Friday 4th December 2009

Welcome to our Weekly E-Bulletin!

The aim of our weekly e-bulletin is to keep you up-to-date with any VE @ Keele information, training, volunteer events and anything else that we think you might be interested in!

The e-bulletin will usually go out to all volunteers currently held on our mailing list once a week. To be removed from the list and all VE @ Keele mailings/activity, please email: volunteering@kusu.keele.ac.uk.

If you would like to include anything in the e-bulletin, whether it's information about a volunteering event or a good news story about your own volunteering experiences through VE @ Keele, please let us know!

Don't miss…

Volunteer opportunities:

- Christmas at KUSU - Help needed at KUSU's Christmas market!
- Exciting KUSU Jobshop volunteer opportunity!
- Trainee youth workers needed!
- Keele Links – St John Ambulance volunteers needed!
- Changes – 12 Steps to Mental Health - Volunteer Recruitment Event

Students volunteering:

- Keele SVP gardening clearance

Find out about:

- Health & Safety training – Weds 9th December

Important information:

- Christmas at VE @ Keele

Help needed at KUSU's Christmas Market!

Keele University Students' Union is making merry this Christmas with a festive indoor and outdoor market on Tuesday 8th December, 10am to 4pm. Fresh produce will be on sale outside on the central concourse area and gifts and crafts available in the Ballroom.

As well as local farm fresh meat and fresh fish, there will be a range of delicatessen goods, handmade crafts such as glass, jewellery, Christmas cards and vintage homewares.

Mulled wine, mince pies and carols from the choir will all add to the festive atmosphere.

The star attraction is two real reindeer which will be outside on the concourse, along with their sleigh, between 11am and 3pm!

To ensure this event is a success, KUSU needs volunteer marshals throughout the day to guide visitors and offer general help and support to staff. Volunteers are also needed to help with the star attraction reindeer!

Can you offer 2-4 hours during the day between 8am until 5pm? Anyone who can volunteer for 4 hours or more can have their photo taken with the reindeer – for free!

Full KUSU Christmas info at www.kusu.net/christmas

For more information, contact Emma Walker or Lee Bradshaw on 01782 733814 or marketing@kusu.keele.ac.uk

Exciting KUSU Jobshop volunteer opportunity!

Would you like to volunteer and help international students to get part time work whilst studying at Keele?

If so, the Jobshop is looking for volunteers to help international students to call employers for work, help completing job applications, answering general queries about working and much more!

Interested? For information, contact Becky at VE @ Keele: volunteering@kusu.keele.ac.uk

Trainee youth workers needed!

Rendezvous Youth Club at Cornerstone Community Centre in Silverdale is looking for trainee youth workers to help them. Working with young people aged 10-14 years the youth club provides games and activities for young people in and around Silverdale.

The club also offers young people the chance to chill out in the 'Youth Room', chat with friends, listen to music, play on any of the number of consoles or play pool.

If you are interested in working with young people or would like to find out more, contact Edwin Cotter at Elim Pentecostal Church on 01782 614737 or email: edwincotter@aol.com

Keele Links – St John Ambulance volunteers needed!

Keele LINKS, the student led St John Ambulance division on campus, would like to invite anyone interested in learning, providing or teaching first aid to come along to one of our open meeting nights this December. The meetings will be in the Chancellors building, CBA0.075B/C, Tuesday 8th and 15th December, from 7pm to 8.30pm. Feel free to drop in for 10 minutes, or stay the full hour and a half!

We would be particularly interested in meeting anyone who would be willing to undergo first aid training and become one of our first aiders at events on campus. Our next training course is set for Sundays this coming February! You give as little or as much time as you can, and all your hours can go towards earning a VE @ Keele Award, great for your CV!

For anyone with a bit of spare time over the summer St John Ambulance provides first aiders for several festivals, including the V festival here in Staffordshire, and we're always looking for extra help!

