



Volunteer Round-up

June 2015

Welcome!

Hello & welcome to the June edition of Volunteer Round-Up. It's been another busy month here in the organisation and especially here in the Volunteering & Engagement team! Check out below to see the various activities our colleagues and partners have been involving tenants, leaseholders, volunteers and the public in!

We'd also like to welcome Nahida Latif who has joined the Business Support Team to cover for Rachel Slatter whilst she is on maternity leave. She will be taking over the work that Rachel was responsible for supporting our volunteers so please say hello to her when you meet her. We wish Rachel all the best and look forward to meeting the new addition to her family soon.

If you have anything you would like to add to the next edition of Volunteer Round up please contact me directly todd.ricketts@redkitehousing.org.uk or call 07717 865 553. I look forward to hearing all about what's going on in your area.

Its #Volunteersweek! (1st – 7th June)

Its national volunteer's week this week, and we all just want to say a **big** thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time, effort and energy for us. Without you, we wouldn't be tenant-led or have services that reflect your needs and priorities

Over the last year, you have helped us achieve so much, including; selecting our new contractors to carry out cleaning asbestos removal, external repairs. Along with helping us monitor the cleaning and grounds maintenance, and with designing our new Red Kite app and Portal with us! Check out this link: <https://www.redkitehousing.org.uk/news-and-events/its-national-volunteers-week-622/> to see a **personal thank-you video** from all of us here at Red Kite, as well as an interview with a new volunteer!

New: Neighbourhood award 2015!

The 'Neighbourhood Award' is our replacement for the long standing 'Garden Competition' which has been running in one form or another for many years. Although it has been popular with people living in our homes, we wanted to recognise the great things that are going on in our communities as well as the beautiful gardens, so we have created the 'Neighbourhood award 2015'.

This was created thanks to a focus group led by tenants, along with brainstorming sessions in our own team within Red Kite. There are many new categories available to compete in, including 'Volunteer of the year', 'Best 'Young Persons' garden' and a 'Good neighbour' award!





Please make sure you get any nominations in before the deadline (13th July) and encourage others to do the same....we would like to see a real boost in the numbers of entries and ensure that those who deserve to get recognised do so.

You can find more details and an entry form on our website:

<https://redkitehousing.org.uk/getting-involved/> or give us a call and we can make sure you get one.

Lady Ryder Memorial Garden Open Day Sunday 12th July

The Lady Ryder will host their annual “Open Day” on Sunday 12th July from 2PM – 5PM in the afternoon. There will be presentations made to their successful students (one of whom is progressing to the Berkshire College of Agriculture) alongside sales of on-site grown vegetables, plants and an excellent tea! Everyone is very welcome, so do pop along if you can - it’s a great chance to see what the organisation does; along with helping to support its worthy causes. You can find them here: The Lady Ryder Memorial Garden, Frieth, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 6NN.

Would you like to know more about our Property Pod?

When we asked members of our Contract Review Groups what training they thought would be helpful, a number of you said you wanted to know more about the Property Pod. As a result on Wednesday 17th June at 10am-12pm we are holding a ‘Meet your Property Pod’ session which is open to all our volunteers. This session will cover; the structure of the team, a day in the life of a Project Manager, our investment programme, the tools we use to manage projects and a chance to ask questions. All of our volunteers are invited to this, if you are interested or would like further information, please contact Becky Stacey on 01494 476200 or Rebecca.stacey@redkitehousing.org.uk

Out and about this month

We have been out and about in the community over the past few weeks, attending a whole range of events, including the Rennie Grove ‘A day to remember’ and Booker Hill School summer fair. We hope to be able to take part in more community events over the summer and will be launching our very own ‘Feed the Rascal’ game too – so watch out for us and come and have a go!

It’s great fun helping out at these events and we are always on the look out for more volunteers. If you can spare a couple of hours to help run our stand, or if you are brave enough, to wear our Red Kite Rascal outfit, then please let us know.

We are looking for volunteers to help out at this years SV2G festival on the Rye on 25th July. If you can help please contact us today.





Training updates

We have recently run some training for our volunteers who were interested in helping us interview potential new employees here at Red Kite; the session was a great success and means we have a bigger pool of volunteers to call on when we carry out interviews! Thank you to all those that attended and to our HR business partners Anastasia & Lynn who ran the session and made it engaging and worthwhile!

We also ran a 1st stage procurement training day for volunteers and staff here at Red Kite, the feedback from everyone was fantastic. We would like to thank our trainer from Hemsely Fraser who came all the way from Swansea just for the day! As this training was really popular and oversubscribed, we hope to run it again in the next few months so if you missed the chance to take part this time but would like to reserve a place for next time, please let us know.

Four volunteers who attended the training are particularly interested in sitting on our Core Procurement Group and will therefore be receiving some additional training from Katherine Rudkin (Our Procurement Specialist) tailored to the procurement process at Red Kite.

Annual Get Together Meeting 2015

Our AGM will take place on Friday 11th September at 5:00PM, planning is underway and as well as the formal AGM we will have a host of fun things going on. We don't want to give too much away at this stage, but we have booked the marquee and the fabulous magician. We have looked at the feedback received from last year's event and will take this on board, ideas we are working on are a fun activity, charity tombola (all donations gratefully received), food and drink, activities for children and the very popular fun quiz. We will keep you updated over the coming months and look forward to seeing you there!

Neighbourhood and Environmental Improvement Group

The Neighbourhood and Environmental Improvement Group have been busy recently, looking at some of our play areas which need upgrading. Here's a picture of the group at Melbourne Road play area, although the play equipment looks new, the benches around the park need to be replaced. The group are looking into Red Kite branded benches along with wheelchair accessible picnic benches. If you would like to get involved with this group, please contact us.



Tenant and Leaseholder Committee (TLC) and Improvement Commission (IC)

The groups are now meeting as one and at their meeting this week agreed a new 'Terms of Reference' and role description for the new committee which will be up and running after the AGM in September. If you would be interested in joining the new group, look out for more information on our website: <https://redkitehousing.org.uk/getting-involved>



Red Kite Superhero Academy: Taking you from hero to superhero

We're looking for new recruits to join our superhero academy, where we give people the best start in their cosmic career journeys and develop them into future leaders. Over the course of the paid two year programme, you'll gain experience and skills in every area of business, giving you the insight and knowledge it takes to release your potential and make a real impact on your working life. Visit our website for more information and details on how to apply: www.redkitesuperhero.com #graduatescheme #apprenticeship

Volunteer recruitment drive

We are always so thankful for the volunteers we currently have with us here at Red Kite, however we are always looking for new faces with fresh ideas and who can spare a few hours a month to help shape the future of social housing and our communities with Red Kite. We are now running a three month recruitment campaign in which we will be advertising and joining in activities all over the district; aiming to get our tenant-led ethos out to as many residents as possible. Can you help spread the word? Do you know of anyone who may be interested in what we do here at Red Kite Housing? If so please get them to contact us today! volunteering@redkitehousing.org.uk & <https://redkitehousing.org.uk/getting-involved>

People Team:

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Jackie Price, Engagement and Volunteering Specialist - 01494 476231
Todd Ricketts, Engagement and Volunteering Specialist - 01494 476318

Business Support Team:

Sue Fryer, Business Support Manager - 01494 476247
Nadine Newell, PA to Neil Venables (Director of Resources) - 01494 476348
Becky Stacey, PA to Alan Keers, (Director of Operations) 01494 476200
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