us - it will be really helpful for them to see how networks are being used to bring people and organisations together.

The survey only takes about five minutes to complete - access it here:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=1hBQWhAjl3gZ%2fvP2prgVzA%3d%3d>

State of the World's Volunteering

Published on International Volunteer Day (5 December) 'The State of the World's Volunteerism 2011' was accompanied by a call from the UN for countries to recognise the importance of volunteering and encourage more people to get involved in the community.

For more information please visit the news item [on i-volunteer](#) or [download the report direct \(pdf, 2.21MB\)](#).

Source: VolResource Newsletter No. 505

The value and danger of volunteering in emergencies

The International Federation of the Red Cross has published *Volunteering in emergencies* for their recent international conference, which had volunteering as a main theme. The report raises problems, indeed dangers, encountered by volunteers in emergency work, calling on governments to protect, promote and recognise the work of all volunteers in emergencies. Report summary and call to action available at <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/volunteers/volunteering-in-emergencies/>.

Source: UKVPM

Neath Port Talbot Celebrates Young Volunteers

More than 125 people attended the Neath Port Talbot Youth Volunteer Awards hosted by Kevin Johns at Neath Port Talbot College on Wednesday 9 November 2011.

The event was organised by a group of young people, Amy Williams, Luke Jenkins, Emilie Potts, Leah Emery and Tyler Pascoe, with support from Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) and the Enterprise in the Valleys project. The Neath Port Talbot Youth Volunteer Awards celebrated the hard work and dedication of young people across the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot.

Entertainment was provided by 15-year-old singer Kirsten Osborn and the college function band, Get Funked. Andrew Webber, Michael Killick and Naseibah Al-Jeffery, budding photographers gave up their time to capture the event. Clarewood Neath Foyer spent the majority of the day before baking enough cake for all the guests.

The event was supported by local organisations and businesses many of whom attended the event. The evening was a great success and Neath Port Talbot CVS and Enterprise in the Valleys would like to congratulate all the young people nominated for awards.

For full details please visit www.nptyva.co.uk

Dragon's Den style event at CAVO

Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisation's (CAVO) Youth Led Grant Panel 'Dish the Dosh' had a successful Dragon's Den style evening on 10 August 2011 in Aberaeron. Applicants from the first round of the Gwirvol Youth Led Grants Scheme who had submitted a project idea on paper, were invited to come along to the Dragon's Den style evening to sell their project to 'Dish the Dosh'. 'Dish the Dosh' is made up of young volunteers aged 16-25 from all over Ceredigion.

The panel members are trained and overseen by CAVO's Youth Volunteering Adviser Catherine Moyle. Catherine explained the Dragon's Den approach 'the groups applying for the grant money had to complete an application form in the first instance. The panel members read the application forms then invited the groups into the den to pitch their project ideas. Once the pitch was done, the applicants then had to hold their nerve during a 10 minute question and answer session, where the youth panel members questioned all elements of each project from budgets to sustainability.'

Among the successful applicants from the Dragon's Den style evening were Cyswllt for their commemorative garden youth volunteering project, CredCer Credit Union for their young people's savings clubs run by young volunteers and the Wales Youth Forum for Sustainable Development (WYFSD) or Dyfodol as they are now known for their food waste awareness workshops run by young volunteers.

The second round of the Youth Led Grants closed on 18 October 2011 and the panel 'Dish the Dosh' met once again for a second Dragon's Den style meeting. After much deliberation over project proposals on paper, pitches from each project and then further deliberation, 'Dish the Dosh' decided who would get a share of the remaining funding.

Successful projects from this second round included a Rathbone horticultural volunteering project in the Penparcau area, an Art in the Park youth volunteer project in Llandysul with Ieuencid Tysyl Youth and a willow weaving and woodcraft volunteering project with Mentro Lluest.

For more information, please contact Catherine Moyle, telephone 01570 423232 or e-mail catherine@cavo.org.uk

'iVolunteer' Participants foreign tour success

In November 2010, Colwyn Bay Community Sports received funding from Gwirvol to run an innovative 'iVolunteer' programme that would harness the motivational power of football & the inspirational setting of a football stadium to engage young volunteers, and introduce them to the management of 'football in the community schemes'.

