

VOLUNTARY ACTION



Voluntary Action North
East Lincolnshire



VOLUNTEERS' WEEK COMES TO AN END. BUT VOLUNTEERING CONTINUES...

Volunteers' Week is over for another year (1-7th June) and it was great to meet up with so many volunteers and volunteer managers/coordinators over the course of the week. VANEL got involved with three main events during the week (reports inside) and we're sure your own organisations were busy continuing to work with (and celebrate) your valuable (invaluable) volunteers.

This issue of our newsletter focuses heavily on volunteering and the follow up to Volunteer's Week, with just a bit of other news thrown in. And our mobile volunteering service is still busy being out and about around Grimsby, Immingham and Cleethorpes, so read more about that inside too - especially how we can help you to coordinate your volunteering efforts.

Volunteers' Week may be over (for the 31st year!), but volunteering rolls on and on, with people continuing to invest their time, skills, energy and emotions to support and help local charities, voluntary groups, their communities and other people. VANEL continues to champion and support volunteering in as many ways as we can, so we'd love to talk to you about how we can help your organisation.

One theme we've been pushing during Volunteers' Week was how to say 'thank you' to your volunteers. We've tweeting via [#31thankyous](#) on Twitter. Why not join in the conversation and share how you say thank you to your volunteers. Continue reading for VANEL's roundup of all things volunteering this month...

JUNE 2015

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VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

What were we doing?

During Volunteers' Week VANEL got involved with **three main activities**. Along with volunteer managers and coordinators from across Lincolnshire, we all met up at Lincoln Showground on the Thursday for the first V:EXPO. On the Wednesday we were helping local organisations to engage with younger potential volunteers at our Speed Matching event at Grimsby Institute, and on Tuesday we hosted our Volunteer Manager and Coordinators networking meeting in Immingham.

V:EXPO

Regional conference to promote excellence and innovation in volunteering

More than 100 volunteer managers from across greater Lincolnshire gathered at a special conference to promote innovation. The **V:Expo 2015** took place during national Volunteers' Week at the Epic Centre based at the Lincolnshire Showground in West Lindsey, on **Thursday, June 4 between 10am and 4pm**.

Delegates had the opportunity to discuss excellence in volunteering as well as the challenges ahead and shared new ideas and opportunities.

Volunteering Lincolnshire, part of Involving Lincs organised the conference called **V:Expo 2015** in conjunction with Anglian Water and West Lindsey District Council.

Amongst other topics, the event explored the following:

- micro-volunteering
- social media and volunteering
- skype mentoring
- heritage
- young people
- sport
- Lincolnshire Volunteer Card



Keynote speakers were Kevin Curley CBE and Rob Jackson. Kevin has a strong background in volunteering and was awarded his CBE for his services to voluntary and community sector. Rob Jackson, Director of Rob Jackson Consulting Ltd advised delegates on how to use social media and ICT to encourage volunteering.

Dianne Slapp, Chair of Volunteering Lincolnshire said: "There are chal-

lenges ahead, but also great opportunities for volunteer involving organisations and we hope this conference has inspired delegates towards further innovation and creativity.

"We are also extremely grateful to our partners, **Anglian Water** who have sponsored the event and will be promoting their Keep it clear campaign to delegates and West Lindsey District Council who have hosted the event at The EPIC Centre.

Both Jenny Hodson and Jacky Birkett attended V:EXPO and report back on a valuable day had by all. Watch out for more 'lessons learned' being shared in due course.



VANEL DURING VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

Speed Matching at GifHE

Wednesday in Volunteers' Week saw an event take place at Grimsby Institute to encourage students into volunteering. As organisations we have spent hours of our time at events where we just stand around and occasionally talk to someone; this time each organisation attending was given just two minutes to sell their opportunities to students who came round.

Chris Harkness, one of the Learning Mentors at the Institute, organised the event in conjunction with Jenny Hodson, VANEL, and recruited students to come along and visit the stands. A number of GifHE staff members came along to find out more as well.

