

VOLUNTEER READING HELP

VRH was founded as a charity which recruits volunteers to go into primary schools to help children who have reading difficulties. I heard about VRH from my mother, who brought home a leaflet from a W.I. meeting. I decided to join as I had done a lot of work in various primary schools before. However, that is not to say that one has to have any previous experience or ambitions to teach, all that is needed is patience and time.

I spent only six months at the Wychwood School as a volunteer after completing the training sessions in Witney. I have found these last few months very rewarding, and being a volunteer puts you on a totally different level with the child, as you are neither teacher nor parent. Working on a one-to-one basis is a fundamental part of VRH's philosophy, for it is that extra bit of attention which is designed to act as a stimulant to the child in order that he/she may find reading a more pleasurable and rewarding experience.

Normally a volunteer has three children from any age group and sees them for thirty minutes each, twice a week, during the school year. Three hours is a minimal amount of time but so vital for the child, who in my experience begins to look forward to the sessions. Of course as we got to know each other the sessions became geared to his/her interests, although never detracting from the purpose of VRH - so by using all sorts of media - books, comics, games, newspapers and atlases, it acts to widen the scope of the knowledge acquired. Little preparation makes a thirty minute session jam-packed and highly beneficial, although it has to be remembered that a volunteer is not a teacher but a trusted friend.

I hope this will give an insight into a charity which does so much good. Most importantly, I would like to think that some of you, of any age and either sex may be able to find the time and dedication to offer VRH your help. Anyone willing to complete the training would be more than welcome at the Wychwood School.

Those interested should contact Janice Waller or Carol Stark, VRH West Oxon, The Henry Box School, Witney, Oxon. Telephone 0993 771294.

Catherine Sladen.

WYCHWOOD BOWLS CLUB

The club had a good start to the season, winning most of the matches. The open evenings were a great success, which resulted in the club gaining eleven new members. Most of our club members who entered the County competitions were unfortunately knocked out in the first round. Our Lady Captain, Grace Barnes, on her first time of entering the County competitions has gone through to the QUARTER FINALS of the County Ladies, and the club wish her the best of luck for the next round.

Grace was also selected to play for the County at Stratford-on-Avon last month. Grace and her husband Jim have won two rounds in the regional McCarthy and Stone competition along with Barbara and Colin Pearce who are going forward to the fourth round. Colin is also in the fourth round of the Champion of Champions, which then goes on to a National competition.

Colin Pearce, Jim Barnes and Tom McQuay won the first round in the Oxford Times Triples. The club competitions are being played, and we hope they will be blessed with fine weather.

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