Based at Colwyn Bay Football Club in North Wales, the 'iVolunteer' programme aims to create 'young champions' who could fit into designated roles, and devise, plan & run activities (voluntarily) that would help generate income for the 'football in the community scheme' (making it financially stable in the long-term); engage residents of the surrounding local community and tackle social, health, education, environmental and employment issues.

The programme has been running for just over a year and has been a resounding success. To date, 32 young NEET individuals aged between 16 and 25 years have taken part in the programme that runs on a weekly basis for five hours. During their time on the programme all of the participants have gained recognised qualifications such as the Level 1 Health & Safety Award, FAW Football Leaders Award, and BTEC Level 2 Award in Football Industries. They have also gained experience in a number of roles within a football club such as a disability football coach; fundraising committee member; ticket sale assistant; match day coordinator and administrator.

Due to the great progress made by individuals, Colwyn Bay Community Sports were able (through a partner organisation - award winning social enterprise 'Vi-Ability Educational Programme') to offer the volunteers an additional two-week work placement in Italy or Sweden as a reward for their efforts.

The trips, which took place in April and August 2011, were part funded by the Leonardo Lifelong Learning Programme. In total, all 32 participants were able to take part in this unique opportunity to learn about the best practices in European sport organisations marketing, coaching and community practices; and experience the lifestyle and culture of other European nations. The programme was designed to further help the youngsters gain key life & employability skills and contribute to their personal development.

Both groups were taken to several football and sports clubs including Torino FC in Italy and FC Modo & Sandviks IK in Sweden and were able to see how they were managed; from commercial sponsorship to ticketing activities and coaching programmes.

However, it was not all work. The groups were taken on cultural tours as well as taken to see live football matches, an ice hockey game and a game of floorball in Sweden. They were also able to try their hand at a game alongside two professional floorball players. Floorball, one of the biggest sports in Sweden, is a form of indoor hockey and is played with great speed and power. They were also able to try their hand at curling and some of the group were invited to train with Sandviks IK football club. Whilst participants in Italy

were invited to train with the Serie A clubs elite academy.

Kelly Davies Colwyn Bay Community Sports Director said 'Everyone involved took something different away from the experiences. In particular, two members of the group are now going back over to Holmsund in Sweden in October 2012 to begin a 12-month modern apprenticeship at Sandviks IK. Both individuals will undertake Swedish language lessons and work for the football club in their grounds maintenance department'.

Aaron Evans, one of the participants and also suffers from cerebral palsy commented 'I found the trip a great personal experience and a real confidence boost, to be able to coach and work in a different country gave me ideas and views on coaching and working with professional staff made me realise where I could improve my own skills'.

For more information on the 'iVolunteer' project, which is now also being run at Bangor City Football Club, please contact Kelly Davies, Colwyn Bay Community Sports. Tel: 01745 338602; e-mail: kelly@cbfitc.co.uk

Cardiff Bay Welcomes Green Heroes

Friends of the Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path who have been busy clearing rubbish from the 125 miles of path around Anglesey, and Pant and Dowlais Boys and Girls Club are amongst the record number of entries shortlisted to receive Wales's top environmental achievement award.

The 21st annual [Tidy Wales Awards](#) ceremony recognises people from every corner of Wales who have made real and lasting efforts to restore their blighted local environments to their former glory. Many of the locations tackled will have suffered years of vandalism and neglect.

The 2011 awards are sponsored by Environment Agency Wales and co-ordinated by Keep Wales Tidy. The nine category winners will each receive a cash prize of £250. The category winners will then be further assessed and the overall winner will receive the specially commissioned Tidy Wales Award Trophy and an additional cheque for £250.

Following a summary of their achievements by radio and TV presenter Sian Thomas, the awards will be presented on **18 January at the Pierhead Building in Cardiff Bay** by John Griffiths AM, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development.

