



COMMUNITY
CHAMPIONS

GET IN TOUCH with Rohini, Jenny or Jo
9.00—5.00 Monday - Friday
Phone us 01858 439262
Email: champions@vasl.org.uk
Or call in to First Floor, Torch House,
Torch Way, Market Harborough LE16 9HL

Client Newsletter November 2016

Its been another busy month with plenty of activity. Our project community is growing with new people joining and volunteers and clients getting to know each other. Read on....

FUNDRAISING

VASL is delighted to have been chosen as one of the local charities for November's Mocket Harborough.



We are also grateful to Braybrooke WI who are arranging a collection at their Carol Concert for VASL



The Community Gathering at The Greenhouse Café on 1st November was a real success it was good to meet during Befriending Week (1 - 7 November) There were 14 of us present: 5 clients, 7 volunteers and 2 VASL staff.

There was a lively conversation about the Kibworth Choir appearing on television with Gareth Malone, Linda one of our volunteers is part of the choir so could tease us with some inside knowledge but she wasn't allowed to tell us if they had gone through to the next round of the competition

We also talked about VASL's recent move to Torch House and the growth of Market Harborough as a town

We took the opportunity to introduce two people who are going to be meeting up, four people signed up to get a Digital Champion volunteer, and we are sorting that out.

"Thank you for a really lovely event. There were so many nice people to talk to and I look forward to the next one"

The next **Community Gathering on 11th January** will be in the afternoon 2-4pm. We will be meeting at the Methodist Church in the lounge and David Palmer will come along and tell us about Tea at Three. Please let us know if you need us to organise Social Transport by 4th January, leave a message if the office is closed.



Community Champions is part funded by VASL and Harborough District Council's New Homes Bonus/Community Fund

Registered Charity No. 1141274

Company Registration No. 7517828



VASL Housewarming

35 volunteers were able to join VASL staff and Trustees to celebrate VASL's move to Torch House. Volunteers had tours around the new light, airy offices and shared our welcome cake.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

June is a Community Champion volunteer with VASL and a volunteer with The Alzheimer's Society. She has used the knowledge from both these volunteer roles to provide tailored support for our people. One client had a close family member diagnosed with dementia but did not feel able to go to the Alzheimer's Support Group alone. June met this client, introduced her to staff and other members of the group and explained how the group worked. The client is so happy with the support she received that she is thinking of becoming a volunteer for The Alzheimer's Support Group!

In her role as a Digital Champion volunteer June is also supporting another client to use a computer to access an audiobook about dementia. This client has dyslexia and requested help with understanding information about dementia so that she can provide the best care for her husband. In this situation June has utilised her skills as a Community Champion volunteer, Digital Champion volunteer and Alzheimer's volunteer to provide holistic support. The client is delighted "Thank you so much for finding this volunteer – she is so helpful and friendly ; I feel really lucky."

Investing in Volunteers (IiV)

On Tuesday 8 November an assessor for Investing in Volunteers came to talk to volunteers and staff about how VASL supports volunteering. A lot of our volunteers came in to be interviewed and we had some lovely compliments as part of the process. We know that you appreciate your volunteer and this award will show that the whole organisation values them as well.



Alone on Christmas Day? The poster for the event in MH is enclosed, if you live outside the town please contact us and we will try to find alternatives.



Diary Dates

Friday 23 December – Monday 2 January 2017 :
VASL office closed

Wednesday 11 January 2017 2- 4pm Community Gathering at The Methodist Church, Market Harborough

Tuesday 7 February 10.30am – 11.30am Community Gathering, The Greenhouse Café, (tbc)

VASL has funding from Children in Need to support Young Carers, we offer the group a chance to go out and have fun as a break from their responsibilities of caring for parents and siblings

