

## Volunteering Opportunities

There are hundreds of organisations in the Harrogate area which involve volunteers in their work. Different organisations have individual volunteer policies and so some may not be able to accept volunteers who are under 16 or under 18. For example, this may be due to issues such as insurance or safeguarding of vulnerable individuals. However, in the following pages, there is a listing of opportunities in the Harrogate District which welcome young people and students as volunteers.

### The Value of Volunteering

- Develop your skills, confidence, understanding and aspirations
- Gain valuable experience of working with a range of people, whom you otherwise may never have met
- Become involved in making a positive difference in your local community
- When added to your CV the experience could make the difference when you apply for your dream job
- Access interesting training opportunities and receive your expenses.
- Make new friends and have fun!

### What to consider before volunteering

Organisations are looking for volunteers who are reliable and can make and honour a commitment. So, before you start looking for roles it is worth considering:

- Whether you would like a short-term volunteer role (e.g. helping at an event or volunteering each week for a month) or a long-term volunteer role (e.g. committing to a couple of hours each week for a year).
- How much time you would like to give and what days of the week you are available.

It is also worth thinking about what you would like to get out of volunteering. Many people volunteer to gain experience or improve their existing skills. If you have a skill or an interest that you can offer to an organisation let them know about it, for example you may be studying photography, have an interest in music, a passion for working with young people or want to become a vet.

### What next?

Once you have found a role which interests you it is a good idea to get in touch with the organisation directly to find out more about the role and when volunteers are needed. It is worth noting that most Volunteer Managers are part time and so it may take them a while to get back to you via phone or email.

Many organisations will ask you to complete an application form. Application forms may ask for your contact details and some basic information about skills or experiences which might be useful. You will also be asked to provide a couple of references.

Most organisations will ask you to come in for an informal chat before you start volunteering. This is not a formal interview and you are under no obligation to volunteer after meeting with an organisation if you decide it is not for you.

Some roles may require you to have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check, for example if you are working with vulnerable people or children. This can take a few weeks. If a role requires a DBS check it is advisable to apply a month in advance of when you want to start volunteering.

### Examples of local volunteering opportunities:

#### *Follifoot Park Disabled Riders*

**Why?** We offer a warm welcome to cheerful, reliable people who would like to be part of our dedicated team. You don't have to know anything about horses - we provide full introductory and on-going training. If you would prefer not to work with live horses, then we would welcome your help with the disabled

people who ride STORM the mechanical horse. We also welcome help behind the scenes with administration in our office, so there are many ways in which you can make a difference. In return we offer you the opportunity to help us make riding enjoyable and rewarding for both you and our disabled friends.

**Where and when?** Follifoot Park Riding Centre. You can become as involved as you wish or just lend an hour of your time.

**How?** Please contact us on 01423 546161 or email us at [admin@follifootparkdrg.org.uk](mailto:admin@follifootparkdrg.org.uk) and we will send you an application form. Click [here](#) for more information.

### ***Bilton Conservation Group***

**Why?** If you feel you would like to get more involved in supporting your local environment, there are many ways in which you can help Bilton Conservation Group.

**Where and when?** Our regular volunteers meet on the first Saturday morning of every month, to undertake maintenance or project work in the Nidd Gorge area. We usually start at around 8.30am and continue until 12.30 (or later). Should you wish to Volunteer, we appreciate it is not always possible to commit to every month.

**How?** Click [here](#) to complete an online volunteer form. Unfortunately for insurance purposes, we **can't accept volunteers under 16 years old.**

### ***Make it Wild***

**Why?** Volunteering with **Make it Wild** is a great way to get some fresh air, do something useful, meet likeminded people and give a bit back to nature.

**Where and when?** You will get to spend time in beautiful Nidderdale, at our Bank Woods nature reserve, which is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, or by the banks of the Nidd near Kirk Hammerton at our young woodland, Sylvan. Various dates available throughout the year, during the winter months when we also need help with tree planting.

**How?** Please email [info@makeitwild.co.uk](mailto:info@makeitwild.co.uk) for up-to-date information about dates, locations and tasks, and if you would like to volunteer with us. Click [here](#) for further information.