A number of students registered their interest in various opportunities that Grimsby and District Live at Home Scheme, NAViGO, Grimsby Pride and the Alzheimers Society promoted. Staff from the Northern Lincolnshire Volunteer Service were also on hand to promote other types of volunteering, including micro volunteering, residential trips, trusteeship and setting up your own project.

A big thank you to all who attended and to Chris Harkness in particular from Grimsby Institute for helping to make the event such a great success. Thanks to all involved.

Volunteer Manager Networking Meeting in Immingham

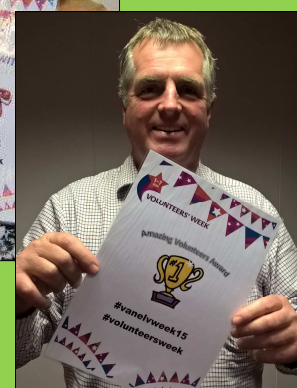
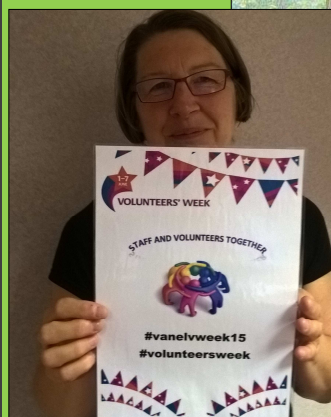
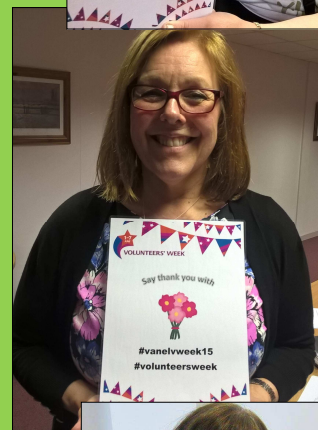
VANEL hosted another of our now regular Volunteer Managers and Coordinators Networking Meetings in Immingham during Volunteers' Week. A dozen participants from a range of organisations from across Northern Lincolnshire spent a few hours discussing current issues and best practices around volunteer management. The session specifically looked at ways to write **clear and effective volunteer role descriptions** with examples shared from around the group.

The open discussions also questioned support for volunteer committee members, we looked at volunteer related

news from the attendees and had a lengthy discussion around the current status of Do-it as well as an update on the Volunteer Service that VANEL and VANEL now jointly deliver across Northern Lincolnshire.

It was good to see a roomful of likeminded participants wanting to learn together about good/best practices around volunteer management, and we look forward to welcoming them and others back to our next meeting of the Network.

(Keep an eye on the VANEL website for details of dates and venues of next meetings.)



What's happening with Do-it ?

Do-it

BETA
Be more

If you manage the volunteers within and for your organisation, then you won't have failed to notice how Do-it has been changing. These changes were hotly discussed during our Volunteer Managers meeting in Immingham during Volunteers' Week, and Jacky Birkett who leads Volunteering Services across Northern Lincolnshire for VANEL and VANL has an update:

You may be aware that the Do-it website, used by Volunteer Centres to advertise volunteer opportunities on behalf of local organisations, has been relaunched as a new website. Over the past few months Volunteer Centres up and down the country have found all sorts of problems with the site, which is still in BETA format, which we understand this essentially means 'DRAFT'.

Within the Volunteer Centre we have spent a huge amount of time going through all of the information migrated from the original site to ensure it is fully up to date. Unfortunately there have been many occasions when we have amended organisation and opportunity details only to find that the next day, the information has disappeared. Volunteers themselves are also finding the new site extremely difficult to negotiate and number of online applications are dropping nationally.

We are now asking all of our partners to support us in this quest to ensure all information is as up to date and accurate as possible. This will improve the volunteer experience when they search for opportunities.

If we have advertised for your organisation I would be grateful if you could:

- access the website www.do-it.org and search for your own organisation
- when (and if) found, please check your organisation details. If there is anything missing or you would like us to update your details, please complete contact us and let us know.
- if you have a photo of your organisation that you would like us to upload for you, please send it to us.

Now please look at the opportunities advertised for your organisation.