Chris Mills, Director, Environment Agency Wales said 'Each of the shortlisted entries have demonstrated a commitment to their local environment, and we congratulate them for the great work they are doing'.

'Their tireless efforts are helping to make the environment we live in a better, safer place for us all to enjoy and at the same time helping to contribute to local economies and our state of wellbeing.'

'However, these volunteers can only do so much. We all have a role to play by getting rid of our waste safely and legally in the first place and help to avoid litter and illegal waste blighting our communities.'

Lesley Jones, Chief Executive of Keep Wales Tidy commented 'We are so pleased that we are able to recognise our volunteers' tireless and important work at our Tidy Wales Awards ceremony. The event allows us to highlight a wide variety of achievements and contributions from all over Wales. Our thanks also to all the organisations that sponsor the event as it couldn't happen without their support'.

Managing Volunteers

Good Practice in Volunteer Management

Insurance - a cautionary tale

Just imagine that you are proficient in DIY. An organisation where you have been involved, with your wife, for over 30 years, asks you to cut some branches off a tree in the grounds. You gladly agree.

Someone explains to you which branches need to be cut and off you go, with your chainsaw. But OOPS!! a branch falls onto the adjacent premises. Your mate goes round to retrieve it. You step onto the wall, take it in two hands, pull, and WHAM you fall backwards onto hard ground as the branch comes free more suddenly than you expected!

Four days in hospital then months at home on a high cocktail of medication. After three months there is still numbness in your feet and legs. Further tests reveal the extent of spinal injury. Neurosurgery is required - and life has changed forever.

A far-fetched scenario this may seem, but it is what happened to Bill* last year shortly before Christmas. Bill and his wife May* sought compensation from the organisation, only to be told that since Bill got up onto the wall of his own volition he was, in effect, responsible for the accident himself. The Insurance Company would pay no compensation.

The moral of this tale is to take **Risk Assessment** seriously. Was it explained to Bill what he should do (or not do) in order to remain covered by insurance? No, it wasn't. Did he see a health and safety policy or did anyone remind him of the salient points? No, they didn't. Was a risk assessment done to highlight what precautions should be taken in the interests of safety? No they weren't.

It is easy enough to do these things, though they may seem like a nuisance at the time. But as Bill and May will tell you - you can't turn the clock back, however much you might wish it.

Volunteer Managers questionnaire

Would you like the opportunity to win a £25 Marks and Spencer's voucher?

All you need to do is spend a few minutes completing the questionnaire sharing your experiences to help with research for a European partner. Click [here](#) to start the questionnaire which is looking at e-learning for volunteer managers. This will be used to support a group of European partners to understand the development needs of volunteer managers across the EU and identify current provision, with a view to widening access to development through e-learning. This questionnaire will provide information for a Leonardo Da Vinci Transfer of Innovation programme.

[Return to contents](#)

Funding

Environment Wales: [Grants Support Sustainable Living](#)

'The Supporting Sustainable Living Grant Scheme' is a new grant scheme commissioned and funded by the Welsh Government. Environment Agency Wales and will be bringing this innovative new scheme in place, in conjunction with the new core partner of the initiative, Sustain Wales.

The scheme will support projects that will help reduce Wales' greenhouse gas emissions - or build resilience to the impacts of climate change - by addressing the specific behavior or lifestyle choices. Through innovative projects, it is anticipated that Welsh citizens are empowered to make changes to ensure a more sustainable way of life.

Value of the scheme is £250,000 and will be available to all sectors in Wales. It is expected that the majority of grant applications will vary between £5,000 and £15,000. However in exceptional circumstances this figure may rise to up to £35,000.

Information about the new plan is available through Environment Wales on 02920 431727 or info@environment-wales.org. There are also other opportunities later in the year to learn more about the scheme and how it can help to develop the Wales Environment project.

