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Volunteer News

The newsletter for Prospect Hospice volunteers

Issue 6 / Spring 2019



KNITTING FUNDRAISERS P3

PROSPECT PALS P5

YOUNG VOLUNTEERS P7

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Welcome From Su



Welcome to your spring edition of Volunteer News. It's nice to see the nights drawing out again, even if we haven't yet seen a change in the temperatures. It seems the weather has been our focus recently.

You can read inside about Graham's plan to identify 'bad weather drivers' – people who can help us out on an ad hoc basis if we experience more of the heavy snow that we saw last month.

There's also a focus on the Marlborough knitters, a social group of ladies who come together to share conversation, knitting tips and patterns, all whilst raising hundreds of pounds for the hospice through the cosy knits they create.

With the weather improving, springtime is garden party time, and we bring you a piece on the recent nominations for a valued staff member or volunteer to attend one such event at Buckingham Palace.

There's also a spotlight on some of our younger volunteers, and if you have a spare moment, there's even a quiz to test your musical knowledge!

And from the entire team, however you help us, in whatever capacity, thank you! We appreciate everything you do for Prospect Hospice.

Su Starkey
Head of Voluntary Services

Bad Weather Volunteer drivers

In light of the recent snow in February, voluntary services have now put a contingency plan in place so that in future, any bad weather does not disrupt the day to day activities of clinical staff which continue 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, come rain or shine.



Using the tremendous response from a social media call out for help, we are putting together a list of drivers who have 4x4 vehicles and can offer their assistance when the snow falls. With paperwork and references in place, this gives our staff the confidence to travel even when the conditions are bad.

Knitting Fundraisers

It's not often a genteel group of Marlborough ladies are asked to leave a public library, but that's just what happened to Kay Arthur and her friends in the Marlborough knitters group.



"We were talking too much," explains Kay. "We get together every other Thursday to share knitting tips and techniques. It's a very social group, and I think we were just too much for the library." Members knit everything from baby blankets and children's jumpers to scarves and hats, there's a renewed demand for cardigans for babies after they fell out of fashion for a while. They say that coming together gives them an opportunity to learn from each other, to keep abreast of what's likely to sell, and to raise valuable funds for the hospice, as well as benefiting from that all-important social aspect. Since November alone, the group has raised over £1,000 from selling the garments they make. An incredible achievement, and a great example of the fun to be had in supporting a great local cause. The noisy knitters have now found a new home at St Peter's Church Hall, where Kay advises that the coffee is excellent and no one minds about the chatter!



Spotlight on... Voluntary Services

Su Starkey

I work to ensure the experience for all our volunteers is as positive as possible. I also keep up-to-date with changing patterns of volunteering in the wider world. As a member of the senior leadership team, I work to make sure that volunteers and volunteering are considered in any strategic decisions we make. It's very uplifting to observe the seemingly limitless enthusiasm they have for their activities. Outside of work I attend live music events and live with lots of books and a cat called Brendon.

Katie Stewart

I am the Voluntary Services Administration and Projects Officer. I oversee the patient driver rota (ensuring patients can get to and from the hospice for treatments and Day Therapy), and organise volunteer events. I also manage the volunteer database and ensure everything is up to date. I am a staff forum member and first aider. When I am not at work I enjoy board games, reading (mostly Stephen King), movies, writing and spending time with my 5 boys (pet rats named Castiel, Benny, Azazel, Blade & Mulder).

Aly Stevens

Before retiring in 2015 I worked as an Admin Assistant to the Head of Retail. I missed it so much that I decided to volunteer. I support the shop managers and Voluntary Services by putting together paperwork for shop volunteers and ensure records are up to date. I highly recommend volunteering for the hospice. I also enjoy walking, singing (in a choir), reading and doing puzzles.



Prospect Pals...



Another great evening was had by our volunteers at the 4th Prospect pals quiz night at the Kings Arms on Friday 8 March.

Again volunteer Chris Ockwell and his wife Sue prepared the questions for the evening as well as keeping a close track on the scores and helping with the Raffle.

The winners on the evening were the "Golden Girls" consisting of Andrea, Jenny, Linda, Joan and Marion. Our raffle winner was volunteer Helen James from our College Street shop (pictured below).

Look out for more volunteer social events throughout the year via social media and the Voluntary Services Team.



Focus on our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers...

We are proud to have 84 young volunteers helping us in our shops around Swindon., some of them undertaking Duke of Edinburgh.

Scarlet and Max are two of our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers helping out at our Abbey Meads shop every Saturday.



Scarlet from Swindon has been volunteering at the Abbey Meads shop since November 2018. She loves every minute of it. Scarlet said: "There was one Saturday I couldn't make and I really missed it, everyone is kind and welcoming.

I have learnt so much since being here and would recommend it to anyone, especially those still at school and looking to improve their CV".

Max is 14, also from Swindon, has been volunteering for his Duke of Edinburgh award since October 2018, and can't speak highly enough of volunteering. He said: "I knew about Prospect Hospice through my nan who is also a volunteer in one of the shops, I really enjoy coming in and sorting the DVDs and CDs. I have gained so many skills since being here and think it's a great way for people to build up experience but also to meet new people."



Dorie, manager of the shop loves having the young volunteers there. She said, "They are such a huge asset and we all enjoy having them here. I really do appreciate all the time they give to help us."

Meef Kum Kum...

Kum Kum Bhati volunteers at our Media shop in Commercial Road.



She joined us in July 2018 as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Kum Kum said: "I was recommended to try Prospect as a place to volunteer by some friends who run a local business and they came with me when I enquired."

"I love the Media shop because there is so much to do but it also gives me the opportunity to look through the DVDs and books, I rotate stock, price up items and will soon be learning the till".

Kum Kum will take her GCSEs this year and has plans to then take A levels and go to university. "Volunteering is a great way to learn people skills and meet new people and I look forward to my visits". Kum Kum travels in by bus every week as she lives in Lambourn. "It takes about an hour each way to get into the shop, but it's always worth it."

Commonweal School

Working closer with the community has been a big part of the voluntary services plan over the last year and one of our success stories has come from teaming up with Commonweal School. We have three students currently visiting our Regent Street and Gorse Hill shops with their teachers to do some volunteering, but also to gain important life skills and build their confidence.

Feedback so far confirms the students are really enjoying their visits and we plan to make this a yearly programme with the school. (Pictured are Gemma and Steve from Commonweal School who support the visits).



CJ says...

As part of his Business Administration course at New College, CJ is working an apprenticeship at Prospect Hospice to learn more about how health organisations function.



CJ said: “The Voluntary Services team have helped me settle in and feel at home. I have only been in the team for a few weeks and the working relationships and friendships I have built with Katie and Graham makes it feel like months! The team allow me to get hands on, however if I do not feel as though I am confident enough to do it on my own they help me gain a better understanding. I have attended meetings and gone out to the shops to get a better understanding of what the Volunteering team do and how they conduct themselves in different situations. I have learnt a lot in a short space of time, not only skills related to Voluntary Services, but valuable life skills too.”

Name that tune!



Name all **six** songs and artists and enter our prize draw to win some chocolate. **Your clue...these songs all relate to volunteering!**

1. When I was younger, so much younger than today
2. So no one told you life was gonna be this way
3. When I go to sleep at night, you're always the part of my dreams
4. You can't go on thinking, nothing's wrong, but bye
5. Sometimes in our lives, we all have pain, we all have sorrow
6. You just call out my name and you know wherever I am, I'll come running

Call voluntary services on 01793 816193 or email volunteering@prospect-hospice.net with your answers by 30 April.

Good luck!