- please let us know if there are any opportunities missing that you still wish us to advertise for you. Let us know via our opportunities form
- please check the opportunities displayed - are the details still correct? If not, again let us know
- have you developed new volunteer opportunities that are not displayed? If so, guess what? Let us know.

VANEL is getting in touch with all the volunteering host organisations we've worked with, so you should have been contacted about this independently, but please help us to help you to use Do-it by informing us of anything that needs updating.

We will also be circulating a questionnaire in the near future to find out how VANEL can best support our partner organisations. I hope you are able to take the time to complete the questionnaire and return it to us.

So please visit www.do-it.org and check out how your organisation is represented there and then talk to us at VANEL so we can help you make the most of Do-it.

Some excellent local news for Dial-a-Ride on the back of Volunteer's Week 2015...

"Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Dial-a-Ride are very proud to be a recipient of the 2015 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The announcement was made on 2nd June to coincide with the anniversary of the Queen's coronation and is described as "The MBE for Voluntary Organisations".

The award is the highest accolade for voluntary service in the land and so well deserved by the dedicated band of volunteers who ARE Dial-a-Ride. They turn out in all weathers to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our community are able to get out and about and retain their independence for as long as possible. They are more than just drivers to our passengers - they are their friends - helping out in any way they can. Dial-a-Ride is not medical based: it can be used for any purpose within North East Lincolnshire. We take people to clubs, to visit friends, to do their shopping, to visit the cinema and, every other week, on a Saturday day trip to venues outside the area. Between them they make in excess of 60,000 passenger journeys each year and, at basic rate wage, contribute £260,000 worth of unpaid hours to achieve this.

Receiving this award, which will be presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire later this summer, has given the drivers an immense boost and sense of achievement. To have what they cheerfully contribute recognised in this way is authentication of their value within the county and they will be reminded of that every time they walk into the office and see their certificate and the crystal bearing the award's insignia."

Midge Curry, Dial-a-Ride



VOLUNTEERING THEMES

Volunteering comes in all shapes and sizes. But over the past month we've been exploring a number of thematic areas of volunteering so to be able to keep some focus! Vicky Campbell wrote a number of initial articles on the VANEL website, followed up more recently with 'reflections' articles looking again at the same themes.

Our themes have been:

- Volunteering and Health
- Volunteering and the Environment
- Volunteering as Trustees
- Digital Volunteering

Visit www.vanel.org.uk to read all of Vicky's articles.

Here Vicky takes a look back over our Volunteers' Week themes and we put together a few notes on some of these themes.

Looking back on Volunteers' Week

By Vicky Campbell

This week has been an incredible week of celebrating the work of volunteers; starting with the articles that I have been writing in the lead up to the week, continuing with the events that we have been part of during the week, tweets and ending with this article and the celebratory Volunteers Week edition of our monthly newsletter.

Volunteers Week is all about saying thank you to your volunteers; saying the words can be the most obvious way, but saying it can make some people feel uncomfortable; in creating the list of ways to say thank you we have hopefully inspired you with other ways to thank your volunteers for the time and effort that they share with you.

What we have also explored are the variety of volunteering opportunities that are out there; lots of people still believe that all volunteering is are shops and admin. Volunteering is so much more than that! This was an opportunity to step back and remind ourselves of the breadth of opportunity available as well as the benefits to the mental and physical health of volunteers.

I have been a hidden volunteer when I was a School Governor, and that was a role that brought its own rewards; what this week has made me realise was that I have been volunteering much more than I had considered. I am a microvolunteer; I regularly donate old clothes, books and toys to charity. I take part in cake sales. I have taken part in sponsored events.

We all do what we can to support the causes that we believe in and whether we realise it or not this is all volunteering. So this leaves me with just one thing to say – Thank You!!

Thank you for anything that you are able to do to support the causes that you believe in and making a difference in any way that you can.

Thank You. Vicky.



Trustees & Committee Members are Volunteers too.

