



Grab a coffee, unplug the telephone and put your feet up. The August 2009 edition of re@d-it!, the monthly newsletter from do-it.org.uk, is here!

In this edition:

[Dave's dos and don'ts](#)

[What the Partnerships Team has been up to](#)

[Introducing Katie and Ammaarah](#)

[A new look for Do-it](#)

[Olympics Inspired tagging](#)

[Logging technical problems online](#)

[Young Achievers Awards](#)

[Funding opportunity!](#)

[Previous re@d-it!s](#)

[It's all about the blogs](#)

[Upcoming training events](#)

[A big welcome to six new partners!](#)

[And finally...](#)

Please feel free to share this newsletter with other members of your team, especially those who use V-Base or V-Base Recruiter.

Dave's dos and don'ts

"When writing an opportunity, keep the description short, snappy and straight to the point. Try to make it clear what is required of the volunteer and how they will benefit from this opportunity. Remember this is your best chance of selling the opportunity to a potential volunteer!"

Want more?

Well you're in luck. Right now we are offering a free course to help you write inspiring opportunities. Please contact [Jenni](#) to book yourself in the next session which will take place on 2 September at our office in London.

What the Partnerships Team has been up to this month

Once again we've been a busy bunch here in Partnerships. Apart from [interviewing and recruiting two new staff members](#), we also hosted a National Volunteering Database (NVD) Advisory Group meeting where we enjoyed a stimulating debate about a whole host of issues affecting the NVD and have been working with Volunteering England to ensure we keep moving forward with the Olympic volunteering project.

Jenni also attended the North East Volunteer Centre regional meeting in Darlington where she gave an update on V-Base 3 and Olympics Inspired opportunities.

Introducing Katie and Ammaarah

In a selection process that included 10,000 hopefuls, a high-trousered judge and a whole lot of 'X-Factor', we are delighted to announce we have appointed two new members to the Partnerships Team. They are Katie Jackson, our New Partnerships Executive and Ammaarah Amejee, our Partnerships Assistant. We are really pleased to have them on board.

A new look for Do-it

You may notice something different when you visit the new [Do-it Product Support website](#). We're giving Do-it partners a sneak preview of the new Do-it and V-Base brands which we will be rolling out across our websites, materials and syndication feeds. We feel that this look is fresher, more modern and in keeping with the other YouthNet brands. We hope you like it too.

We're also starting to use 'Do-it' rather than the longer do-it.org.uk as the name of the website. It's more in keeping with the vibrant nature of volunteering and also easier to say on the phone!

Don't worry about making any changes to your own websites and materials at this stage.

[Partner's Homepage](#)

[Products & Services](#)

[V-Base](#)

[V-Base Recruiter](#)

[Syndication](#)

[How do-it works](#)

[Posting opportunities](#)

[Information and resources](#)

[Comments](#)

Training feedback: "I just wanted to say a big thank you for the V-Base Refresher Training. I found it really useful and so did the rest of the team when I got back to the office!"

Jennifer Mahon, OCVYS

[Suggestion](#)

Do you have any feedback or suggestions for us about re@d-it! ?

If you do, please [contact us](#).

However, if you are planning to create new materials in the near future that will mention the do-it.org.uk website, please do [contact us](#).

Olympics Inspired tagging

You may have heard that YouthNet and Volunteering England, supported by the Office of the Third Sector and Government Olympic Executive, are working together on a new project to support volunteering. It's inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and aims to strengthen the volunteering legacy of the event.

This means there will now be a new 'Olympics Inspired' field in V-Base and V-Base Recruiter. It's very important for all of those with V-Base accounts, that you update your software to include this new field. Luckily our friends in the Technical Support Team have been kind enough to create both a guide on what an 'Olympics Inspired' opportunity is and also how to upgrade. Please visit the [Do-it Product Support website](#) for all these details.

Logging technical problems online

In last month's re@d-it! we were delighted to announce the launch of the [Do-it Product Support website](#). This month we want to tell you all about logging your support cases online (in laymen's terms this means using the website to tell the Support Team about the problem you're having).