[Return to contents](#)

Events

Free training for young people on building sustainable development projects

Dates and venues:

- Llandudno: 31 January - 1 February 2012
- Cardiff: 9 -10 February 2012

Do you know any young people who might be interested in running their own sustainability project? Bring them along to a free 2-day Dyfodol training session where they will learn more information about the issues and solutions, how to communicate their ideas to their peers and how to plan and run a successful project! **and... it's all free!**

At Dyfodol we believe that peer-education is one of the best methods to communicate issues and ideas so the course will focus on the participants going back to their school/ organisation/local community to deliver their own projects on sustainability to their peers... By the end of the course the participants will be advocates of sustainable development and ready to take action!

All days will run from 10am until 3pm. Free lunch will be provided. You're asked to attend both days with the same young people as we'll be building work together over the course of 2 days. Separate training will be provided for young workers on ESDGC and young people. There are limited places so please get in touch as soon as you can!

To book places or for any other information please contact kirsti@dyfodol.org asap!
To find out more about the organisation, please go to www.dyfodol.org

Fairtrade Fortnight - Get Involved!

Date: 27 February - 13 March

Fairtrade Fortnight is a time to raise awareness of the need for a fairer way to trade, show support for farmers and producers around the world and celebrate Wales' commitment as the world's first Fair Trade Nation. We are planning an exciting programme of activities and events across Wales and there are lots of opportunities for you to get involved. Further details can be found [here](#) and to register your interest please click [here](#)

Association of Volunteer Managers Conference 2012

Date: Wednesday 29 February 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, The County Hall, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7PB

Taking place on Wednesday 29 February, the theme for the AVM Conference this year will be '*Developing Ourselves Because No One Else Will*'. Recognising and Developing Volunteer Managers providing an opportunity to network and discuss volunteer management with people just like yourself. Further details are currently unavailable, so keep this date free and an eye on the [AVM](#) website for updates.

The Institute of Fundraising National Awards

The awards are available to organisations and individuals in the fundraising sector has a

particular impact with their fundraising achievements during the previous year. The deadline for applications is 1 March 2012.

(Source: Weekly Update Grantfinder, 23/11/11)

Climate Week 2012

Climate Week 2012 will take place between **12-18 March 2012**. If you haven't read about the winning entries from 2011 [click here](#) to find out more. Climate Week is a national campaign to inspire a new wave of action on climate change. It culminates with thousands of events and activities taking place throughout the week 12-18 March 2012, planned by organisations from every part of society. Showcasing real, practical ways to combat climate change, the campaign aims to renew our ambition to create a more sustainable, low-carbon future. The Climate Week Challenge in 2011 was Britain's biggest ever environmental competition, with over 145,000 people participating in the one-day and one-hour versions. You can register now for the 2012 Climate Week Challenge, which will be revealed on Monday 12 March. Entries are also now open for the Climate Week Awards. For more information, please visit the [Climate Week website](#).

South Wales Volunteering Forum

'To Tweet or Not to Tweet? Managing Volunteers in a Digital World'

Date: 14 March

Venue: Novotel Cardiff

Keynote speaker: Nicole McNeely from Capital Law in Cardiff

Trainer: Kim Townsend from London's Media Trust

This is a networking and skills event for Volunteer Managers across South Wales. The event will take a look at the legal pitfalls of Social Media and ways to ensure that your organisation has the correct protections in place. Delegates will be encouraged to take a strategic break and understand how social media can add value to their communications, reassess its place within their organisation and realise its potential to assist volunteer management

Additionally, the session will emphasise how to network on social media with other charity and community groups and the best way to develop a forum in which each delegate can continue meaningful communications and ways of working with one another after the conference.

Recession Buster Price £65 (non-refundable) includes lunch and refreshments

Book online at www.regonline.co.uk/swvf2012 or contact Christine at c.watson@swansea.ac.uk 01792 513185 for details and booking form.

Using the Volunteering Impact Assessment Toolkit - Personal and organisational development

Date: 20 March

Venue: Baltic House, Cardiff

Trainer: Bryan Collis

Aims: To introduce participants to the key principles of impact assessment and enable them to use the Volunteering Impact Assessment Toolkit to carry out an impact assessment of volunteering in their own organisation or project.

