



Visit our product support website

October 2009

You've been eagerly waiting all month and here it is: the October 2009 edition of re@d-it! the newsletter from Do-it.

In this edition we give you further information on our [Olympics project](#) and the deadline for V-Base users to download the Olympics inspired update. We continue to shamelessly plug our fantastic [Do-it Product Support website](#) and give you an exclusive insight in to how [V-Base 3.0](#) is coming along. There's also updates on our refreshed Do-it branding and our new [good practice guides](#). Dave turns agony uncle with the introduction of '[Dear Dave](#)' and, as usual, we have [Fiz's top tip](#), stories from the [Partnership Team](#), details of [training](#) and a [welcome](#) to our new partners. So sit back and enjoy the read(-it!).

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



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## What the Partnerships Team have been up to this month

Over the last month the Partnerships Team have been as busy as a flat-tailed, furry animals that builds dams in rivers. Dave enjoyed a trip to regional meetings in both the West Midlands and the East, where he gave an update on all things Do-it. Thanks to Eileen and Heather for the warm welcome and the refreshments provided.



Katie attended a Regional Skills event in Sheffield, telling hundreds of young people all about YouthNet and the work we do.

Jenni changed her surname from Parker to Alexander because she got married. Congratulations Jenni! Jenni's email is now [jenni.alexander@youthnet.org](mailto:jenni.alexander@youthnet.org).

In a recruitment process that involved a house, a lot of celebrity wannabees and a rather large brother we are delighted to announce that Rosie Lowe was last to be evicted and is now our New Partnerships Executive. We are really pleased to have her on board.

The Partnerships Team also spent an afternoon volunteering at [Culpeper Community Gardens](#). We built up a sweat ripping out weeds, keeping vines at bay and planting a new tree. You can read Katie's [blog entry](#) about our efforts, and see of our photos on [Flickr](#).

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## Olympics inspired tagging

Once again we are talking about YouthNet's and Volunteering England's project, 'Inspiration and Legacy from the 2012 Games' - it's so good we don't want you to miss out! Please visit our [Do-it Product Support website](#) for all the details and information for V-Base users on how to update your software. It's Olympictastic!

To help focus your minds, we're setting a deadline of 30 November for you to download

the V-Base update. If you haven't [contacted us](#) to confirm you've downloaded the update by then, you can expect a knock at the door (or at least a phone call) from either Greg or Paul in our Technical Support team.

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## The Do-it Product Support website

"Wow," exclaimed the Volunteer Centre manager as they logged on to the [Do-it Product Support website](#) for the first time, "there is so much useful information for me on here".

It's true! Whether you use V-Base, V-Base Recruiter or have a syndication feed, our support website has loads of articles and fact sheets that will help you. You can even [log your questions](#) online and our resident support experts, Paul and Greg, will start working on an answer straight away.

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## V-Base 3.0 update

The Technical Development Team are currently hard at work building the functionality that will enable people to send emails directly from within V-Base. Our planned enhancements will allow more flexibility around the selection of contacts for mailing and the creation of emails themselves. The V-Base Development Advisory Group (VDAG) has recruited four new members and will be meeting in November to review our progress.

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## New Do-it branding

We've updated the colours of the website, the logo, the Do-it leaflets and now it's the turn of re@d-it! to adopt the new look. We hope you like our newsletter layout. If you're creating your own new materials and would like to use the Do-it logo, please get in touch with our marketing team on [marketing@youthnet.org](mailto:marketing@youthnet.org).

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## Best practice guides

Earlier this year, we did a huge amount of research into how users interact with both Do-it and vInspired and how our partners use these websites to recruit volunteers. Based on the findings, we have come up with a collection of [best practice guides](#).

These are real life examples of good ways to recruit and retain volunteers using the National Volunteering Database. Please have a read and if you wish to submit a case study of your own, please [contact us](#).

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## We've moved banks

Please take a moment to check that you have our updated account details, as we now bank with Unity Trust Bank. If you have made any payments to us recently, we will be able to check and confirm that your payment has gone through. Alternatively, if you would like our new bank details then please [contact us](#).

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## Fiz's top tip

“When writing your opportunities, try to answer the following questions:

- What does the role involve?
- Who will the volunteer be working with?
- What skills will they develop?
- What benefit will their volunteering bring to the

organisation, and to them personally?

If you have answered these questions you will be well on your way to writing an excellent opportunity.



Want more? Check out our [top tips for writing opportunities](#).

## Dear Dave

In future issues of re@d-it!, Dave will be answering your burning questions about anything Do-it related, such as V-Base, V-Base Recruiter or syndication. One question and answer will be published every month - so start [sending them in](#). Please note: Dave is not an expert at providing relationships advice.

## Upcoming training events

### Writing Good Copy training: 29 October and 24 November

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 your target demographic. This training is being run for a limited period and is booking up fast so reserve your place now. For further information, or to book for the session, please [contact Jenni](#).

### V-Base Refresher training: 12 November

Mail merge in a muddle? Reporting feel 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 places and is running for a limited time, so book now to avoid disappointment. For further information, or to book onto the session, please [contact Jenni](#).

### V-Base training: 17 December

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: 26 January 2010

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 three new partners

This month we're welcoming three new organisations into the fold:

- [British University Gaelic Games](#)
- [Sensory Trust](#)

- [London Youth Games](#)

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

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## 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](#).

Best wishes,

## Partnership Team

