**Charity champions volunteers this Volunteers Week**

Local charity Community First Yorkshire will be celebrating the difference volunteers make to local organisations, as part of the Volunteers Week national campaign, which runs from 1-7 June.

Volunteers have played a major part in keeping community spirit and services going throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, so this year’s week marks the perfect time to say thank you. Community First Yorkshire will be sharing volunteering stories throughout the week on social media and encourage local charities across North Yorkshire to do likewise.

Charities across the UK will also be holding events to thank their volunteers and celebrate the power of volunteering. Last year there were over 600 events across the country, from award ceremonies to tea parties and barbecues.

Lizzie Clapham, Development Officer at Community First Yorkshire says “Volunteers can be such an integral part of an organisation’s team, and are often invaluable in enabling charities to remain open and keep providing their support. It’s so important to thank them and make sure they know how appreciated they are.If you are saying thank you to your volunteers, get in touch to let us know so we can help spread the word*”*.

From the power of youth to environment and conservation, there is a different theme to focus on each day, with a culmination in The Big Lunch on Sunday 6 June. This is a chance to celebrate connections and get together with your neighbours and community, whether that be online, on your doorstep or over the fence. If your organisation is celebrating with the Big Lunch this year, get in touch with Community First Yorkshire to tell them how.

For many charities, the week will be a chance to showcase the range of volunteering opportunities on offer.  For charities in North Yorkshire wanting to find volunteers, you can use Community First Yorkshire’s free, online database; Volunteering in North Yorkshire (VINY), which makes it easier for people to find their perfect volunteering role, whether they want to volunteer from home, volunteer through work or volunteer in their community. There is such a variety of different opportunities available, from a puppy raiser to a costume interpreter, a marketing volunteer to a telephone befriender. You might want to take part in one-off volunteering or give more of your time. Whatever you require, VINY can help find something that suits you.

Community First Yorkshire can help organisations develop best practice in managing volunteers and deliver a personally rewarding experience for every volunteer. They also organise North Yorkshire’s quarterly Volunteer Co-ordinator meetings for those in a charity with a responsibility for volunteers.

Find out how to volunteer in your local community and give your time to help others by visiting

[**www.volunteeringinnorthyorkshire.org.uk**](https://imsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=http%3a%2f%2fwww.volunteeringinnorthyorkshire.org.uk&umid=44A8A345-C361-0F05-A88E-1FAE69DC508B&auth=de41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-d58a796ed3a21bdd6d379074d472120db29bb915)