### ***Ripon Museums Trust***

**Why?** Over 100 volunteers are actively involved in the wide range of flexible roles across our three sites and gardens. Whatever your interests and experience there is sure to be something which excites and interests you. If you are in Years 8-11 and would like to make a difference to your local community, bringing history to life and having fun, then get in touch.

**Where and when?** 3 Museum sites across Ripon, Workhouse Museum, Courthouse Museum and Prison & Police Museum. We can provide short and long-term work placements for school or college students.

**How?** If you are interested in joining us, please contact Vicki Lever, Volunteer and Operations Manager on 01765 690799 or email [freya.cox@riponmuseums.co.uk](mailto:freya.cox@riponmuseums.co.uk) Click [here](#) for more information.

### ***Artizan International***

**Why?** Help in our fairtrade shop or with hands-on craft sessions, serving in the Café or preparing food/baking in the kitchen. We are looking for buddies to work alongside our participants across the organisation from the Café to Artizan Organics. Alternatively, we need help with packaging cards from our projects in the developing world, DIY, organising our resources and many other tasks. There's something for anyone who'd like to help. For certain roles we would ask that you can work independently and also be able to support our participants. Get in touch for a chat, or a look around before you decide.

**Where and when?** Based in Harrogate. Spare a couple of hours each week, flexible with times/dates.

**How?** Enquire in person, call or email to find out more [volunteering@artizaninternational.org](mailto:volunteering@artizaninternational.org), 01423 561556/01423 509251. Cafe and Creative Space, Unit 4 Nidderdale House, Harrogate, HG1 1NS. Shop, 39 Oxford Street, Harrogate, HG1 1PW.

### ***Harrogate Easier Living Project***

**Why?** Help people across the Harrogate District live safe and well and stay connected with their communities. We have a variety of volunteer roles to suit everyone depending on your interests and the amount of time you have to give.

**Where and when?** Based in Ripon, Harrogate and surrounding district. We have one off, team and regular volunteering opportunities.

**How?** Click [here](#) for further information.

### ***Time Together***

**Why?** A local charity supporting individuals with additional needs to live life well, including those with autism spectrum conditions and learning or physical difficulties.

**Where and when?** Based in Starbeck, activities throughout the week – click [here](#) for more information.

**How?** Contact 01423 883992 or email [office@time-together.org](mailto:office@time-together.org)

### ***Ripon Community Link and Ripon Walled Garden***

**Why?** At Ripon Community Link you'll become part of a very friendly team who really value the contribution our volunteers make. They have a range of opportunities, which include: working in the Garden, helping in the Tea Room or at our popular coffee mornings, assisting with our sports, craft or dance sessions, admin work or general maintenance. We support a wide range of people with a mild or moderate learning disability some of whom may also have a physical disability.

**Where and when?** Based in Ripon, two sites based at Ripon Walled Garden and St Wilfrid's Bungalow. Flexible days/times.

**How?** Click [here](#) for the online application form.

### ***Disability Action***

**Why?** We are a charity and social enterprise, providing services that create opportunities for disabled people to live the lifestyle of their choosing. Your help is vital to the people we support and assists in providing solutions for disabled people whatever their aspiration may be.

**Where and when?** Based at Hornbeam Park, Harrogate. Flexible dependent on the availability of the volunteer and learners.

**How?** Search volunteering opportunities and apply online [here](#)

### ***Orb Community Arts***

**Why?** Orb helps people improve their mental health & wellbeing and lead fuller lives through being creative, learning new skills and volunteering in a supportive and inclusive space.

**Where and when?** Based in Knaresborough, weekdays and role dependent.

**How?** View volunteer roles at Orb [here](#) or contact [admin@orb-arts.org](mailto:admin@orb-arts.org) 01423 202028.

### ***Carers' Resource***

**Why?** Come and join the Carers' Resource team of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers and be a vital part of the excellent support we give to carers and other people who need us.

**Where and when?** Based in Harrogate, dates and times dependent on role.

**How?** Click [here](#) for their volunteering opportunities or contact 07761 510603.

Volunteering opportunities are endless! Search [here](#) for more volunteer roles within the Harrogate District. Check the individual organisations and charities for more information.

**Careers Department**

**St. Aidan's and St John Fisher Schools**