As you will have read in our Trustee focused articles, trustees/committee members are a critical part of the non-profit community, yet are often under-recognised for the fact that they are volunteers, nor do they always receive the support they need in that role. Many charities actively support their other volunteer through processes, training, support and a staff point of contact - the volunteer manager. But who provides that support to the charity trustees? The chair (who is also a volunteer)?

VANEL is working hard to offer support around trusteeship, committee skills, organisational governance and so on. We can currently offer:

governance related training - we have a "roles and responsibilities of trustees" course on offer, but also provide bespoke training (small or large) for boards or individual trustees

Tea and Trustees - our monthly drop-in at Grimsby Minster (last Friday of the month) for any trustees or those interested in governance issues

an online forum for all VANEL member organisations as a space where your trustees/committee members can share ideas, ask questions, get support and discuss their issues. We're looking to provide more and more specific support around trusteeship and governance, but it all starts with you. If you are on a committee and need support or advice or need to consider training then why not contact VANEL to see how we can help. Karl Elliott leads on this theme so contact him via karl@vanel.org.uk or 01472 361043.

Summer Holidays with a difference...

It's summer! What about looking for a CHEAP HOLIDAY where you can learn new skills, make new friends, get away with friends cheap or even go alone? Volunteer to support a group with away events and you can have a holiday into the bargain! Everyone is on these holidays for the same reason, so friendships form overnight and no one is ever left to feel they are alone. Try everything from helping on holidays for the partially sighted, to getting down and dirty cleaning canals or restoring tow paths and natural landmarks, study and restore architecture or research archaeology, plant trees or get involved with wild life. If this is not to your taste did you know instead of paying to attend large music festivals you can go as a volunteer and still have time to watch some of your favourite bands?

If you are interested in such a volunteering opportunity, or your organisation offers something like this, then get in touch with us in the Volunteer Centre to tell us!

Every volunteer has a different experience, has a different reason for being a volunteer, and gets a different reward from it. In the follow up to Volunteers' Week we just wanted to share a couple of personal volunteering perspectives with you. Louis and Vicky both work have day jobs, but with other 'hats' on, they also volunteer in very different ways.

So here are their perspectives...

Louis - my perspective

Hello, my name is Louis, I have been volunteering for 4 years now.

I started volunteering within the Police Community Safety Team. My aim is to eventually become a full time Police Officer, so I set about working towards this by volunteering. My current Volunteer roles are: Police Community Safety, Street Angels and Special Constable, these volunteer positions will enhance my skills, knowledge and experience towards my end goal of achieving Police Officer status. A general overview of my current positions are:

Police Community Safety Team: this entails a small team of us participating in community events, setting up stalls to promote Immobilise and inform the public on how to prevent their property from being stolen, and how it can be a little easier to trace back.

Special Constabulary: the duty of a special constable is being a fully warranted volunteer Police Officer, this includes, instant responses to incidents, hi-vis patrolling and attending events within the community to advise and also prevent anti-social behaviour.

If you would like more information or would like to become a Police Volunteer or a Special Constable then enquire on: www.humberside.police.uk/join-us

Street Angel: the duty of a street angel is to patrol around the pubs and clubs within Cleethorpes on a Saturday evening between 2200pm and 0230am, looking out for vulnerable people, including the drunks, distributing flip flops if specifically the females have had enough of their high heels. We also look out for empty glasses/bottles so we can put them in the bin, as in a heated moment, they are more than likely to be used as a weapon, also a prevention if they smash it saves a few cuts.

If you would like more information about Street Angels or may want to become a Street Angel then email: Jackie@nelcitychurch.org.uk for an application.

Volunteering for me has been an eye opener and very rewarding, not only when I achieved the Lincolnshire High Sheriffs Award, but in being able to give something back to the community, help all kinds of people and particularly those who are vulnerable.

Volunteering has also enhanced my curriculum vitae, knowledge and strengthens applications for future job prospects. Who knows, you may even get a job out of volunteering!!

Louis

PERSPECTIVES ON VOLUNTEERING



When I was a School Governor - by Vicky

As a young person I had always wanted to become a School Governor when I became a parent, I thought that it was an ideal opportunity to support the school that my children attended.

