

NEWHAM'S VOLUNTEERS

Newsletter edition 8: 2017

Dear *Volunteers*,

Welcome to your volunteers newsletter.

Where did the time go? 2016 was a magnificent year, but 2017 is here and it's going to be just that bit bigger and better. Let's not forget the hard work and commitment that you the Volunteers have contributed to Newham making memorable moments and making all those events and opportunities special. We have captured some spectacular moments, been part of some fantastic events and we continue to develop and build great connections which puts us in good stead for the New Year. We plan to continue to emerge, grow and flourish not only as a Borough but as a Volunteering Family.

We want your opinions, support, contributions and hours (lol) and your smiley faces making Newham better. We want Newham residents to immerse themselves in making our borough better while progressing as a community and as Individuals. Let's turn up the volume and Volunteer!!!!

As always, a big thank you to all of you for your achievements. We will continue to secure and deliver the best possible events and opportunities. Don't forget to let us know how you get on with your roles – each time you volunteer send us your feedback.

Here are some people we would like to thank and congratulate!

- Every active Volunteer supporting activeNewham and LBN.
- The steering group for their continued support and for some amazing new ideas.
- Those supporting the events locally and outside of Newham, libraries, Tea Dance, befrienders and everyone who has volunteered!

Please continue to read your messages and communications and don't miss out on some great opportunities. We have the World Athletics Championships 2017 this year on our doorstep so don't miss out.

Please keep in touch.

Happy Reading!
The Volunteers Team



The Color Run Crew @ TheO2!



The gang at Under the Stars 2016



Jaswinder at the Christmas Cracker Event (Christmas Lunch)



FREE tickets to watch West Ham FC!

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Here are some 2016 stats...

- Over 600 new volunteers volunteered for the first time in 2016 with over 200 different volunteer opportunities available across Newham and outside of Newham.
- Over 27,000 hours of volunteering recorded in 2016.
- 15 volunteers secured external employment.
- 5 volunteers are now working with activeNewham.
- Male 42%, Female 58%

What you said about Volunteering:

- 69% said their volunteering experience was excellent, 26% said very good, 3% said good, 1% said satisfactory.
- 69% said their role was as described.
- 76% said the support by the coordinator and organiser was excellent, 18% said very good, 5% said good, 1% said satisfactory.
- 81% said the refreshments/food they received was excellent, 13% said very good, 2% said good, satisfactory & poor.
- 66% said the pre event information given was excellent, 20% said very good, 12% said good, 1% said satisfactory and poor.

Introducing *Alisha*...

We are pleased to welcome our new Support Officer to the team; Alisha John-Junor. Alisha joined us in January and brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and a bubbly personality with her. She has already settled in really well and bossing the team around! Alisha is a keen singer and made it to the final stages of 'The Voice'. If we're lucky, she may belt out a tune or two at our Volunteer Celebration in June!

THE TEAM



Alisha John-
Junor

Volunteer
Support Officer



Hannah
Martindale

Volunteer
Coordinator



Habebur
Rahman

Team Leader



Kolsuma
Miah

Volunteer
Coordinator



Alison
Mitchell

Volunteer
Coordinator

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Konnichiwa Japan!

In November, members of the team met with researchers from Tokyo Metropolitan Government – the organisers of RWC19 and Tokyo 2020. They were particularly interested to find out how we retain, recruit and incentivise volunteers and the ways in which we engage and include residents with disabilities. They were very impressed with the diversity of this programme, the amount of time that volunteers give up each month and the lasting legacy of volunteering after London 2012. We were very proud to showcase all the great stuff that you do so thank you! We now eagerly await our invite to Japan!

Queen's Award Nomination!

We are pleased to announce that 'Newham's Volunteer's' was nominated for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). As part of the process, an assessment was carried out in December on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London. During the visit, volunteers and staff relayed good news stories, testimonials and personal achievements. We will hear whether we ARE successful in early spring – fingers crossed!

Your Volunteering, Your Say 2016-17.

Something new this year! You have an opportunity to have your say on your volunteering experience. Even if you haven't been active, use this opportunity to tell us why or what we can do better to get you active again. For those who have been active, tell us what we are doing well so we continue to do it well.

