

Volunteer Newsletter

Autumn 2023



Hello!

We'll be aiming to send out a newsletter up to three times a year with information which is relevant but not urgent, and without making the volunteer rota emails any longer! We'll share useful information, highlights of what's happened and what's coming up, training opportunities, and socials! If you ever have any questions or anything you'd like to share, email pantry@oasisbath.org.

3SG Volunteer Event

A huge thanks to all the volunteers who came to the 3SG Volunteer Fair on 1st September, and spent the day talking to prospective volunteers and making connections with other organisations. Becky, the director of 3SG, messaged to say "I've received some really great feedback from the session [Claire Henwood] held with Sarah and also a huge thanks to the brilliant Oasis Pantry volunteers who came along and contributed as well, please pass on my thanks to them." It was so lovely to see how brilliant (as always!) our volunteers were, and how respected they are within the third sector community in Bath. We also had a lot of fun with our "guess the cost of the basket" game. We costed out a £3 and a £5 shop, and the £3 shop would have been £25.20 in a supermarket, and a £5 shop £42.25! That's a really significant increase in the cost of food over the last year, and shows just what a good deal our pantry membership is.

New Volunteers

We'd love to recruit some new volunteers, so please do encourage any friends who are interested in volunteering to consider volunteering at one of our pantries in Roundhill or the City Centre. There are postcards you can take home to give out to friends with details of how to join us, or ask them to email pantry@oasisbath.org to register their interest, and we can always arrange for a trial session so that people can see how it works before they sign up. We've also got some social media posts - please share those amongst your friends and contacts too!

Aprons?

Would you like a beautiful apron to wear if you're on a shopping station at a pantry session? We saw another organisation at the volunteer fair with them, and took inspiration (see photo)! They would be pantry branded, and we would of course supply them with no cost to you. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/7k2ynpbn> to let us know your yes/no/maybe!



Training Opportunities

Wellbeing Courses in Bath offers lots of training for volunteers, all for free. We'd particularly like to highlight Everyday First Aid Skills, as several volunteers have asked about this. There's also really useful training on 'Making Every Contact Count', Safeguarding Adults and Children, Boundaries training and more. Head to www.wellbeing-courses.co.uk > Courses > [Free Volunteer Training](#) to find out more.

Oasis Hub Bath will be running an accredited First Aid training in spring 2024, and we'll share more details with you when they're available. We're also investigating options for training on Mental Health Awareness.

Did you know...

Oasis Bath is one of 40 communities where Oasis work in England, understanding the issues that impact these specific neighbourhoods, and together finding practical ways of responding to structural injustice and inequality. Oasis Restore is a really exciting new development - Oasis will open the UK's first secure school, replacing youth jail, in the biggest move forward in youth justice in living memory. Read more about this, and other areas of Oasis community work at <https://www.oasisuk.org/our-impact/what-we-do/>.

Volunteer Benefits

We know you are all superstars who don't expect anything back for your time volunteering with us, but we wanted you to know about some of the schemes set up to say "thank you" to volunteers:

You can claim free tickets to Saturday night shows at Komedia - check their website, www.komedia.co.uk/bath to see what's coming up and email pantry@oasisbath.org with the date(s) you would like, and we can request tickets for you.

There is a website called www.charityworkerdiscounts.com, which is free to sign up to, and gets you discounts in a number of retailers.

Social Events

We'd love to run more social events, and want to ensure a good mix across the year. We seem to have quite a number of singers in our volunteer team, so thought we would start with a meet up at Matt Finch's "Pub Choir", which is running once a month at Burdell's Yard on London Road. We hope to be there on 20th October, 17th November and 8th December. 7.30 for drinks, 8pm for singing, and it costs £9. More info can be found at www.mypubchoir.com. We'll also have a volunteer drop in coffee and cake session on Monday 13th November from 10-11.30am. If you'd like to register your interest in joining any of these sessions, please complete the form at <https://tinyurl.com/mpb5zdp>.

Social Media

Social media is a brilliant way to see what we're up to across Oasis Hub Bath - follow us on Facebook or Instagram to find out more!



www.facebook.com/OasisHubBath



[@OasisBath](https://www.instagram.com/OasisBath)

Volunteer Expenses

We're aware that the rise in cost of living is having a significant impact on everyone, and we'd never want the cost of transport etc to be a barrier to you volunteering with us. We are able to cover public transport costs, or if you incur other costs through volunteering with us please talk to Claire Henwood and we can discuss what costs Oasis can cover. Email pantry@oasisbath.org for a copy of our expenses claim form, or if you have any questions.

Coming Up

We've applied for funding to run "Oasis Living Room" again this winter, and will likely change the format a little. The food will be much more of a "sharing" meal, with people helping themselves and also accessing the kitchen, making their own drinks, and popping their dishes straight into the dishwasher. This sits better with our value of working with, not doing for people, building a strong community, and making the sessions less intense for volunteers. The timing is likely to be Monday evenings from 7-9pm. We've also applied for funding to run a second pantry session and living room session over the winter. If we're successful, this pantry will only run until the end of March, and people will only have membership until then, to counter the worst effects of the winter. We'll make this really clear when people apply to join. We'd aim to run both the second pantry and second living room sessions on a Tuesday, probably with the pantry in the morning and living room over lunchtime.

We'll be engaging with our Ukrainian members to see if they are still wanting us to run a conversation cafe, and if not, what they would find helpful.

Thank you!



We're so grateful to our amazing team of volunteers, and we couldn't do what we do without you. Your brilliant efforts are having an incredible impact on people all over Bath. Thank you!