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Formerly known as Thornbury & District Volunteer Link - Member of NCVO – Registered Charity No1180775

Annual Report 2021-2022

For the year ending 31 March 2022



Volunteers have played a key role in mitigating the malign effects of Covid during the past exceptionally difficult couple of years. People from all walks of life around the UK have — much more than usual — taken the time to volunteer and make a difference in their communities.

Volunteers' Week gives us the opportunity to recognise you all, not only if you have continued delivering vital work as volunteers but also if you usually volunteer but haven't been able to because of the pandemic.

Covid's effects have rightly raised the profile of volunteering and more people than ever are aware of the contribution made every day by Britain's volunteers, supplying and supporting many of the services we rely on. You make our communities strong.

That is why, during this 38th annual Volunteers' Week it's time to ask all the new volunteers who have come forward and all those who volunteer regularly to please accept our great and grateful thanks.

Thank you, volunteers.

To those of you who are thinking of volunteering, we look forward to hearing from you.

REDUCED SUMMER OPENING

Our offices will be open Monday and Wednesday mornings only from Monday 25 July until Friday 2 September. Normal hours of Monday-Friday 10.30am-12 noon resume on Monday 5 September.

Thornbury Volunteer Centre is run by a team of volunteers and a part time employee with the aim of promoting all aspects of voluntary work in Thornbury and its district. A registered charity, we fulfil the Charity Commission's aim of ensuring that all charities are of benefit to the public and the communities which they serve.

The Accounts

Copies of our annual accounts are available on request. The Centre's reserves policy is to maintain its reserves at such a level as to ensure that as at the 1 April each year sufficient funds are available to maintain at least two years' activity broadly at the level of 2021-2022, thereby enabling, if necessary, an orderly winding up of the charity to be achieved. In setting the level of reserves the costs of any statutory redundancy payments or other legal payments for which the Centre might be liable will be taken into account.

Volunteer Co-ordinators

The Centre operates with a team of volunteer co-ordinators who attend the office daily on a rota. The co-ordinators are the backbone of the Centre and donate their time on a regular basis. So, to all past and current volunteers we offer our grateful thanks.

Trustees

Our Management Committee has remained the same this year and our trustees ensure that we operate within the guidelines set by our Constitution, the Charity Commission and NCVO.

The Centre

The office operated virtually between March - August 2021 and mid-December to January 2022 but re-opened to the public fully at the beginning of February 2022. We have a large database of current volunteering opportunities, both locally, regionally and nationally.

Paid Workers

Kim Webb is our paid employee working 15 hours a week, funded in part by South Glos Council. Kim worked from home throughout the office closures and taken full responsibility for the work of the Centre during this time.

Internet and Social Media

Michael Quinon, our long-standing IT Manager, has been invaluable in helping to keep the Centre operational throughout all lockdowns and office closures. He ensures that our user-friendly and accessible website continues to raise our profile and that of volunteering in general with all our news and events being posted. It links directly to the Do-it national volunteering database <https://doit.life/> and volunteers and organisations are able to register with us online. Our social media accounts help to keep us in touch with all members of the community.

Publicity

We enjoy a good relationship with the local media, with ongoing articles appearing in The Gazette, Thornbury Voice, local Community Magazines, local websites and e-bulletins. We have had displays in the St Mary Centre and Thornbury Library and we have a Community Spotlight advert on Thornbury Radio.

Published Material

The following 3 publications are all available to download from our website.

Sources of Help for Specific Needs in and around Thornbury.

Good Practice Guide.

Employer Supported Volunteering.

Our 2021 Charity Pop-up shop was a great success



Last year, throughout National Volunteers' Week, Thornbury Volunteer Centre ran a successful pop-up shop in the skittle alley of the Swan, Thornbury. It raised just over £2000 for our funds through the four-week opening run and will help us to continue our work for the foreseeable future.

Even more important than the money raised, the shop allowed us to showcase our volunteering opportunities and spread the word about volunteering to the local community

**Join us at a
Volunteer Fair
Thursday 21 July 9am-1pm
St Mary Shopping Centre, Thornbury**

*Find out how you can make a difference to
your local community*

Visit the stands of local charitable and voluntary organisations and discover how you can volunteer, or help them raise funds by buying a range of goods.

LET US HELP YOU

Are you a local charity or voluntary group based in the Thornbury & District area? Are you aware that we offer?