There are several benefits of logging your cases online including:

- The ability to log cases out of support team working hours (10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon – Fri)
- Once you have logged a case, the website will attempt to provide solutions for you
- The ability to search our solutions archive where you may find that somebody's already asked a similar question
- The ability to follow the progress of your case, including updated comments from our technical wizards Paul and Greg.

To sign up for online support case logging, please visit [the support website](#) and select "I require log in details for self-service".

Young Achievers Awards

Last month we told you all about the Young Achievers Award, but unfortunately the website was being rather temperamental around the time re@d-it! went out. So we've included it again to ensure no one misses out.

The [Young Achievers Trust](#), supported by YouthNet, wants you to help find England's star achiever for 2009. Nominations have opened for the awards and the deadline is September 27th. If you work with volunteers (or know of any) aged 16 to 25 who have made a significant impact over the last year then please nominate them.

Every year, Young Achievers aims to recognise 56 young people in the fields of community, arts, environment and sport, offering cash prizes, project support and a celebration day to winners and shortlisted candidates.

Funding opportunity!

Global Charities, in partnership with Global Radio and v, the National Young Volunteers Service, have launched the v young volunteer grants scheme for organisations across England. Grants of up to £10,000 are available for organisations that can provide NEW volunteering opportunities for 16-25 year olds. Volunteering opportunities must be delivered within England by May 2010 and the deadline for applications is 4 September 2009.

This is a fantastic opportunity to inspire more young people to volunteer and gain all the knowledge and skills that go with it! If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact [Helen Morton](#) at Global Charities.

Previous re@d-it!s

If you've been thinking, "I wish I hadn't deleted December 2008's edition of re@d-it! as it really was fantastic", then fear not! Visit the [partner's section](#) of the do-it.org.uk website and have a rummage through all of the old editions of the best voluntary-sector newsletter around.

It's all about the blogs

Fancy letting people know what volunteering is actually like? If you do, we heartily recommend you check out our [blogs](#), written by enthusiastic volunteers from all over the country. Our bloggers are involved in all sorts of things; from volunteering overseas to

campaigning about global warming. Just click on the link above and you'll be there in a flash.

Upcoming training events

Writing Good Copy training: 2 September 2009

Do you get writer's block when it comes to writing exciting opportunities? You need the 'Writing Good Copy' training! This is a free training session designed to help you write inspiring opportunities in an imaginative way. This training is aimed at helping you recruit more 16 to 25 year-old volunteers, but would be useful to all volunteer-involving organisations, whatever their target demographic. This training is free for a limited period and is booking up fast so reserve your place now. For further information or to book onto the session please contact [Jenni](#).

V-Base Refresher training: 6 October 2009

Mail merge in a muddle? Reporting feels ridiculous? Activity Log atrocious? Then you need V-Base refresher training!

This free training course is designed for individuals who have already attended V-Base training. It has limited spaces and is running for as limited time so book now to avoid disappointment. For further information or to book onto the session please contact [Jenni](#).

V-Base training: 24 August and 28 September 2009

Information about [V-Base training](#) and the dates of future sessions are now available on the support website. If you are interested in attending the training sessions, please submit a [V-Base training booking form](#).

V-Base Recruiter training: 13 October 2009

Information about [V-Base Recruiter training](#) and dates of future sessions are also available on the support website. If you would like to attend a session or wish to register your interest for the future, please submit a [V-Base Recruiter training booking form](#).

Location

All training sessions take place in YouthNet's office: First floor, 50 Featherstone Street, London, EC1Y 8RT.

A big welcome to four new partners!

They've seen the light and this month we're welcoming six new organisations into the fold:

- [Volunteer Ipswich](#)
- [Oxford Hub](#)
- [North Hampshire vInvolved Team](#)
- [The Peace Alliance](#)
- [Bolsover Volunteer Centre](#)
- [Marriage Care](#)

We look forward to working in partnership with these organisations and promoting their opportunities on do-it.org.uk.

And finally...

If you ever have any questions or feedback about anything you've read in re@d-it! or seen on the website then please do [contact us](#).

Until next time,

The Partnerships Team
www.youthnet.org
www.do-it.org.uk