

October 2006



Welcome to Volunteer News, our newsletter for and about all our volunteers.

Age Concern Kingston could not operate without its growing band of dedicated volunteers.

We want to know what you think.

If you have any comments or feedback on this newsletter, or other issues about volunteering, please contact Femina Makkar - femina@ageconcernkingston.org

A plea!

Please let us know if your contact details change or if you have stopped volunteering so that we can keep our records up to date and avoid wastage. Update forms are always available from the Admin Office at 14 Nelson Road, or just let us have a note or email:

jyoti@ageconcernkingston.org

020 8942 8256

New volunteering front woman

Femina Makkar will be familiar to many of you as the highly enthusiastic person who tries to persuade you to stand outside Tesco on a Saturday morning in the depths of winter, collecting can in hand, doing that extra bit to help raise funds for Age Concern Kingston, or to part with your cash in exchange for a ticket to a wine tasting or for a raffle.



Now Femina has added a new string to her bow. Building on her role as Community Fund Raiser, she has now also undertaken the role of volunteer coordinator for Age Concern Kingston. Femina will be the first point of contact for prospective volunteers for all our centres and projects, and will be overall coordinator for all volunteering issues. Femina is keen to meet as many of you as possible, and to hear your views and learn from them.

At ACKuT we are always trying to improve how we work with volunteers. Hence we are including with this issue of *Volunteer News* a Satisfaction Survey to try and find out as much as we can about your experience of volunteering with us. This is the first time we have sought feedback (good or bad!) from our volunteers in this way and it will only be a meaningful exercise if as many of you as possible respond. So please do take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire—there's a prize for the first entry drawn out of the hat after the closing date!

Femina is ably assisted by Admin Assistant, Jyoti Patel, who joined us in August. Jyoti will be looking after the volunteer records and all the volunteer paperwork, such as writing for references and making sure people are invited to Tea with the Trustees and to Induction. This is no mean feat, so please do help us by letting Jyoti know if your details change. We are particularly keen to reduce our costs, and keep everyone up to date by communicating with our volunteers by email where possible, so if you have an email address which we can use to contact you, please do let us know.

All volunteers should have a named member of staff, or supervisor, with whom they have regular contact, and to whom they should go with any issues about their volunteering. If you don't know who your supervisor is, please let Jyoti know.



Kingston upon Thames

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Our Mission

To be an effective organisation that is recognised as a leader, committed to involving and empowering all older people in Kingston.

We're on the Web!

www.ageconcernkingston.org

Meet the Staff

Richard Exworthy: Fundraising & Strategic Development Manager

I am married to Helen and have two children, Victoria aged 15 and Alistair aged 13. I have lived in Kingston for 10 years and I think the town offers everything I need. My main hobby nowadays is our local football team, Kingstonian, and I go to most of their games home and away. Helen works locally, too, and as both of our children go to schools in the Borough, the town really has become our home. Helen and I seem to spend most of our life ferrying the kids around from one activity to another, and we've found that camping is a great way of relaxing together as a family over the summer. My politics are very important to me - I've been a vegetarian for more than 20 years, and I'm a vocal anti-war campaigner. Working in fundraising is a way of living out my politics, and I support everything that Age Concern Kingston and other local voluntary organisations are trying to achieve. Apart from a short stint with a local IT firm, I have worked in fundraising since completing an MA in Marketing 15 years ago.



Diary Dates

Thursday 16th November
10.30 am at 14 Nelson Road
Tea with the Trustees for new volunteers

Friday 17th November
Public Meeting & AGM
12 noon
at The Bradbury Active Age Centre

Thursday 23rd November
Patrick Leeson, Director of Learning & Children's Services, RBK

Talk & Q&A on 'educational matters' in the Borough
3.30 pm
at The Bradbury Active Age Centre

Thursday 30th November
9.30—12.30
at 14 Nelson Road
Induction for all new staff and volunteers (or anyone who would like an update on new projects and activities)

Friday 8th December
Volunteers' Christmas Party
6.00 pm at Raleigh House

Art for ACKuT's Sake

This is an example of one of the charming cards produced by the Bradbury Centre Art Group in association with Kingston University Faculty of Art and Design. The card was designed by Hannah Rhind and Catherine Robinson, who earlier this year won Newcomer of the Year Award from Kingston University Students Union for their work at Bradbury. The cards are suitable for birthdays and all manner of occasions and are on sale at



Bradbury and at Raleigh.

All proceeds go to Age Concern Kingston.

Sleeping Cat
by Donald Dixon