Keele LINKS division, St John Ambulance - Staffordshire Tel: 01785 257124
Mob: 07983 799737 Web: www.sja.org.uk

Changes – 12 Steps to Mental Health - Volunteer Recruitment Event

Changes 12 Steps to Mental Health, in partnership with JET will be holding a Volunteer Recruitment event on Thursday 14th January 2010.

The event will take place at the Hope Centre on Garth Street in Hanley at 1.00 till 3.00 and again at 6.30 till 8.30.

Anyone interested in volunteering will be able to see what Changes does and how we can help people get involved in volunteering with a wide range of other organisations – there are opportunities for office work, service provision, horticulture, environmental projects, work in the community, health promotion, catering, care work… the list is endless!

Contact Nikki for more info: 01782 206422 or Email: changesvolunteers@yahoo.co.uk

Look out for more volunteering opportunities in our next bulletin

Keele SVP 1833 Volunteering: Garden Clearance

VE @ Keele works with a variety of voluntary and not-for-profit organizations, including student-led Keele SVP 1833, based in Keele chapel. Keele SVP has been really active both on campus and in the local community and when VE @ Keele signposted them to a volunteer opportunity recently, they were quick to take up the challenge, as SVP volunteer Faustyna explains…

Volunteering gives everyone an opportunity to make a difference to people's lives in their community. We can use our skills and experience to help and enrich the local community. I got involved with the Keele SVP 1833 a couple of months ago; I was looking for volunteering opportunities to help those in need, improve my communication skills and my career prospects. My first impressions of SVP during 'Freshers' Week' were very positive as the chair and other students who were up for volunteering were very nice.

SVP volunteering gives me the chance to meet people both from within and outside the University who I would not normally come across. We have meetings every two weeks to discuss our experience and future projects, share our opinions, positive attitudes and motivate ourselves to keep volunteering. The organization is partially involved with Keele Chapel and during our meetings students have an opportunity to pray for those in need.

One of our latest tasks was to help a disabled woman to clear up her garden. It was a really big challenge as the garden had not been seen to for ages! SVP volunteers were tipped off by a community warden that this woman was in real need, so we collaborated over two afternoons to finish the job. It is hard to imagine how tall and dense the brambles were in that garden, and only five of us girls to face the task.

Personally, I have never seen anything like that in my life. During the clearance we discovered in that garden a greenhouse, an old swing, and a little shed that had been hidden by all the weeds! It was quite a physically demanding activity in the open-air, which improved our fitness as well, but I was really pleased to be able to help in this way.

Other SVP activities include organizing a **Children's Halloween Party** with the Keele Postgraduate Association, **singing in local residential homes**, **fundraising for the Kenyan**

Famine Crisis and a **Children's Christmas Party** with the Keele Postgraduate Association. If you would like to get involved, contact Rachel at: rachelcason@live.co.uk

Written by Faustyna Popkiewicz
Pictured: Gemma, Faustyna, Helen, Rachel and Natalie

Training opportunity:

Health & Safety – Essential, practical information about staying healthy and safe whilst volunteering. Ian Jenkinson from Keele University Students' Union will deliver this training session.

When: Wednesday 9th December 1-2pm
Where: Meeting room 1, Students' Union

Please email to confirm your attendance - volunteering@kusu.keele.ac.uk

Christmas at VE @ Keele
Don't miss our volunteer get-together in KUSU Barista on Thursday 10th December from 7pm!

We will be offering a free glass of sparkly wine, mince pies and a free Christmas gift for every guest.

The Christmas get-together is a great chance to meet other Keele volunteers, share experiences and have fun!

Please email to confirm your attendance - volunteering@kusu.keele.ac.uk

Got a good news story about your volunteering?
Why not share it with other VE @ Keele volunteers?
Send your volunteering news to Becky or Paul at VE @ Keele at
volunteering@kusu.keele.ac.uk

Look for us on Facebook – 'Becky VE Keele'

Visit our website to find out about VE Awards and to register your volunteering