



The Pershore Volunteer



Pershore Volunteer Centre puts volunteering at the heart of the community
to reduce rural and social isolation for local people.

November— December 2018

A Message from Our Chairman

As we enter the festive season it seems a good time to look back at 2018 as well as forward into 2019.

The past 12 months have been interesting and eventful, as ever. The year started with the sad news of the death of John Hill, our long-time Honorary Auditor. John was both a friend and supporter of the Volunteer Centre as well as being our Auditor and a number of Trustees and Volunteers attended John's funeral; he will be sadly missed.

2018 has seen some new initiatives, with our Blitzed evening, on the 24 February, being our first major fund raising event for a number of years. The evening included war times newsreel footage, a sing-along, fish and chip supper, as well as fund raising activities - a great success all round. The summer saw our communications team attending many village fetes around the area and our intrepid supporters undertaking various fund raising activities. In just one week-end we saw Sam Nutting undertake a sponsored walk and Emily Foster-Phillips and Roland Honeybunn undertake a sponsored cycle ride, all to raise much needed funding.

In addition to our internal fund raisers we are grateful for the support of local groups, especially Wychavon District Council. Pershore Town Council, Pershore's Royal Naval Association, Pershore and District Roundtable, Pershore Plodders and the Friends of Pershore Hospital all of whom have supported us during 2018.

Another initiative in 2018 was the expansion of our Lunch Club to include events at the Angel Hotel, supported by Darren Eden and his team. The new look Lunch Club, has been running for just over a year now and is going from strength to strength, hence the new events at the Angel. The Lunch Club activities were supported by funding from Cllrs Liz Tucker and Adrian Hardman, for which we are very grateful.

Continued



Pershore Volunteer Centre

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Jeanette Smith and the resource centre continues to be a mainstay of our activities, without whom so many parishes would be without their magazine, and so many local groups without their vital documentation.

Our Community Transport Team, running the car scheme, Co-op bus and the Evesham Hub minibus has seen a number of changes during 2018, most recently the retirement of Mavis James after 18 years as one of our drivers. We have also seen Rob Alexander, Ian Wilcox, Murdo MacDonald, Peter Wilson, Andy Walton and Christine Doust join the team of drivers and escorts and Richard Plummer, Kate Redfern, Lynn Mallin and Debs Phillips-Brant joined the office team. In addition Paula Wyllie joined the reception team.

In the Autumn Carol Christmas left the volunteering team; whilst Donna has looked after this area on a temporary basis we are aiming to have a new member of staff to manage our volunteer brokerage from the start of next year.

Another change in 2018 saw Kate return from her cruise to take up a new role of Grants Manager, focusing on applying to grant funding bodies for vital funding. It does seem strange that whilst Kate is still around, after 20 years she is no longer Chief Officer. Donna has assumed much of Kate's former day-to-day activities and the Trustees have assumed many of the more strategic roles Kate undertook, plus Kate still helps out when needed. On the subject of "helping out" I would like to thank Jeanette Dowling, who whilst retired from the Centre has been ever willing to cover in the office when we needed that extra pair of hands.

Turning to 2019, finances will be tight, activity levels will increase and the Pershore Volunteer Centre will continue to deliver an outstanding service to our community. But we cannot do this without your continued support. So on behalf of the Trustees I would like to thank Kate, Sue, Donna, Ruth, Jeanette(s), all our volunteers - the Lunch Club team, the reception/office team, all our drivers and escorts and to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous 2019.

Eric Wiles

Proud to be

Chairman - Pershore Volunteer Centre





Nostalgic Normandy



Steve Grainger, one of our stalwart volunteers, writes of a most moving trip.

A neighbour of mine, who is also a client of the Volunteer Centre, was last year awarded the Legion d'Honneur by the French Government for what he did in Normandy in 1944. Many other old soldiers were also decorated. The Royal British Legion arranged a trip to the Normandy beaches for veterans, late in September. Harold Wilson, now 97, was invited. As a neighbour and myself a legion member, I was asked to go as his carer. The whole trip was paid for by the British Legion. This included first class train travel, two nights' bed and breakfast at the Victory Services Club in Marble Arch, coach costs and four nights' bed, breakfast and evening meals in Caen. First class train travel was wonderful, any amount of sandwiches and non-alcoholic drinks. When we arrived at Paddington, the train manager called up a buggy to take us to a taxi, and we booked the buggy for the return trip.

There were, eventually, 14 veterans on the coach, all with one or two carers, plus a tour guide, a manager, a British Legion official, a doctor and a nurse.

We left London and headed for Ashford to pick up the rest of the veterans, then through the tunnel and on to Caen. Research had been thoroughly done for the guide knew which beaches

they had landed on, where most of the people they served with were buried and where the memorials for each regiment were. All these were visited, as well as museums.

