

Royston Volunteer Bureau

In 2009 our Volunteer Managers' Forums provided training and networking opportunities to local organisations. In February the forum was "How managers can access free training for volunteers and unpaid carers in basic food hygiene, personal care, moving and handling and infection control". In July James Lambert from Volunteering England gave a talk on the Department of Work and Pension Brokerage initiative and at the end there was a lively Q&A session.

In 2010 the Volunteer Managers' forums continued to provide training and networking opportunities to local organisations. They were held on investigating the potential benefits for voluntary organisations in becoming social enterprises and on how to involve volunteers from specialist groups e.g. the unemployed, young people between the ages of 16 and 25 and those inspired to volunteer by the Olympics.

The Volunteer Managers' Awards 2010, a county prize in recognition of excellence in good practice in volunteering management, was awarded to the Garden House Hospice Shop in Royston.

We achieved our Quality Accreditation from Volunteering England for our work in Hertfordshire and South Cambridgeshire in partnership with the Volunteering Herts and Volunteering Cambridgeshire and Peterborough county consortia.

These are some of the initiatives that we have been involved in 2011:

- Funding was secured for a 6th form volunteering project in Meridian School to involve young people in volunteering opportunities within Royston first and middle schools and in the local community, we will be presenting certificates for 50 plus hours of volunteering;
- We are working in partnership with the newly formed Royston Community Hub to involve volunteers as mentors and counsellors to work with young people in local schools;
- We are developing opportunities at events for the Royston 2012 Year of Celebration and will be co-ordinating volunteers as part of our work with the Royston 2012 Co-ordinating Committee and with projects across Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. This will also involve providing good practice advice and training for event managers when involving volunteers.

We are delighted to be working in partnership with Johnson Matthey to support their employees to get involved in local volunteering. They have already taken part in helping to create a display for "Royston 2012 a Year of Celebration" at the railway station and helping at Make a Difference Day. We are planning more involvement during 2012.

As part of a Royston in Bloom project our volunteers were involved in enhancing the Stile and Green Walk Plantations.

Volunteers helped to clear the under-growth, cement in benches and signs and generally helped to revamp the area.

We also:

- Sent regular e-bulletins with information to our volunteers and voluntary organisations
- Regularly updated the website
- Had press coverage of our events and activities in the local newspapers
- Promoted volunteering at local events: Open Secrets, Passport to Sport, Royston 2012 open week-end with local sport stars
- Carried out a joint event with Age UK at Tesco
- Made presentations to Meridian School, Royston 2012 Co-ordinating Committee and local business Johnson Matthey

[CDO Note] The volume of volunteer brokerage has increased steadily, year in year.