

Welcome to the June edition of the RVCP Volunteer Newsletter. Firstly thank you to all the volunteers who helped in all areas across the Park during the Easter Half term. We were extremely busy with visitors thanks to the lovely warm weather.

Look at the impact you have made!

Lauren has put together some interesting facts about The Chapel since we have opened. These impressive figures couldn't have been achieved without the fantastic and lovely team we have in the Park. Thank you to you for supporting Royal Vic.

- Over 6,000 visitors climbed to the top of the Tower, generating £17,747 in admission sales
- Over 20,000 visitors to the Chapel, discovering the story of the hospital and the park's history
- Retail took £10,625 in eight months – this is brilliant and we have new lines coming in this year
- Our own ticketed events (revenue split events like Cinderella, Christmas Carols and the Commemoration Concert) made over £1,500 and likely to improve this year
- Private hire bookings go from strength to strength, with 2019 being fully booked for events and 2020 almost fully booked for weddings, with a target of £20,000 for this financial year (which we hope to exceed!)
- A growing events programme for 2019-20, with concerts, commemorative events, comedy nights, theatre, dance evenings, craft fairs, school and adult education visits, talks and tours all in the pipeline!



This sets us on course for a great year of full trading, and I'm so proud of everything you have achieved as a team. It is always going to be tricky to run a free entry heritage site with a balanced budget, but if all goes well we should be on course to do this this year. The Chapel enables people from the local community to discover more about their local heritage – thank you so much for facilitating this experience for our visitors!

Over the coming weeks we'll be sharing more detailed reports of retail and events performance and these will be available to read in the Chapel.

Lauren, Venue, Events and Heritage Manager

Recognising Success

The Green Volunteer Celebration event held in the Great Hall hosted by Cllr Elaine Still, Chairman of HCC was a unique opportunity to say a great big **thank you** to all our hundreds of volunteers who give their time and energy throughout the year.

Our lovely Bernie received his long term service award.

Friends of RVCP received a special recognition for their huge efforts in raising a staggering £30,000 towards The Chapel conservation project.

The volunteers who researched the information for the Chapel exhibition, Oral History Project and the Heritage Lottery Funded Activity Plan were recognised for the outstanding efforts.

The Chapel Volunteers and the Royal Vic Gardening Group also received special recognition for the amazing work they have achieved across The Park in creating a unique visitor experience. Well done team!



Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day will be held on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 June in the Chapel and on the adjacent fields.

Sign up to help out at this exciting event which will include a replica Hurricane, brass bands and an international food festival.

Volunteer training - Talk on the History of The Royal Victoria Military Hospital

Thursday 11 July, 6.45pm

Join Ursula in the Chapel for a fascinating talk on the history of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital.

To attend please add your name to the Doodle Poll <https://bit.ly/30ODC1g>

Presenting out and about

Christine who regularly volunteers in The Chapel and is a certified White Badge Tour Guide has recently delivered a talk to The Inner Wheel of Southampton group. The talk was on the history of Netley Military Hospital and was organised by Sue Prince (pictured right) at Chilworth Village Hall.

Christine was ably assisted by her IT consultant (hubby John, Conservation and Chapel Volunteer) and although expecting 30-40 attendees, 72 booked and attended!

The talk was well received and the group presented a donation of £100 which will go into the ongoing costs of The Chapel.

A huge thank you to John and Christine for delivering a successful event.



Object Handling - try it out!

If you have attended a training session with Ursula on object handling why not try a session in the Chapel with a few objects. Visitors are fascinated to be able to have a closer look at some of the objects. Next time you are here why not give it a go?

Volunteer Trip - On Saturday 13 July we will be welcoming volunteers from Crofton Beam Engines www.croftonbeamengines.org.

They volunteer at a Grade 1 listed industrial heritage site and visitor attraction in Wiltshire.

We would like to arrange a reciprocal trip for park volunteers to their site.

If you are interested in this trip please let Jo know.

Summer BBQ and Quiz

Friday 7th June, 7.00pm
at Royal Vic's Oak BBQ site



Soft drinks, hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Let us know if you can make it at joanne.basham@hants.gov.uk

Tour Guiding in The Chapel

We are fortunate to have an increase in groups visiting us for a guided tour experience in The Chapel.

After a brainstorming session with 21 members from our volunteer team we have pulled together the ideas to form a 60-minute tour. The tour notes are a skeleton structure which will allow tour guides to add their own stories.

We have a team of very experienced tour guides who would be happy to lead an example of their tour to volunteers that would like to start gaining confidence in this activity.

Advertised public tours will begin in July 2019.

If you would like to attend an example tour session please accept one of the following dates via the doodle poll link below.

Jill Hadfield has kindly said she will lead some tours for volunteers on Tuesday 4 and 11 June at 10.30am.

To attend click below. <https://bit.ly/30OgUX3>



How to volunteer

To get involved at the Park email joanne.basham@hants.gov.uk or call 023 9224 4064 for an informal chat.