

Volunteering Alive and Well in the Wychwoods

Volunteer Link Up in the Wychwoods

Do you have some time on your hands?
If so, how about volunteering?

Volunteer Link Up, the Volunteer Centre for West Oxfordshire, was established in 1983. A fully registered charity, we recruit volunteers for more than 100 local organisations, as well as for our own 'in-house' projects: transport, befriending and practical tasks.

We now also cover Charlbury, Leafield and the Wychwoods.

Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, enhance your CV and meet new people. We are seeking **volunteer drivers** willing to use their own vehicle to pick up clients and deliver them to medical and other appointments. You can choose which journeys you want to do and we pay mileage and other expenses.

Our befriending service exists to provide long-term emotional support to people who may feel lonely, or who have difficulty getting out and about. We are looking for **volunteer befrienders** who can spare a few hours a week to visit people, usually in their own homes.

Our **practical help** service exists to help older and disabled people living on low incomes with basic gardening tasks and small DIY or decorating jobs. If you can spare as little as two hours a month, please get in touch.

To find out more please call Liz Williamson, Volunteer Co-ordinator on: 07545 923327 or 01993 776277 or pop into Volunteer Link Up's office at The Methodist Church, 10 Wesley Walk, Witney between 9:00am and 1:00pm, Monday to Friday for an informal chat.

Busy Days Ahead for Milton Village Volunteers

2010 has been another successful year for the Volunteers, as most of the tasks scheduled have been accomplished and we are now looking forward to this year. Instead of meeting once a month we will move to a more concentrated involvement but less often. There are still on-going projects to be seen to; the **village seats** will need another look; the **flower beds** are on-going as are the **notice board** monitoring and the **work at the church**. Last year while we were tidying up the churchyard we uncovered a headstone that had been 'buried' for many years under accumulated leaf fall. This has prompted further investigation. Also continuing this year is our involvement with our library's '**Silver Surfing**' programme. This year we are looking at

organising several one-off events to support the village. We are planning a joint project with our Pre-school Group to provide them with a **sensory garden**. As soon as the Green is fit we hope to run a '**Spring Clean**' **car boot sale** and at our Summer Fete we are planning to mount a display of '**Hobbies and Home Crafts**', showcasing village skills. Unhappily, while I was setting up a **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme, there were some local burglaries. This has prompted the Volunteers to develop a much wider scheme throughout the village. Looking ahead to 2012 there is the **Queen's 60th anniversary of her accession** and we are looking at ways to celebrate, possibly with a 'Picnic on the Green'. Busy days!
Chris Trotman