Mono photocopying – only 5p per A4 sheet

Colour photocopying – only 50p per A4 sheet

Free usage of 6 portable display boards, ideal for exhibitions (Deposit required)

Free display space in our office Free Information leaflets and booklets

Grants and Donations

This year we thank the following people and organisations for assisting us in our work. Without this support we would not be able to operate at our current levels.

Thornbury Town Council and South Gloucestershire Council for their continuing support in providing our core funding.

South Gloucestershire Council Discretionary Restart Grant of £1500.

The Swan Thornbury for a donation of £1210 – see below.

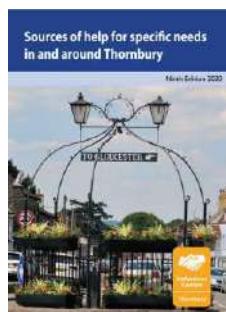
Thornbury Rotary Club for a donation of £150 towards supplies needed to ensure our pop-up charity shop complied with Covid19 requirements.

Legal & General CAF donation of £100.

Amazon Smile for donations totalling £28.34 raised through their charitable scheme.

Penny Taylor for a donation of £25.

Sources of Help for Specific Needs in & around Thornbury



This in-demand booklet offers guidance for people in need of sources of practical and expert help in cases of specific need.

This edition contains more than 300 listings of statutory organisations, community interest companies & charities. It includes contact details for national organisations to where assistance isn't available locally.

Copies of the booklet are available from our offices at Thornbury Town Hall. Alternatively, it can be downloaded in PDF format from our website at volunteer-thornbury.co.uk/bklt. You can also search the text online at volunteer-thornbury.co.uk/soh.

We are very grateful to Thornbury Lions Club for contributing to the printing costs of this booklet.



IN OCTOBER WE WERE THE SWAN CHARITY OF THE MONTH



In October 2021 we were chosen as the Charity of the month at the Swan in Thornbury.

Sand and her team raised an incredible £1210 for the Volunteer Centre with the proceeds from afternoon teas, raffles, a psychic night, quiz and donations.

This is in addition to their support with our charity shop in their skittle alley earlier in the year.

Huge thanks to Sand and her team and her unwavering support of charities in Thornbury.

Castle in the Community Student volunteering scheme 2022/23



For the past 8 years the Volunteer Centre has hosted a volunteering scheme with the Castle School Sixth Form. Obviously, the last couple of years were the exception although we did still manage to find some students volunteering placements.

The scheme encourages year 12 and 13 pupils into volunteering as part of their Extended Curriculum and helps students volunteer in their local community for two hours, once a week, during term time.

Students are placed within different community organisations in the Thornbury and district area, and carry out a wide variety of tasks. The benefits to students and organisations are immense. The students gain valuable work experience and life skills and the organisations increase capacity and gain additional volunteer help.

We are in the process of putting together next year's programme which starts in September and would love to hear from any voluntary or community organisations who feel they would like to take part and offer a student(s) a placement. Please contact Kim Webb on mail@volunteer-thornbury.co.uk to find out more.

Can you help a local youth organisation which is seeking volunteers to fill a variety of roles?

Newsletter Editor - writing articles, promoting events and any other newsworthy items.

Café Helper - mainly Saturdays between 9:30am - 3pm. Serving customers, basic cooking.

Assistant Event Planner – to plan, organise and promote events.

HR Administration and Finance – dealing with petty cash, monitoring invoices in and out. Keeping track of people's hours, holidays & general staff records.

Healthy Relationships Volunteer Couples

Volunteer couples needed to join a charity that delivers healthy relationship sessions with young people.

You will spend time together with groups of up to 30 young people and answer their questions about experiences within your own relationship. Not looking for "perfect couples", just ones who are open and honest.

Contact the Volunteer Centre for details.



**Tools With a Mission
Virtual Volunteering Fayre
Tuesday 21 June 2022
18.30-19.15 BST**

Would you like to help change lives through livelihood creating tools?

Tools With a Mission collect donated tools from across the UK, refurbish them, pack them into trade kits and send them to African skills centres for livelihood creation. They have a team of over 400 volunteers nationwide and 6 members of staff helping every step of the way. They want to send 1 million tools to Africa every year, and need your help to do this. Join TWAM's Paul Daley on Zoom to find out more about what roles are available and how you can be an essential part of their mission.

