

# VOLUNTEERING UPDATE – APRIL 2009

N.B. A date in brackets shows when this information was last up-dated or confirmed as current.

**Duke of Edinburgh's Award** – With the development of volunteering opportunities for young people, through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and with opportunities to gain a John Muir Award, there is now a separate page for D of E opportunities at [DofE](#), including:

1. **Gold Award – 2009 Residential Opportunity**, based in Ribblesdale, from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009 including the 'Discovery' level of John Muir Award ([www.jmt.org/john-muir-award.asp](http://www.jmt.org/john-muir-award.asp)) . **Please note that the 2009 Residential was fully booked (with a waiting list), by the end of February. If this would have interested you, please e-mail [yorksandhumber@DofE.org](mailto:yorksandhumber@DofE.org), registering the fact that you would have been interested. This may not help you, but it might add support for the idea of running two residentials, next year.**
2. **Gold Award – Volunteering**, for individual D of E candidates, from each October.
3. **Bronze and Silver Awards – Volunteering**, for groups

(23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009)

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Our **Dales Volunteers** network has been so popular (We have about 250 Dales Volunteers, at the moment.) that we have had to reduce our recruitment of new trainees and we have stopped accepting applications, so as not to disappoint people or keep them hanging on. **However, there may be a small number of opportunities in the NW and NE teams for people with an interest in, or experience of outdoor, practical work. If that describes you and you live within the catchment areas of the NW and NE teams, as described below, please use a Volunteering Enquiry Form to express an interest.**

**Area teams of Dales Volunteers:** Apart from the exceptions, noted above, applications are not being accepted, at present. We shall begin recruiting again, in the summer, for an **October 2009** intake of trainees. Please return here and 'watch this space' for news of any changes in the situation.

Because we are trying to maintain the current level of voluntary activity for the Authority (just over 6,000 volunteer days, last year) while also reducing fuel use, we now limit the area from within which we recruit new Dales Volunteers. For the simplest way to check whether you live within our 'target area', key your home postcode in to please go to either <http://directgov.transportdirect.info/Web2/JourneyPlanning/FindCarInput.aspx> or to [http://www.theaa.com/travelwatch/planner\\_main.jsp](http://www.theaa.com/travelwatch/planner_main.jsp) and check the mileage from your home post-code to the post-codes for the bases from which Dales Volunteers operate. Do check that the mileage is the shortest reasonable, as both web-sites tend to use higher category roads, which may go 'the long way round'. To be considered for a southern team, you would have to live within 35 miles of a SW or SE base; for a northern team, within 40 miles of a NW or NE base: While it might seem churlish to turn away offers of 'free' help, **anyone from outside those travelling distances, who expresses an interest, will be advised of any opportunities that we are aware of, nearer to their home.**

<b>SE team</b> – Grassington	BD23 5LB	<b>SW team</b> – Stainforth	BD24 9PN
		or – Malham	BD23 4DA
<b>NE team</b> – Reeth	DL11 6TE	<b>NW team</b> – Hawes	DL8 3NT
or – Aysgarth Falls	DL8 3TH	or – Sedbergh	LA10 5AD.

**More follows >>>>>>**

If you have no car, but are a confident user of public transport, please send further details and we'll give serious consideration to your joining. If you live further away than the 35- and 40-mile bands, we would try to suggest alternative host organisations.

If you do live within range of one of our bases and you are interested in Dales Volunteers, do use the [Enquiry Form](#) to tell us what you're particularly interested in or what your availability, expertise or skills enable you to do and we'll look to see whether we have anything we could ask you to do, while you're waiting to be able to apply. Alternatively, if you prefer and we are able, we might offer to put you in touch with another volunteer-involving agency, which might be able to take up your offer, before we can. That choice would be yours. Please note that although we have about 250 Dales Volunteers, the turn-over rate is very low.

*(9<sup>th</sup> April 2009)*

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**Ragged Robin Conservation Volunteers**, based around Richmond, is a small (12 or so) group of people who carry out practical conservation or access tasks, every Thursday. They are independent, but work with our Ranger Service and benefit from similar arrangements to those enjoyed by others in the Dales Volunteers network. Although they have no vacancies, at present, if you live in Richmond or Richmondshire, send your contact details to the [Volunteers Co-ordinator](#), who will pass them on.

*(20<sup>th</sup> March 2008)*

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**Museum Volunteers** support the staff of the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes. Expressions of interest and applications to join this part of the Dales Volunteers network are welcomed. However, in some areas of Museum activity there are at least enough volunteers to tackle the work in hand. Before sending in an application, please speak, one-to-one, with the Museum Manager, Fiona Rosher, on 01969 666219, to help her understand how you would be able to help. She is particularly interested in hearing from people with archaeological knowledge.

*(20<sup>th</sup> March 2008)*

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### **Conserving Roadside Verges.**

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) has appointed a Conservation Officer (James Ferguson) to manage the Yorkshire Dales Road Verges Project. This is a partnership project between the YWT and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to enhance the management of roadside verges within the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the adjacent Nidderdale AONB. James is based at the Authority's Grassington office. So far as volunteers are concerned, the project has three parts. The first aim is to enthuse people from local communities to better manage their local road verges. The second provides opportunities for others either to fill gaps in areas where there is an un-met need or to join a mobile practical force, which will give practical assistance wherever it is needed. This work may be alongside Dales Volunteers and will include some activity over winter. The third aspect involves working with North Yorkshire County Council to manage verges for the benefit of wildlife as well as for health and safety. Please complete an [Enquiry Form](#) to record your interest and more information will be sent, as it becomes available

*(16<sup>th</sup> October 2008)*

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9<sup>th</sup> April 2009

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