Back in 2011 I joined the Governing Body for my children's school; as with many dreams the reality was greatly different to the imagination. I had taken the time to meet with the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors when information had first gone out; this was a chance to find out more about the role and the school.

Along with a number of others I was able to attend training in order to gain a greater understand of what was expected of me; the training was delivered in 3 sessions across a term, which wasn't ideal – I would have preferred to have received it over a period of 3 weeks, it was too intensive and heavy to try to deliver over one day.

The first year of being a Governor was intense and each meeting was a steep learning curve; the full Governing Body only meets once a term, but there are specific issues that crop up for each meeting. Speaking up when you don't understand something feels like a huge thing, but that is how you learn. One of the key roles of a School Governor is to challenge the Head Teacher and how do you do that if you don't understand what people are talking about?

Once I had been there a year I was able to join a sub-committee; which meant an extra meeting per term, but also added to the input that I was able to give the school.

I took every opportunity that I could in order to support the school; from volunteering with them to auditing classes to attending events at the school. I gave the time that I could and was often the only governor who attended at some events.

For many, schools and governors, that is enough; for me it wasn't enough. I could see that in order to be a good governor, I needed to be able to go the extra mile and spend more time in the school getting to know the staff, pupils and become an ambassador for the school. In something as important as this being OK will never be enough; I needed to be outstanding and knowing that I did not have the time to commit to do this I stepped down. After all, if you cannot deliver the time and commitment needed to be outstanding, how will you support the school to achieve outstanding with OFSTED?

One thing that I have seen during my time in the voluntary sector is that in order to have an organisation that drives an agenda forward you need to have a trustee (management) board that are prepared to drive you the extra mile to be an outstanding organisation. Why should that be any different for a school?

Vicky

NEWS

Hands up for Nature

Humber Conservation Volunteers are always looking for new volunteers to help nature conservation in North and North East Lincolnshire!

If you fancy lending a hand to help local wildlife and at the same time enjoy the countryside and meet new friends, as well as learning more about the countryside, don't hesitate to get in touch! You can learn traditional skills such as hedgelaying and woodland management and keep yourself fit at the same time!

(photo: Marie tries her hand at hedgelaying at Goxhill Millennium Green. As well as laying over a hundred yards of hedge, scores of trees have also been planted at the site. Marie is now training to use a chainsaw to use chain oil instead of elbow grease!)

There are usually two tasks per month, one midweek on a Wednesday and one at the weekend on a Sunday, though extra events take place as and when and there is always plenty to do.

If you want know more and get involved you can contact Karen, the Secretary, at HCV via Facebook or by contacting Alan at Humber Nature Partnership on 01652 631 523 email alan.jones@humburnature.co.uk.



Building Better Opportunities Humber launches !

Communities across Yorkshire and the Humber are set to benefit from more than £6.5 million supporting people most in need to develop the skills and tools to overcome barriers to work, education and training.

The Big Lottery Fund is for the first time matching funds from the European Social Fund (ESF) to provide joint investment in three local projects tackling the root causes of poverty, promoting social inclusion and driving local jobs and growth.

The project in the Humber LEP area will provide engaging activities for unemployed and inactive people to help them develop their own skills, boost their chances of getting a job and build community resilience.

We've posted a full press release on the VANEL website so you can read more about the entire Big Lottery/ESF programme, the local Building Better Opportunities Humber programme and information about contacts and what happens next.

Visit www.vanel.org.uk for more news.



Volunteer Centre

North East Lincolnshire

We are now offering a Brokerage Service from Immingham, Cleethorpes and Grimsby on the following days and venues:



Immingham

Every Tuesday 9.30 – 5.00

Various locations around Immingham – We will provide venue details in Immingham when you book an appointment.

Cleethorpes

Every Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30

The Pavilion, Sussex Recreation Ground, Brereton Avenue, Cleethorpes. Make an appointment or just drop in for a chat with a Volunteer Advisor.

Grimsby

Every Friday 9.30 – 12.30

The Minster (St. James Church), St. James Square, Grimsby DN31 1EP. We are based in the Minster, just inside the main door. Pop in while you're shopping or book an appointment with a Volunteer Advisor.

