



Jan / Feb 2023

Issue : 42

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VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Volunteers Christmas Lunch at the Village Inn, Brompton in December. Please read on for more details of our next social event in March which we hope you'll be able to attend.

We have lots of new and exciting things planned for 2023 which we will keep you informed about through these newsletters and our regular meetings for volunteers.



Bingo night - Following the success of the bingo evening in June 2022, we have planned another fun-filled bingo night at Northallerton Bowling Club on Saturday 4th March to raise funds for Hambleton Community Action. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Please promote the event to friends and family, all welcome. No need to book in advance just turn up on the evening. A book of 6 bingo tickets will be £15 or individual books cost just £3. If you have any prizes, you're willing to donate for the raffle, please drop them off at the office. We hope you're able to come along.

Our '**By Your Side**' project has now been running for just over 6 months, and is growing as a service which is really encouraging. With that in mind, we're asking if anyone would be interested in becoming a By Your Side volunteer. We provide support for people who do not qualify for statutory advocacy to get the most from healthcare and welfare appointments and assessments. Examples of the help we have provided so far include supporting people to attend hospital appointments and PIP assessments, sitting with people whilst they open their post, helping people to complete their benefit forms, helping people to manage their household bills and paperwork. It's a varied role, which requires some flexibility, as we never quite know where we will be asked to help next! If this is something you'd be interested in exploring, please call us or email: reception@hambletoncommunityaction.org

Trustees - a reminder that we are still looking to add further skills to our trustee team. Ideally we're looking for volunteers with experience/skills in communications, marketing, finance, IT or project management.

If becoming a trustee may be of interest to you, please get in touch with Liz on 01609 780458 extension 204 for an informal chat, or email chief.officer@hambletoncommunityaction.org

Meeting for volunteers - The next meeting for volunteer community visiting / telephone friends and respite sitting volunteers will be on Wednesday 15th February, 10am-11.15am at the Bowling Club, 82 South Parade, Northallerton, DL7 8SJ. This is an opportunity to have a cuppa and chat with other volunteers doing similar roles. We are also hoping that at the meeting you'll provide ideas/feedback on our [Community Visiting and Carers Respite Sitting handbook](#) which is due for an update. The handbook is available on the members area of our website and we will have copies at the meeting. If you can't make it to this meeting but would find it useful to have a catch-up chat with your project co-ordinator about your role, any concerns you have, or feedback you'd like to provide, please do get in touch and we'll arrange a suitable day and time to catch up either in person or over the phone.

Volunteer Training - On Friday 3rd March (10am - 11.30am) we will be offering a session on **Making Safeguarding Personal**. The session will provide an introduction to safeguarding created specifically for our volunteers, covering:

- Who is considered to be "at risk"
- Types of abuse
- Signs of abuse
- Identifying risks
- What to do if you have a concern about an individual

Venue tbc.

If you're interested in joining this sessions please email admin@hambletoncommunityaction.org tel 01609 780458 ext 203.

We hope that the training we provide adds value to your volunteering role. We are currently planning our training programme for the next few months so please let us know what training you'd be interested in and we will try to incorporate it.

Volunteer Satisfaction Survey - We love to hear positive comments about your volunteering experience, but we also need to hear if we can make things better. We welcome all feedback, so if you haven't already done so, please complete our survey by clicking this link <https://forms.gle/dnNWCLit2xL9uYS28> or opening it by scanning the QR code on your PC or phone camera.



Finally... Don't forget to follow us on social media. Hambleton Community Action is on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.