

Volunteer of the Year to be announced!

Every year, to celebrate all the volunteering that takes place throughout Argyll, AVA, in partnership with Argyll & Bute Council, hold an awards ceremony at Kilmory. Nominations have been pouring in from all over the region, with individuals and groups being nominated both in their work for formal organisations and informally among their communities. Sports volunteers are represented from football to swimming in recognition of all the volunteer coaching, organisation of local events and participation at all levels from school to county championships.

In the morning, there will be a series of short information sessions, including information on funding, and the digital switchover. After a buffet lunch, awards will be presented to individuals and voluntary organisations for Volunteer of the Year Awards 2010. If you would like to attend on the day please complete the form on the invitation and return to AVA, Edward Street, Dunoon, or alternatively email to dev.abvc@tiscali.co.uk by 31 May

Some of the things we've been up to....

We've been busy spreading the volunteering message to a number of groups in the last few months and have made presentations on Timebanking to GRAB's Master Composters, Kilmartin's SWRI, as well as the mid Argyll Public Health Network.

On your behalf we attend a few local fora where we can put the case for volunteering as a solution as well as ensuring best practice is followed by organisations. These fora include MCMC, mid-Argyll Employment Forum and Youth Connections as well as the MAKI LACPG.

A series of productive meetings at Lochgilphead Joint Campus have resulted in a presentation to S5 and S6 at the end of the term so that all the hours of volunteering that young people currently do within the school or their local sports or youth clubs can be recognised and rewarded with MV certificates from Holyrood.

Mid Argyll timebank well represented at Lochgilphead's Big Day Out.

Choose Life – an NHS initiative - organised an event at the swimming pool on April 10th to showcase the positive things to do in the area for your health, both mental and physical. The event was supported by 4 timebankers who contributed a lot of time to the day, including pool surveys, fliering and manning the stall. They all got a lot out of the day and enjoyed participating and their efforts were very much appreciated.

Mid Argyll Job Information Club is MAJIC:

Every Friday morning from 10 til 12 in the morning the mid Argyll Youth Project host the MAJIC job club. As well as all the local vacancies, agencies, including the Job Centre, come along ready to advise on any aspect of job hunting from careers advice to specialist support needs. It really is a one-stop shop, whether you are trying to decide

what training you would like to do, get help with a CV, or do a Better Off calculation. A number of people have decided that volunteering for a short while will give them the edge in job applications as well as providing invaluable experience, contacts and confidence and have registered for volunteering.

Action on Falls – Feel Free to Feel Fit: 23 June event.

Help the Aged's Falls Action Week runs this year from 21-27 June. Here in Lochgilphead, health professionals and volunteers have got together to host a Falls Awareness event for over 50s. Did you know that 66% of unscheduled visits to hospitals are as a result of falls? Information on physical and social opportunities for folk over 50 in the Lochgilphead area are on offer as well as taster sessions, information and above all FREE soup and rolls in the Community Centre from 12 - 3. There are volunteering opportunities available helping in the kitchen, surveys or meeting and greeting. If you want to help this event go well and meet new people, call the volunteer centre –you might get a go on a Wii-Fit!

Voluntary Sector Forum – Mid Argyll

The last meeting was held on the 20th April, just before the Local Area Community Planning Committee, which Louise attended on our behalf. Minutes of both of these are on the Third Sector part of our website:

www.argyllcommunities.org.uk

The next meeting will be Friday 2nd July at half ten at CAB. All welcome.

Forward Together – consultation event

The Mid Argyll Kintyre and the Islands Local Area Community Planning Group has begun to identify local priorities and issues but they need to hear what community representatives have to say about Transport, Economic and Community Development, Health and Wellbeing, and Town/Rural Development.

The conference on Saturday 19th June 2010 at Tarbert Academy between 10.00am and 2.30pm will give the community an opportunity to share their views and opinions with MAKI Local Area Community Planning Group. If you would like to attend please contact Argyll Voluntary Action Lochgilphead office to book your place.

Local volunteering opportunities.

Call the office for more details – we can fill you in on the details – I hope one of these takes your fancy:

Mid Argyll Transport Volunteers	drivers
CAB	advisers: training given.
Events assistant community Consultation event 18-19 June, Tarbert (TB)	
Link Club Committee	Secretary – 2 hours/month. (TB)
Big Plus	Literacy Tutors.
Garden help	Achnamara (TB)
Garden help	central Lochgilphead (TB)
Kitchen scrape and fill/decorate	central Lochgilphead (TB)
NHS Telecare project	keyholder
Argyll & Bute PPF	committee members.

Argyll Voluntary Action – Lochgilphead Office – 606808.

