

Volunteers add millions to the Rushmoor economy



Rushmoor Voluntary Services has identified that there are at least **1744** volunteers working in the borough, contributing an estimated **£2,803,166** to the local economy annually.



In July 2011, Rushmoor Volunteer Centre asked its members how many volunteers they employed. 58 organisations responded, including large charities, community and voluntary organisations and small community based projects.

From our questionnaire the number of volunteers involved in the work of 58 Rushmoor based organisations was: 1744

Using a nationally recognised formula, we calculated that the work of these 1744 volunteers contributes £2, 803,166 to the Rushmoor economy annually.

What do Volunteers in Rushmoor do?		
Conservation Work	Older People's Social Clubs	Committees & Trustees
Minibus Driving	Mentors and Buddies	Charity Shops
Support for Disabled People	Educational support	Scouts, Guides & Brownies
Health and Carers Support	Homework Clubs	I.T. Support
Faith Groups and Churches	Sport Coaching	Neighbourhood Support
Animal Welfare	Admin & Office Work	Homeless People
Drugs, Alcohol & Addictions	Parent Support	General Interest Societies

Greg Alexander, RVS Chief Executive said, *'Our survey has shown how important volunteering is to the local area, not only for the people and causes that it supports but also the economic contribution made. We are very proud of the work and time given by so many volunteers who are demonstrating that BIG SOCIETY is alive and well in Rushmoor'*.

Andrew Lloyd, Rushmoor Borough Council Chief Executive added *'I commend RVS for undertaking this research which continues the enormous contribution volunteers make to our community and environment'*

About Rushmoor Voluntary Services

One of the aims of our volunteer centre is to recruit local people and place them into voluntary work within the many community groups and charities that thrive in the borough.

Rushmoor Volunteer Centre acts as broker between organisations looking for new volunteers and members of the public looking to undertake voluntary work. This is done through face to face meetings, enquiries received through a volunteering database and telephone and email enquiries. Using these methods, the centre placed 225 people into voluntary work during 2010/11.

The figure we have calculated is based on a small sample of local organisations. When you consider that there are probably over 500 voluntary organisations, community groups and charities operating in Rushmoor you begin to realise the massive contribution made by local volunteers in our area.

If you would like to know more about volunteering in Rushmoor please visit our website; www.rvs.org.uk or take a look at the 'do it' website; www.do-it.org.uk