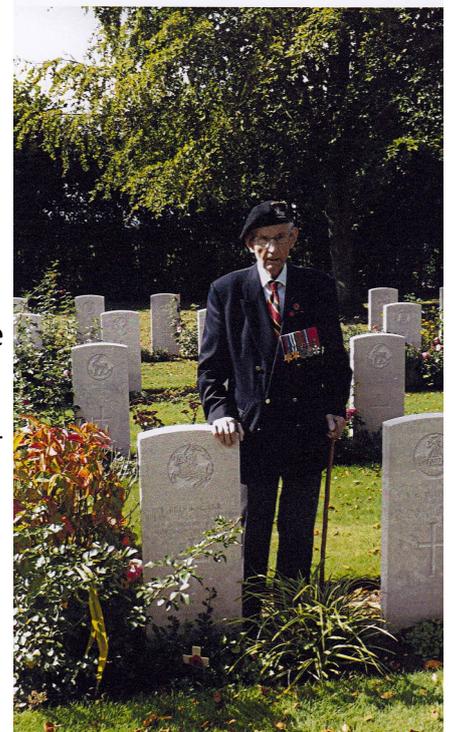
All in all a very busy time and a lot of coach travel, but well worth it for the pleasure that it gave to the veterans and for listening to some of their stories.

We returned to London on the Tuesday and stayed at the same place again. When we arrived at Paddington, the buggy was waiting for us

but, as we were early, we were taken to the First Class Lounge.

We were collected a few minutes before the train was due to leave.

A Frenchman had found details of all the veterans on the internet and came along with a picture of Harold. I took a photograph of it so that we can see Harold then and now.



Mavis Receives a Certificate of Appreciation



Readers will remember that in the last Newsletter we celebrated and thanked Mavis James for her splendid contribution to the social car scheme over so many years. We were delighted that it was possible for Mavis to come into the office and receive a Certificate of Appreciation from Eric Wiles, chair of Trustees, and Kate Walton.



Happy Birthday

We send our very best wishes to those volunteers who have celebrated their birthday recently.

November

Dorothy Coldicott Philip Evans
 Ray Cook Ronald Wallis
 Sandra Coppin



December

Graham Giles Barbara Smith
 Kirsty Haddon Amanda Tanfield
 John Heath Ian Wilcox
 Christine James Eric Wiles
 Robert Rawles



Congratulations!

Here are the recent winners of the monthly draw.

November

£15 Mr L Edwards
 £10 Mrs F Smyth
 £5 Mrs G Suckling, Mrs H Purcell

December

£15 Mrs S Chandler
 £10 Mrs H Bruce-Gardner
 £5 Mrs F Roebuck, Mrs R Green

Do you want to see your name in the list of winners?

I would like to join the Monthly Draw

Name:

Address:.....

I would likeDraw Numbersnumbers x £1.50 per month

I enclose payment from:2019 to 31st December 2019

Total £

Please make cheques payable to Pershore Volunteer Centre

Award for Lunchclub

The lunchclub were delighted to have recently been given an award from Age UK Reconnections Service. This is given to a group or activity that goes out of their way to make people feel welcome and included, and in "recognition of the fantastic work we do to make a positive difference to people's lives".



Thank you to everyone that has helped to make the lunchclub such a success!



Come in for Coffee!



Following the success of a volunteer drop in morning we would again like to give you the opportunity to pop in either for a chat or coffee and biscuits, maybe a mince pie or two.

You would also have the opportunity to meet with the Chairman or one of the Trustees.

You could use this time to discuss any queries/questions you may have or to arrange a time to discuss any support needs you have. (If you are a car driver with us this might be an opportunity to bring in Insurance renewals etc.)

If you know someone who may be interested in volunteering with us or the organisations we support please bring them along.

Volunteer Coffee Drop-in dates

Friday 7th December – Coffee and Mince pies

Friday 18th January



First Aid Training

There are 2 sessions of first aid training for those that are interested. They will be run by First Response Training at The Angel in Pershore 9 - 12 either Friday 11th January (places limited) or Friday 15th February. It is Level 2 training in adult emergency first aid techniques covering areas such as choking procedures, severe bleeding, burns and adult resuscitation.



Anyone who is interested please let Ruth know either by phoning the centre or emailing lunchclub@pershorevolunteers.org.uk.



A massive "thank you" to the staff, volunteers and trustees at the Volunteer Centre for your ongoing support and best wishes for my family.



My husband, Ken, is now home after eight months in hospital and rehabilitation and a new journey begins for him as a wheelchair user.

All your kind thoughts and prayers have helped me enormously. Thank you.

Sue Nutting (Finance)

Sue, may you and your family enjoy an especially happy Christmas. (Ed)

Festive Fundraising!

Have you done your Christmas shopping yet? Remember there are 1000's of retailers now on **#easyfundraising** – if you think a retailer might be on there, they probably are!

JD Sports, White Stuff, TK Maxx, Majestic Wines, Bodyshop, Very, The Perfume Shop, Apple, Waterstones, Boots, Screwfix, Boden, Notonthehighstreet, Game, Pandora, Topshop, Halfords, Hamleys, Carphone Warehouse, iTunes etc. and many more.....Perfect for all your Christmas gift shopping!

Pershore Volunteer Centre gets a donation from every purchase you make! To find out more, visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Office Closure.

Please can everyone make a note that the Office will be closed as follows:

Close: 1.00pm on Friday 21st December 2018

Re-open: 10.00am on Wednesday 2nd January 2019

It may be helpful to some of our clients if, drivers, you advise them of these dates so that they can plan any bookings for the New Year well in advance and avoid last-minute rush once we re-open.

With thanks for all that you do, we wish you and your families:

A Very Happy Christmas and New Year

