

Volunteering is a great opportunity to increase confidence, as well as helping the community

DID YOU KNOW?



Volunteer for Hackney

1. Volunteer Centre Hackney Fair; 2. A Hackney Carnival volunteer; 3. Beecholme Community Garden participants learn about different foods; 4. A volunteer mends an electrical item at Hackney Fixers; 5. Xenia women take part in a workshop at Hackney Museum; 6. Kadir plants potatoes for Rainbow Grow

FROM planting bulbs, to fixing electrical items and baking bread, there are many different ways residents can get involved and make a difference in their community by volunteering this year.

The Council and Volunteer Centre Hackney (VCH) have joined forces to

run a month-long campaign to promote volunteering across the borough. VCH helps residents find out how they can give their time to the causes that matter to them. Last year, over 1,400 people discovered volunteering opportunities through VCH.

Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, has made volunteering a key priority for the

“Hackney’s volunteers change lives and make this borough the thriving and wonderful place it is”

Council to focus on.

He said: “I am passionate that community action is central to responding to some of the biggest challenges we as a borough

face. This isn’t about replacing the role of professionals or the public sector, but increasing the collective positive impact we can all make. Hackney’s

volunteers change lives and make this borough the thriving and wonderful place it is. I hope residents can get involved with volunteering in some way.”

Last year, the Council launched an initiative – Volunteering for Hackney – which aims to help small community-based, volunteer-led organisations.

Seven grassroots groups have signed up to the

project and are receiving support to do everything from setting up a Facebook page or a website, to filling in grant applications, and learning how to get the best out of volunteers through the right training.

Raul Couselo, from one of the seven groups Beecholme Community Garden, said: “We are always looking for new people to join the garden and help make it great. Even if you’ve never tried gardening before, come along and try something new.”

Volunteering for Hackney: get involved in local groups

• **Hackney Fixers:** holds regular events where volunteers help people learn about electrical repairs by mending items they bring along. Visit: hackneyfixers.org.uk

• **Xenia:** Hackney women from all walks of life are invited to meet, connect and learn at workshops for women.

Visit: www.xenia.org.uk

• **Rainbow Grow:** a LGBTQI+ led community gardening group for people interested in growing edible plants. Visit: www.rainbowgrowhackney.wordpress.com

• **Beecholme Community Garden:** residents join in weekly sessions to grow vegetables, take free guided foraging walks on Hackney Marshes and taste what

they’ve grown. E-mail: beecholmegarden@gmail.com

• **St Anne’s Soup Kitchen:** around 60 guests eat at St Anne’s soup kitchen in Hoxton every Saturday from 5pm. A full meal is given to all who need it. Visit: www.hoxtonchurch.org.uk/outreach

• **St John’s Soup Kitchen:** as well as giving food to

visitors on Tuesday evenings, volunteers at this Finsbury Park soup kitchen also help guests find out about local support services. Visit: www.sjebp.com/soup-kitchen

• **Association for Single Mums from Africa:** a weekly meet-up at Pembury Community Centre aimed at women from African Francophone countries. E-mail: africasmalove@gmail.com

MORE INFO

For more info or to register, visit: www.vchackney.org; or call: 020 7241 4443. Follow Volunteer Centre Hackney on Twitter @VCHackney, or on Facebook, search #volunteerhackney