

A national celebration of our great volunteers

National Volunteers' Week takes place each year from the first to seventh of June. It's an opportunity to celebrate the best of the charity sector and its hardworking volunteers.

This year, Volunteers' Week is returning to its roots - focusing on celebrating all the great things that volunteers do. It is an opportunity to celebrate volunteering in all its diversity and encouraging Oxfordshire to think about all the different kinds of volunteering people do. Volunteers are responsible for a huge range of charity and community activities, from campaigning and lobbying to befriending and mentoring.

With such a range of opportunities in Oxfordshire, Volunteers' Week 2019 highlights that there's something for everyone.

To get things started, earlier this week, One-Eighthly (a psychology-focused behaviour support charity for young people (aged 4-18) and their families held a 12-hour Swimathon at Brookes Sport (Harcourt Hill) in Oxford). It

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was a fantastic event and a great opportunity to meet the team and find out more about volunteering with them.

On Monday and yesterday of this week Oxford Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) delivered two workshops on how organisations can recruit volunteers more effectively through the excellent Oxfordshire Volunteers ('Oxonvolunteers') brokerage and volunteer management website.

Later in the week there will be two volunteering fairs.

There is the Banbury Volunteer Fair at Banbury Town Hall on Friday 7th June from 11am - 2pm. The fair will provide opportunities to meet voluntary

organisations that are making a difference to people's lives and find out how you can volunteer and what you can gain from volunteering.

The Faringdon Big Volunteer Event takes place at The Corn Exchange, Faringdon, on Saturday 8th June from 10.00am - 1.30 pm. It promises to be a wonderful local, community focused event that is family friendly and that

will raise the profile of Faringdon based groups and help them to recruit volunteers. Yellow Submarine, an award-winning local charity that works with people with learning disabilities and autism, is having an open drop in at its Witney Café in the Windrush Leisure Centre on the 6th of June and on the 7th at Oxford Café on Park End Street. Look out for the Yellow Submarine banner!

West Way Day Centre (Field House, West Way, Botley, Oxford, OX2 9JN) will be holding a relaxed coffee morning on the 7th of June from 11am - 1.30am and they invite anyone interested in learning about what they do to come along.

Whether you are a prospective volunteer, someone looking into using their service, or just a member of the community who wants to know more about them your welcome to the drop in.

Full details of what is happening across Oxfordshire, during and after Volunteers Week can be found on ocva.org.uk/i-want-to-volunteer/volunteers-week-1-7th-june-2019/