

New recruitment drive for library volunteers

Libraries across the county, including Biddulph, have launched a campaign to recruit more library volunteers over the next few months.

Staffordshire Library and Arts Service has developed a new, more flexible and varied role to encourage a wide range of people to apply.

As well as targeting students and people who want to use their skills and experience to give something back to their local community, the service will shortly launch the new 'Volunteering Speaks Volumes' accreditation scheme. The new scheme will give any library volunteer the opportunity to gain free formal qualifications in areas such as Customer Service, Retail or IT.

The service is also looking to grow community capacity and support more people to benefit from all that volunteering can bring.

As well as making connections in local communities, the service intends to encourage more isolated people, or those who would really benefit from the confidence volunteering brings, to express an interest to find out more. A member of library staff will contact them to talk through their options.

The volunteer role, which is designed to match activities up with peoples interests and passions, involves helping children to play and learn, helping others to discover the online world, ensuring housebound people can access books and information or supporting the day-to-day running of the library.

Anyone who can commit a minimum of just two hours a week is welcome to express an interest or apply.

People can find out more about volunteering at their local library from the people that do it already online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/volunteerinyourlibrary.

People can express an interest or apply:

- Via the website www.staffordshire.gov.uk/volunteerinyourlibrary
- Telephone **01785 278311**
- E-mail volunteerinyourlibrary@staffordshire.gov.uk

Do you know a local community group or organisation that might be interested in finding out more about volunteering at their local library? Please contact your local **Community Support Officer on 01785 278311**.