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SUMMER  
2011  
Issue 1



Volunteer Centre  
Hammersmith & Fulham

# news

[www.hfvc.org.uk](http://www.hfvc.org.uk)

## Volunteer Awards Ceremony HFVC Honours Local Volunteers 3rd June 2011

By Libby Wingfield - Core Manager

Dozens of local people who gave up their free time to help others were honoured at the Hammersmith Town Hall on the 3rd June, at an Awards Ceremony hosted by the Hammersmith & Fulham Volunteer Centre (HFVC). 100 people turned up to support the event and 54 certificates were given out.

The volunteers, who included local residents, local charities, not for profit organisations and local business people, gathered to receive certificates from the Hammersmith and Fulham Mayor, Cllr. Frances Stainton, Cllr. Harry Phibbs, H&F Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, and Marion Schumann, Director of HFVC, in recognition of their commitment to the community.

In addition to the Award presentations, a variety of entertainment was put on for the event including a Poetry Presentation, African dancers and a DJ to get people on the dance floor!



*"This is a fantastic way to honour and give well deserved recognition to some of our dedicated and hard-working volunteers, in the presence of the Mayor, Cllr Frances Stainton and Cllr. Harry Phibbs. We hope many more local residents and businesses will follow the example that they have set and find out more about the benefits of volunteering."*

Marion Schumann, Director of HFVC

## New Project Are you??

16-19 years old  
NEET or at risk or homeless  
UK or EU citizen for a minimum of 3 years  
Able to attend scheduled sessions  
Positive attitude towards progression



see page 6

## Diary Date

Join Events 4 Youth Team  
**17 July**  
Earls Court Festival

see page 4



## Responsible Citizenship: Integral to Success

### GE complete Normand Croft Community School Garden Revamp

By Alice Lamb -Business Development Manager

From 1st - 3rd June 2011, the voluntary and private sector came together to work on a project at Normand Croft Community School. 3 teams from GE worked in partnership with Works 4 U, over 3 days, to improve the outdoor space and extensive gardens at Normand Croft.

Works 4U consulted with Nick Holt, Head Teacher at Normand Croft School, to come up with ideas about how to improve the outdoor area of the school and create an eco-friendly environment. Nick was keen to improve the pond area as a priority, and to make this area safe for children to use for pond dipping and as a learning hub. The aim was to create an atmosphere where pupils could connect with the wildlife and the environment.

The teams consisting of 48 GE staff members over the course of the 3 days, worked tirelessly to complete the various tasks. The first day was spent clearing the pond area, making way for the decking to be installed, levelling out the ground and clearing pondweeds, as well as weeds from surrounding area. The second day was spent pruning the Woodland Dell area, cutting back undergrowth, painting fences, weeding the courtyard and clearing a path. The third day was spent painting playground fences, painting a mural for the vegetable garden, and creating colourful designs on wooden logs. A contractor was also employed to install the decking and carry out the carpentry tasks for the challenge.

We were blessed with good weather and the sun shone for the whole 3 days! The GE teams completed all their tasks and the end result was a vastly improved, tidy, safe, usable and impressive garden area.

The volunteers from GE were also happy, with positive feedback from many. The Team Leader said

*"Everyone has been giving me great feedback on what a positive experience it was! Thanks for everything."*

Although Head Teacher Nick was not present during the challenge, he arrived back at the school after half-term pleasantly surprised.

For more information about Works 4 U and corporate volunteering contact Alice Lamb at [alice@works-4u.com](mailto:alice@works-4u.com)



## Volunteers' Match Making Event with Brent Active Citizens

By Tsige Dejene Gimariam – Brent Active Citizens Manager

Dozens of potential volunteers from across Brent descended upon Willesden Green Library on Friday 3rd June 2011 to meet with local voluntary organisations and speak to them about opportunities to volunteer at Brent Active Citizen's Volunteers' Match Making Event.

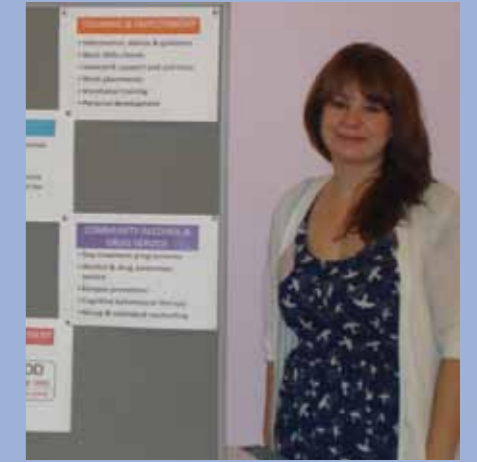
The event, which coincided with Volunteers' Week – an annual event which celebrates the fantastic contribution that millions of volunteers make across the UK each year, was attended by local and national organisations including Cricklewood Homeless Concern, Brent Carers Centre and Age UK who were at hand to speak with and in some cases interview local residents about their vacant volunteer roles.