To make an appointment with a Volunteer Advisor by email liz@vanel.org.uk or telephone 01472 231123

Who can access the Volunteer Service?

PEOPLE THAT WANT TO VOLUNTEER

We offer free one-to-one confidential appointments for people who want to volunteer at the above venue. Find the venue that suits you! Want your client to find out more about volunteering? If so choose the best venue above and contact us to make an appointment.

GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS THAT NEED VOLUNTEERS

Need more volunteers or want to develop a volunteer programme? We can help you recruit volunteers and to develop a volunteer programme that meets best practice standards. Have you achieved the Supporting Volunteers Award? We can help your organisation achieve the SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERS AWARD which demonstrates that you provide a good quality volunteering experience. Ring and make an appointment to find out how you can achieve SVA. We can come to you or you can come to us.

GROUPS AND BUSINESSES THAT WANT TO HELP OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY

We provide support, advice and guidance to groups and local businesses that want to do more to help others in the community – contact us to find out how your group or business can get involved. We can match you with those that need support.

www.vanel.org.uk

www.facebook.com/volunteergy

[@vaneltalk](https://www.facebook.com/volunteergy)



www.vanel.org.uk - @vaneltalk - 01472 231123 - office@vanel.org.uk

VANEL RETAINS QUALITY AWARD

VANEL always aims to deliver a quality service to our members and communities, and we're very pleased this month to be able to announce that we've just been re-accredited with the NAVCA Quality Award.



We've held this quality accreditation for a good number of years, and regular accreditations are a great way to make sure we're continually keeping our focus on services that properly support our member organisations and the communities they serve.

The **NAVCA** (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) Quality Award is a rigorous examination of the delivery of local infrastructure services such as those VANEL provides and demands excellence across four performance standards, covering 17 outcomes required for initial certification as well as five areas of baseline activity. The four standards are:

Standard 1; Development - The organisation supports the identification of needs in the local community and facilitates innovation and improvements in service provision to meet those needs.

Standard 2; Support - The organisation supports local voluntary organisations and community groups to fulfil their missions more effectively.

Standard 3; Collaboration - The organisation facilitates effective communication and collaboration amongst local voluntary organisations and community groups and between different sectors.

Standard 4; Influence - The organisation supports local voluntary organisations and community groups to influence policies, plans and practices that have an impact on their organisations and beneficiaries.

Thanks to everyone across the VANEL staff team, our volunteers and our Trustees for working so hard to ensure VANEL keeps up our quality standard of work and was able to achieve this reaccreditation. Hopefully, you as our Member organisations see this quality coming through in our interactions with you, and in fact, we'll be asking you for your feedback very soon in our annual members survey.

VANEL furniture gets a new home

As a consequence of moving VANEL staff from the Elms into smaller office space at the Willows, we ended up with a range of office furniture that was surplus.



Over the past few weeks, nearly a dozen groups have collected furniture from us so that it can be put to good use in their own organisations. Thanks to everyone who's collected furniture and many thanks in particular to those organisations who made a donation for the furniture.

We've still got a very limited number of items left - including now a number of flat screen computer monitors - so keep an eye on the VANEL website (news pages) for details of anything we've got left. VANEL inherited much of this office furniture ourselves in the first place, so making sure it has a reuse out in the community is important to us.

Community Health Champions

Could you be a Volunteer Health Champion?

VANEL is working alongside North East Lincolnshire Council's Developing Healthier Communities team to promote a new drive to recruit Community Health Champions. We'll look to recruit volunteers who will be trained and supported to champion health and wellbeing messages to communities across North East Lincolnshire.

This is a great volunteering opportunity for individuals, but is great for community health too. More information will be online on the VANEL website in due course, and you can contact healthchampion@vanel.org.uk for more information.

www.vanel.org.uk

Follow us on twitter @vaneltalk @vaneldigital @enfusegy



Volunteer Centre
North East Lincolnshire



Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire

enfuse
Helping Young People. Help Communities.
Help Themselves

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