

Volunteers needed across West Berks

You could make a real difference to the lives of others

THERE is a host of volunteering opportunities in West Berkshire.

Here is the latest selection from Volunteer Centre West Berkshire, which is situated at Broadway House, 4-8 The Broadway, Northbrook Street, Newbury.

Anyone interested in volunteering and helping to make a difference to the lives of others should contact the centre for details or visit www.volunteerwestberks.org.uk telephone (01635) 49004 or email info@vcwb.org.uk

Special Need Support Volunteer RefNY2385

A FARM project in Hamstead Marshall supports adults with learning disabilities and difficulties. The farm grows fruit and veg, flowers and herbs, and provides an opportunity for clients to engage in purposeful activity while connecting with nature and interacting with peers and the community.

Volunteers are needed to help at sessions.

Volunteers will work alongside the gardener to put together tasks for the day and help ensure they achieve their goals. The role would suit volunteers who enjoy gardening and being outside and are passionate about supporting those with special needs.

The role is available on Mondays and Thursdays (10am-3pm).

Shop Assistant RefNY2556

A FREE pre-loved school uniform service is looking for help in its Newbury shop. You will greet customers, assist



with finding required sizes, sort and tag donations, fold and bag items making a note of what has been taken, encourage cash or card donations and process card payments.

Items will be folded, tidied and sorted.

The role would suit friendly volunteers with good communication and customer service skills, and the ability to manage a busy environment. Time commitment is four hours a month outside school holidays.

During holidays, it would be up to you how many hours you do but a minimum of one shift weekly. Shifts are flexible but a minimum of three hours. The role would initially be on Saturdays or occasional Thursday afternoons.

Community Emergency Volunteer RefNY2683

A NATIONAL charity provides back-up personnel to the emergency services and local authorities in a range of situations.

Community Emergency Volunteers support the official emergency response to hazards, emergencies and other incidents that occur locally.

The role will be very varied but can range from administrative support, making refreshments and transporting equipment to clearing debris, helping set up rest centres and delivering information from emergency services to residents.

Time commitment for call-outs is estimated at 2-12 hours a year. The role would suit enthusiastic volunteers who can get

stuck in and help others, can follow instructions carefully and enjoy being part of a team. Having access to your own transport would be useful.

Summer Reading Challenge Volunteer RefNY798

THE Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to read six books during the school holiday.

Friendly volunteers are required in local libraries to help sign up children who want to take part, talk to them about the books they choose to read, and present them with their incentives – including medals and certificates – when they complete the challenge.

The ability to be enthusiastic about reading is essential together with good interpersonal skills enabling you to talk and listen to young children in a friendly and patient way.

You need to remain calm at times. You can volunteer for this role from age 13.

Summer Fundraising Volunteer RefNY2463

A LOCAL charity that supports people who are blind or visually impaired is looking for friendly collection bucket volunteers who can help raise funds at local community events this summer. No experience needed, just a warm smile and a willingness to chat with passers-by.

Full training provided, all equipment and volunteers will be supported by their team. While the months of June to August are busiest, volunteers are needed year-round to support occasional and planned fundraising activities.



Members of Science Team at AWE: Marina, Stephen, Sue, Richard, Dave and Anna

Sprucing up the cemetery

A TEAM of volunteers has helped to restore old graves at London Road Cemetery in Thatcham, writes Martha White.

Colleagues from AWE's science team recently spent time tending to some of the older and unkept graves at the cemetery as part of their Corporate Volunteer Days.

Thatcham Town Council thanked the volunteers for their work and highlighted the difference the team has made.

A spokesperson for the town council said: "They made a remarkable impact on the section they worked on, transforming the area and bringing dignity and respect back to forgotten resting



Graves at London Road Cemetery

places.

"Their efforts were deeply appreciated and did not go unnoticed."

The council has asked that

anyone interested in getting involved with volunteering to make contact at www.cemetery.officer@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Meet big-hearted Bagheera

WELCOME to this week's Dog of the Week.

Dogs Trust Newbury still has a number of dogs at its Hamstead Marshall base who need a new home.

And so every week we will continue to shine a spotlight on one of them to try to help spread the word.

Meet Bagheera.

He is a gorgeous five-year-old German shepherd with "a heart as big as his playful spirit".

Bagheera loves to chat and play with humans and he adores his cosy beds and toys.

Those at the trust said: "After a rough start to life, Bagheera is now on the lookout for a loving family where he can truly belong."

"While we don't have a history of him living with children, we believe he could thrive with kids aged 15 and over, as long as there's supervision to manage his size and overly playful behaviours when excited."

"He is eager to find a home where he can shine as the only pet and a private garden would be perfect for Bagheera, giving him a safe area to run and play to his heart's content."

"Once he's settled in, we



Five-year-old German shepherd Bagheera

believe he'll be fine spending a couple of hours alone, allowing his future family to have some flexibility in their day.

"Bagheera is not just any dog; he's a charming companion."

"His playful nature shines through every time he dashes

around, eager to explore and enjoy new experiences."

"He loves meeting new people and quickly shows his trusting side."

"One he builds a bond with you, he'll shower you with affection and loyalty."

visit www.dogtrust.org.uk

Crookham Hill closure

A ROAD in Thatcham will be closed for permanent carriageway repairs next week.

Crookham Hill will be shut between Pipers Way and Burys Bank Road from 9.30am to 3.30pm on Tuesday and Wednesday. Access to Thatcham Railway Station will be maintained via Station Road, West Berks Council contractor Volker Highways has said. Motorists can travel via Brimpton Road to reach the A4 (Bath Road).

All are welcome at Fair Close events

THERE are a number of events taking place at Fair Close Centre this coming week.

Everyone is welcome to go along to any of the activities taking place each week.

Find out more at www.fairclose-centre.org/activities or call (01635) 40488.

Monday to Friday: Two-course lunch + tea/coffee just £8.50 – noon

Monday, June 16: Relax & Read – 1.30pm

Tuesday, June 17: Chair exercises – 11.15am

Tuesday, June 17: Bingo – 1.30pm

Wednesday, June 18: Crafting – 11.30am

Friday, June 20: Singing for Fun – 10.30am

Friday, June 20: Prize Bingo – 1.30pm

Birthdays

PAUL AND VALERIE WIGMORE

Congratulations on your 60th Wedding Anniversary

5th June 1965

Here's to many more to come



Available NOW! with all family announcements - your very own personal, interactive webpage.

Log onto

and click on the family announcements link.