This years Volunteers' Match Making Event was our 4th annual event and its continued popularity means we are already planning for next year, which we hope will be even bigger and better.

We would like to say big thank you to all the organisation and residents who attended and who helped to make it yet another success.

*"What a great idea and a great way to meet face to face with local organisations seeking to recruit volunteers. I've always wanted to volunteer but never knew where to start. The event made the whole process seem really easy and I have already managed to secure an interview with one of the organisations at today's event."*  
A local resident.

For more information about  
volunteering and events  
in Brent visit  
[www.brentactivecitizens.org.uk](http://www.brentactivecitizens.org.uk)



## Better Quality of Services for Users

### PQASSO for you!

By Jenny Melrose – HR / Deputy Director

The PQASSO workshop held on 24th May had a good attendance and proved to be a useful day for organisations wishing to move towards quality standards. HFVC, CAVSA and CASH delivered a joint programme to outline the main PQASSO criterion. Breaking down into three working groups, those attending considered specific themes, namely the need to have best practice around governance, planning, finance, leadership and management and day to day management, and where their organisations could develop operationally and strategically.

A presentation on quality standards was given to a very well attended Volunteer Organisers Forum, held on 10 June where we looked at the overall importance of investing in the organisation,

**Get greater credibility and legitimacy with funders through a quality standard**

how setting good standards improves the satisfaction of users, staff and volunteers. Coming out of this was the need to look at volunteers and the law and it was agreed to do a short presentation on this at the next forum.

Jenny Melrose is a qualified mentor working with the voluntary sector in the borough to achieve the PQASSO or other quality standards. You can contact her to take your organisation forward on [jennym@hfvc.org.uk](mailto:jennym@hfvc.org.uk), phone 0208 600 2277.

Jenny can help you on HR and employment issues, provide you with guidance and information relating to best practice procedures and signpost you on to other helpful organisations.



# HFVC Eurozone

[www.hfvc.org.uk/eurozone](http://www.hfvc.org.uk/eurozone)

## HFVC influencing volunteering throughout Europe

By Marion Schumann - Director - HFVC & BAC

Since my last article, our Working Group met in May in Brussels to go through our recommendations, update them, make comments and arrive at a consensus from all participants in the Employee Volunteering WG.

Our recommendations are to arrive at a common framework among the EU states: Employee Volunteering creates a positive impact and mutual value for both Society and businesses; it assists in fostering social cohesion and social innovation. We also made recommendations on what actions can be taken to ensure sustainability, financially, socially and improving the image of Employee Volunteering throughout Europe.

Our recommendations have been sent to EYV 2011 Alliance and we have a further meeting in September to find out how our recommendations have been received. Hopefully we will receive good news!

Members of EYV 2011 Alliance were invited to attend the EC 2nd thematic conference on Volunteering.

Visit the HFVC | Eurozone on our website for extracts from the conference. I found the Conference to be very useful but noted there is still a great deal to be done to bring about common frameworks and good practice among the EU states on Volunteering. We will get there, soon!

Those interested in European Funding should check Third Sector European Network's website at [www.tsen.org.uk/funding.asp](http://www.tsen.org.uk/funding.asp).



## Tune Up Project End of an exciting European Youth Exchange Programme

March 2011 - By Luisa Messina - Head of Youth

The Tune-Up project saw the last leg of its youth exchanges taking place at the end of March in Brussels, Belgium.

The visit in the heart of the European institutions had multiple purposes. Firstly for the young people who participated to the project's activities to identify policy areas that needed to be addressed and come with a series of recommendations to be presented in a final report to the European Education and Cultural DG, funder of the project through the Youth in Action

Programme; secondly, to carry out an evaluation of the project itself and what had been achieved and plan future initiatives.

Highlight of the trip was the visit to the European Parliament and the meeting with Mary Honeyball, Labour MEP for London who kindly hosted a Q&A session and spoke to the group about the work of the European institutions and in particular of the EU Parliament and of the plans for the future in relation to Youth involvement and participation.

To read the full article visit the Tune Up area of the website.  
[www.hfvc.org.uk/tuneup](http://www.hfvc.org.uk/tuneup)



New to hfvc.org.uk...