This one-day course will help you understand the basics of impact assessment; looking at the stakeholders involved, scoping an assessment, selecting tools to use, analyzing information and findings and reporting to different audiences. The toolkit (retail price £35) is included in the price of the course, and includes access to an internet based resource centre.

The day will involve lots of practical exercises and relevant case studies and enable you to work on areas of your own impact assessment to take back to your organisation. For full details please visit our [website](#)

Diary Marker - WCVA annual volunteering conference 2012

This year's Volunteering Conference is due to take place at Venue Cymru, Llandudno in North Wales on Wednesday 19 September 2012. The theme will be 'Volunteering in a digital age'. We are planning hands-on practical workshops including digital stories. Further updates on the event will be included in future editions of Volunteer News and posted on the WCVA website as soon as information becomes available.

[Return to contents](#)

Case Studies

Explore Internship helped Hannah secure a job! -Hannah Keen tells us about her internship with the Alzheimer's Society

My PR internship with the Alzheimer's Society in Cardiff was initially for three months, however because of the fantastic team I was working with I stayed on for six months, only regretfully leaving due to my heavy work load during my final year at University.

When I started my internship I was apprehensive as to whether I would actually be able to transfer the skills I had learnt at University to real life work. My concerns were quickly dissolved as I found that I was able to ask as many questions as I liked and I had a team around me that were more than happy to help. Not only did they provide me with as much information as I needed but they made me feel as much as part of the team as many of the employees that had been with the society for years! This enabled me to learn quickly and helped me to develop my knowledge of PR.

I was allowed to take control of my own projects that included organising five events over Dementia Awareness Week and securing press coverage which really pushed me to work on my own initiative. By allowing me to have these responsibilities not only did I take great pride in the events but I also built a great contact base for future work.

The PR Industry is where I want to find work once I graduate next summer. My internship with the Alzheimer's Society has provided me with such valuable experience and I feel it has greatly improved my job prospects. In fact my internship led to me being head hunted by another organisation and I have had a job offer on completing my studies.

I would recommend an internship to anyone who is currently studying. There are endless positives to this kind of work. It allows you to develop your skills, increase your employability and it demonstrates a level of dedication and willingness to succeed and provides you with a platform for making new friends and working relationships.

Barnardo's Cymru - Merthyr Partnership GwirVol Project

Andrew had previously been a beneficiary of the Barnardo's Young Carers' Service and was asked to consider becoming a volunteer as part of the GwirVol Project. Andrew knew Barnardo's and the staff well and thought: 'why not!'

The current young carers knew Andrew well and he has felt that this has helped them to relate to him. He has found that young carers have readily shared their worries with him knowing that he understood how difficult their lives could be.

In addition to volunteering within the young carers group, Andrew has also volunteered within the Barnardo's Flying Start Project - supporting activities within a play setting to pre-schoolers.

Andrew feels that volunteering has helped him to gain important experience and skills which will help him to gain paid work for the future. Andrew because of his own experience as a volunteer now wants to become a Youth Worker.

Andrews says that volunteering has helped him gain confidence and boost his self esteem. Volunteering he says: 'has helped me to feel I can make a difference and have something important to offer.'

His lasting memory of volunteering is: seeing the children from troubled lives coming to have fun and simply being children.

One message he would give to other young people considering volunteering: 'Have a go, it's worth it!' Further information regarding Barnardo's Cymru can be found on the official [website](#).

[Return to contents](#)

The next edition of Volunteer News will be published in March. In the meantime we value any feedback you may have on this newsletter - please send your comments to: nnicholls@wcva.org.uk

End of Volunteering News

Disclaimer

Inclusion of third party information in Volunteering News does not constitute an endorsement by WCVA. WCVA takes no responsibility for the quality of third party events, products or services featured in this briefing. Whilst every care is taken to provide accurate information, neither WCVA nor the editor undertakes any liability for any error or omission. If you wish to be deleted from this mailing list, please email help@wcva.org.uk.

Volunteering News is published by:

Wales Council for Voluntary Action

Registered Charity No. 218093

Registered Company No. 425299

Registered Address: Baltic House
Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff CF10 5FH