It's important to be completely open and honest as it will help us to identify any gaps and also, improve your experience. While the survey is optional, please spare 5mins as it will really help us to create a better experience for you. You can complete the survey anonymously, however only surveys completed with full details will be entered into our prize draw for a chance to win cinema tickets to Empire and High Street Shopping Vouchers.



Photo Gallery



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ARE YOU JUGGLING YOUR MONTHLY FINANCES?

Talk to MoneyWorks about affordable loans and smart spending instead of resorting to payday loans with high interest rates, you can achieve financial fitness by visiting Newham MoneyWorks.

MoneyWorks provide Newham residents with an alternative to high cost payday loans at rates you can afford. If you are thinking of borrowing money don't go to high cost payday lenders, visit MoneyWorks to secure a better deal.

They have a range of financial products to suit your financial circumstances. You must be a Newham resident, over 18 years old and have lived in the borough for at least two years to be eligible.

Here is a table which demonstrates the amount will pay back to MoneyWorks compared to the usual loan sharks.



<small>*The figures are based on repayment over a six-month period</small>	MoneyWorks	High street lenders
Loan value	You pay back	You pay back
£500	£539.82	£723.60
£1,000	£1,079.58	£1,896
£1,500	£1,619.34	£2,413.32

MoneyWorks staff are knowledgeable, friendly and there to help you. Call now! 020 8430 2041
Or Visit: moneyworks@newham.gov.uk www.newhammoneyworks.co.uk
MoneyWorks, Unit 61-62 Stratford Shopping Centre, E15 1XF



Nakole, one of MoneyWorks volunteers doing what they do best! Engage, advise and help!

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Stratford Park Project: MACE

In September, Mace Construction worked with activeNewham on an ambitious project in Stratford Park resulting in a massive revamp. As well as a complete refurbishment of the classroom in the park keeper's lodge, Mace also gave the sensory garden a complete makeover including new paths and seating area. In a great example of partnership working, the volunteer's team brought together volunteers from MACE as well as Barclays Bank, The Financial Conduct Authority, Westfield and young people from the Youth Offending Team. Over a 3 week period they put in around 1,350 hours. MACE also funded all the works totalling close to £100k.



Congratulations to...

Samina Ahmed (pictured right), who has been volunteering in Stratford Library since the end of July 2016.

Initially helping with the Summer Reading Challenge, after volunteering on a weekly basis, Samina applied for the post of Community Neighbourhood Assistant and was successful and will be working at North Woolwich Library.

Samina was given an award which was awarded by the Mayor of Newham Sir Robin Wales and Councillor Mas Patel.



Tara Angelo has also successfully achieved employment at Stratford Library after assisting with their weekly Games Club. Tara also applied for the post of Sessional Community Neighbourhood Assistant and has been working at various Libraries and Community Centres since October 2016.



This once again confirms how volunteering can be a direct pathway into employment and your commitment is recognised by others.

Further congratulations goes to our longstanding volunteer, Stan Hasketh (pictured left) who was given the award '**Volunteer of the year**' award by the Mayor of Newham Sir Robin Wales, Councillor Mas Patel and Stratford Neighbourhood Team, for all the events and activities Stan has supported at Stratford library.

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TESTIMONIALS:

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activeNewham, EAST HAM LEISURE CENTRE: I would just like to take this opportunity to say that the volunteers at East Ham have been fantastic. Their enthusiasm, their interaction with the customers has been wonderful and they have contributed massively to the success of the new control system at East Ham.



THE GREAT LONDON SWIM, RUN, GO RUN FOR FUN & TEAM RELAYS: A massive thank you to you and the volunteers for coming to the events. We really couldn't do it without you and the team. So from me a massive thanks.



SPORT RELIEF MILE: Thank you, thank you, thank you.... WOW!!!!!! "Race Makers" is the really the most fitting name for you all! What an awesome job you did over the weekend at the most Epic Sport Relief Games to date! Huge WELL DONE and thank you from us here at Limelight. The feedback we received from participants has been outstanding and staff have said you were all a pleasure to work with and your enthusiasm was infectious! So THANK YOOOOOU so very much!!!! We really hope you enjoyed the day as much as us!