All information about this event can be found on their website (twam.uk) and on our Facebook page: facebook.com/toolswithamission



The Clare Fardell Young Volunteer Award

This year sees the launch of the Clare Fardell Young Volunteer Award in memory of one of our founders, and long serving Trustee, Clare Fardell, who sadly passed away in 2021. To honour Clare's work and interest in young people this Award will celebrate the volunteering contribution made by a young person in their community.

The Alan Hudson Award for Volunteering Achievement

The Alan Hudson Award for Volunteering Achievement is awarded annually in memory of our long term Chair Alan Hudson. The Award celebrates the work of an individual or group who in the opinion of the Thornbury Volunteer Centre has made a valuable contribution to the local community.



All winners will be announced at our Celebration Afternoon Tea, on Wednesday 22 June.

Fascinating Figures!

In 2021-2022 Thornbury Volunteer Centre registered 165 new volunteers and placed 87 volunteers into 57 local voluntary and community organisations.

We signposted 86 volunteers to volunteering opportunities through the Do-it national volunteering website.

We registered 212 new volunteering opportunities, and supported 10 community organisations and businesses through various events.

We organised and hosted 2 Volunteer Manager Network meetings attended by 21 representatives of local organisations.

We held 2 displays in the St. Mary Centre, Thornbury and 1 display in Thornbury Library.

Help us to continue our work

We are a charity, staffed almost entirely by volunteers. Like most charities, we are in need of funds to support our work, particularly as we exist to help other local charities find and make good use of volunteers in their own activities. It is now easier to support us.



The AmazonSmile scheme supports charitable organisations by donating a proportion of the value of sales. Everyone who buys from Amazon and wants to support us can join the scheme.

All you have to do is visit the sign-up page, you will be asked to log in to the Amazon site if you aren't already. Then all you have to do is click on the button labelled *Start Shopping*. After that you can shop the Amazon site as normal. Products, prices and shopping features are exactly the same as before but part of the value of your purchases (excluding VAT, returns and delivery) is passed to us as a donation. Amazon doesn't take any commission.

CURRENT VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Time to Play Sensory volunteer: An innovative 6 week sensory play-based course, aimed at supporting pre-school children who are delayed in their development, needs a volunteer to ensure its smooth planning and delivery and support the community of staff, volunteers and members in a compassionate way.

Beaver Scout Leader: Beaver Scouts are young people aged between 6 and 8 years. You will organize activities within the program, which will include weekends away, sleepovers, crafts and anything else that is fun. You should be confident and enjoy the outdoors. Full training given.

Gardener: A local retirement complex is seeking a volunteer who can maintain their garden regularly. It consists of a large courtyard surrounded by borders. Duties will involve weeding, tidying up, deadheading, pruning, planting, laying bark, watering and other general gardening duties. Some areas are overgrown and need taming!

Telephone Befrienders: working from home, calling older or disabled people for a friendly chat once a week.

Donkey Welfare: Help support rescued donkeys by undertaking all aspects of donkey/stable management. Duties include cleaning buckets and bowls, making beds for the donkeys, putting food in the stables, cleaning out, brushing, cleaning feet etc. Must be willing to get dirty (old clothes and wellies essential).

Visitor Experience: Several heritage/conservation charities near Thornbury are seeking volunteers to welcome visitors, explain about the attraction and help guests make the most out of their visit. Morning or afternoons 7 days a week.

Technology Support: As a technology support volunteer you will offer one-to-one support to older clients in their homes, providing simple, clear advice that will enable them to build their skills/confidence to become more involved in the online world.

Carers Break volunteer: Are you kind, compassionate, reliable and caring? Carers looking after a family member or friend need the regular breaks you can give them by spending 2-3 hours a week or fortnight with the person cared for. No personal care or manual handling is involved. Full training given.

Online Shop volunteer: You will prepare listings for items on the organisation's online shop, including photography and writing descriptions. You will also package items, store them ready for postage and regularly check sales, dispatch and posting.

Day Centre volunteer: A long-established day centre, 7 miles from Thornbury, is to reopen after the pandemic. It needs volunteers to help provide a hot lunch and entertainment, including bingo and quizzes, as well as socialise with members and build relationships. The centre's hours are 8.30 am to 1.30 pm on Wednesdays.

Compost Site volunteers: Here's an opportunity to get outdoor exercise whilst helping with a well-established community environmental recycling group. The work includes processing green waste into compost and splitting and stacking logs to season. The nature of the job requires you to be reasonably physically fit.

Contact the Volunteer Centre for further information on any of the above opportunities; these are only a very small sample of the opportunities currently available.