# HFVC Eurozone

[www.hfvc.org.uk/eurozone](http://www.hfvc.org.uk/eurozone)



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twitter

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## Events 4 Youth @ Earls Court Festival 2011

13th May 2011 - By Amal Ali - Event 4 Youth Volunteer



On Friday the 13th of May the Events 4 Youth (E4Y) team made their way to the Earls Court Youth Club, with the aim of raising funds towards activities leading up to the Earls Court Festival 2011. The team presented their ideas for 30 minutes to a Key Fund Panel, which was then followed by 15 minutes of grilling by the panel members. A decision was made and E4Y were able to convince the panel to fund their ideas. They raised £500 in total, which has been used to print Earls Court Festival volunteer t-shirts, designed by a young volunteer, Nerissa Clarke. As well as funds to provide materials for art workshops, creating backdrops for the small stage at the Earls Court Festival Street Fair.

artist, Teresa Paiva. With the help of suggestions of how the backdrops should look. Following the proposals they then decided to use mirroring images of triangles and different sizes of circles to resemble the festivals theme of kaleidoscope. The workshops are taking place in the Earls Court Youth Club every Tuesday and Wednesday from 7pm until 9pm, involving both young people from the club and E4Y volunteers.

E4Y are responsible for managing the small stage at the Earls Court Festival Street Fair and have been actively sourcing local acts that will be performing on the stage. We will also be selling some of the printed t-shirts and all the proceedings will be donated to the Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Following a victorious key fund panel meeting the team were given the green light to launch the backdrop workshops, with the support of Earls Court Youth Club, who provided the space and support from their resident

for further information contact Events 4 Youth Manager, Caroline Ludden email caroline@hfvc.org.uk.



Join us on Sunday 17th July  
1pm-6pm at The Small Stage at  
the Earls Court Festival Street Fair  
on Hogarth Road, Earls Court.

Support young  
talent, eat great  
food and enjoy  
the festival  
atmosphere.



## 'Generations' have fun 'Together' at Fulham Palace

A volunteer's perspective on organising event

By Oksana Solowjow

The Generations Together outing with the tenants from Elgin Close Extra Care to Fulham Palace Gardens took place on 22nd June. This event was organised by HFVC volunteers Oksana Solowjow and Jenni Walsh through money raised by holding a car boot sale and selling raffle tickets during Volunteers' Week.

be no barriers between the age to age gaps. Everyone was engaging in different types of conversations, joking about various topics, from what people were like when they were young, and how the life used to be back in the days but also about the current life style. The time flew by so quickly and by the time we finished the coffee the sun came out giving us a great opportunity to enjoy our walk through the Fulham Palace Gardens.

This was a splendid day despite the pouring rain and muddy wheelchairs. All the participants had a great time as we started the day inside the Fulham Palace sheltering from the rainy weather, having delicious selections of cakes and beverages. The atmosphere was full of light conversation, lots of laughter and there seem to

The time was coming to a close after our brisk stroll and it was time for the tenants to go back to Elgin Close, they all commented that they had a great time and so did we.



Are you...  
16-19 years old  
NEET or at risk or homeless  
UK or EU citizen for a minimum of 3 years  
Able to attend scheduled sessions  
Positive attitude towards progression

HFVC & the Renaissance Skills Centre would like to introduce its pre-apprenticeship programme designed for young people aged 16-19 who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

This programme will help them to achieve and upgrade their skills aiding them in their search for better job and education prospects.

The programme offers skills development in a wide range of careers including IT, Business Administration, Customer Service, Childcare, Health and Social care.

Clients will have a short period of training and 1-1 mentoring and the opportunity of work placement, or training relating to the young learners' specified career path.

Each student will have an appointed mentor who along with the young person will assess their strengths and weaknesses, goals and targets on a regular basis and provide them with advice and guidance.



For more  
information or to  
register contact  
Sara Benjamin on  
0208 741 9876  
or email  
sara@hfvc.org.uk



HFVC's NEW website dedicated to intergeneration volunteering...

[www.vcgt.org.uk](http://www.vcgt.org.uk)



# Comic Relief Funding

## New Project from HFVC and H&F Mind

By Luisa Messina - Head of Youth



H&F Mind and HFVC have secured funding from Comic Relief for a two year project proving support to young people with mental health problems in the borough of H&F.

The project will give young people interested in working in the mental health sector the chance to gain skills and experience through training and volunteering (as peer mentors or workshop facilitators) and will also address the need for organisations working with young people to develop awareness and understanding of mental health issues and therefore become more responsive to the needs of their young clients.

Project activities will include 1-2-1 peer mentoring, creative group activities such as painting workshops, jewellery workshops, photography and film making sessions as well as the opportunity to organise and run community events to raise awareness of mental health issues among residents.

For more information contact the Youth Department at the Volunteer Centre on 0208 741 9876.



Interested in  
**Painting, Jewellery, Photography or Film Making?**

Would you like to have your creative ideas exhibited at our End of Project Exhibition?

## Join the HFVC & H&F Mind Inclusion Project

Creative Group Workshops to be held every  
Tuesday & Thursday throughout July at 62 Blythe Road W14 0HP

**Want to Gain a Level 2 Award in Volunteering @ an Event?**  
Join the Exhibition Organising Committee  
Contact HFVC on 02087419876 or email us on YouthInfo@hfvc.org.uk

Contact us...

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