BLOODWISE BLENHEIM TRIATHLON - 2016

Thanks for your help over the weekend, Blenheim was a huge success and that is partly due to the enthusiasm of activeNewham volunteers - we are all very grateful.



MARIETA EVANS - VOLUNTEER BEFRIENDER TO RESIDENT

WITH SENSORY IMPAIRMENT: I am really glad to be supporting UP (ASC policies restricts us from disclosing name of client). It is one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in my life and it is priceless to see how much it means to her. Since meeting in May, UP's confidence has grown and we have gradually started doing more activities together. We started with short walks near her home, but last week we took the bus to Green Street and did some shopping together. UP always seems happy to see me and I really feel that I'm making a difference to her life.



Ahmed El-Busaidy

Hi volunteers, I would like to say to you that volunteers team are best I just want to say thank you very much for the great time. Thank you for always being there and for making me feel happy. I want to keep volunteering - my life has been changed.



LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM, EVENTS TEAM

The whole team thought the volunteers were brilliant, really helpful with all the tasks they were given.

We found it easy to work with them and they genuinely made a difference to the smooth running of the event.

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HELP US TO HELP YOU!

If you are approached by any organisations directly to volunteer on events/opportunities without coming through activeNewham, please could you contact us immediately and let us know so we can record your attendance. This ensures that we do not miss recording of any hours which could affect references, training opportunities and also, health & safety should anything happen to you while volunteering. Also, if you are volunteering externally and not via activeNewham, please ensure that you are not wearing your Newham's Volunteers Green T-Shirt.

REFERENCES

It is activeNewham's policy to provide a standard reference which states the date a volunteer joined our programme and whether or not they are still volunteering with us at present. Volunteers cannot request a reference themselves as the request needs to come directly from the employer/organisation. To obtain a reference volunteers need to demonstrate a good level of commitment. If a volunteer has not been actively volunteering for the past 1 year, we will be unable to provide a reference.

DBS CHECKS

DBS checks are only carried out for roles that require you to work on a one to one basis with young children and/or vulnerable adults.



EXPENSES

All expenses will be paid directly into your account via bank transfer. Please allow 30 days for payments to be made into your accounts (from the date you submit your receipts and volunteer expense form).

Date	Description	Charge	Balance
01/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
02/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
03/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
04/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
05/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
06/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
07/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
08/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
09/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
10/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
11/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
12/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
13/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
14/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
15/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
16/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
17/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
18/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
19/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
20/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
21/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
22/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
23/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
24/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
25/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
26/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
27/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
28/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
29/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
30/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00
31/01/2017	London Underground	0.00	0.00

When submitting your expense form, please ensure you provide us with the correct bank details along with the actual event/opportunity you volunteered for and the actual journey route you took. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that you can only claim back expenses up to the sum of £5.

Any expenses that go over £5 will be capped. When providing your receipts please ensure that they are your actual journey printouts (see picture). We advise all volunteers to register their Oyster cards online. This is a free service which will enable you to print out all your journeys. Without the Oyster Card Statement, we will not be able to process any of your expenses.

PLEASE NOTE: We are unable to accept payment/top up receipts.

ACTIVENEWHAM HEAD OFFICE – APPOINTMENTS ONLY

If you wish to see a member of staff at our Head Office, please contact us first to make an appointment. If you attend without an appointment, you may not be seen as the Volunteers Team may be unavailable. Please call us on 0203 770 4444 and select option 5. This will avoid any disappointment and staff will ensure they are available to assist you.



HAVE YOU MOVED OR CHANGED DETAILS?

Hey Guys, Volunteers and Potential Volunteers, if you could kindly remember to keep us informed if you change any of your details so we can update our system. This will enable you to take up some of our fantastic opportunities.

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MORE PICTURES.



To find out more about Newham's Volunteers, please visit our website www.activenewham.org.uk or email volunteers@activenewham.org.uk for further information. Alternatively, you can call 0203 770 4444 (option 5).

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The Queen's Diamond
Jubilee Volunteering
Award 2012

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