



You've been eagerly waiting all month and here it is: the September 2009 edition of re@d-it!, the newsletter from do-it.org.uk.

In this edition we explain why it's important for you to upgrade your V-Base to include the 'Olympics Inspired' tag and how to do this. We'll give you an exclusive insight into the [volunteer communication](#) the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) will be sending out. This is as well as more information on how to [log technical problems online](#) and why you should complete the short description on your opportunities. We also tell you about the new [Honda Campaign](#). And of course, we have all the usual items like '[Simon Says](#)', news from the [Partnerships Team](#) and a massive [welcome](#) all 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.

What the Partnerships Team has been up to this month

It's been a busy month for the Partnerships Team! Apart from buying umbrellas and rain macs to enjoy the British summer, Dave visited Volunteer Centre Penwith in Penzance and saw the good work they are doing. A big thank you goes out to Marilyn and her team for being so welcoming. Katie and Ammaarah also visited Camden Volunteer Centre, so thank you to Sheila and team there as well.

We've all been occupied with [Forum3](#), and promoting Do-it and your opportunities there. We ran two seminars, focusing on how volunteering can benefit your career. These were a real success with over 60 people coming along to hear us speak.

Fiona and Katie also attended the Metropolitan Police Conference to promote Do-it and volunteering to those who work for the police authorities in England.

Olympics Inspired tagging - V-Base users

In August's re@d-it! we told you about the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games project and how it aims to strengthen the volunteering legacy. We explained that you will need to update your V-Base to include a new 'Olympics Inspired' option in the suitabilities field. Well, a big thank you to those of you who have done so. You're all stars! However, some of you are yet to run this update, so this month we thought we'd give you some fantastic reasons why you should.

Capture the enthusiasm: 250,000 people have registered their interest in volunteering with the Olympics and thousands of these people are looking for opportunities to do right now.

It's happening all around you: These 250,000 eager volunteers don't just live in London. People all over the UK are looking for ways to get involved in the Olympics through volunteering.

Get noticed: Tagged opportunities will show up first in a new syndication feed which will launch next year, this coincides with the Government's Olympics campaign as well.

Be part of the team: Volunteering England and YouthNet are going out to enthuse organisations across the country to create Olympics Inspired opportunities and they will want to post with local organisations like yourself.

It's so easy! Find all the details on the [Do-it Product Support website](#) with a full guide on how to [download the new field](#) and how to use it. Please don't forget to [contact us](#) once you have it installed.

Olympics volunteer communication

Olympic organisers [LOCOG](#) have told us that a communication from them will be sent to their database of registered volunteers in the week commencing September 21. They want to inform people how to start volunteering right away and it's likely that, in England, volunteers

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[V-Base Recruiter](#)

[Syndication](#)

[How do-it works](#)

[Posting opportunities](#)

[Information and resources](#)

[Comments](#)

Feedback from Trudi Pipe, a volunteer who found an opportunity through Do-it:

"I have found a full time job now but this is just to say thank you for finding me such a wonderful voluntary opportunity. It really helped me get the job I have now and the people I worked for were delightful too. I have made two new friends!"

[Suggestion](#)

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

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

will be referred to Do-it. This may mean you receive an increase in eager beaver volunteers that week - all finding your opportunities through the Do-it website.

Logging technical problems online

In July's re@d-it! we were delighted to announce the launch of the [Do-it Product Support website](#) and last month we explained how to log your support cases online. This new service allows you to log cases outside of support working hours, search the website for the answers to your problems and follow the progress of your case.

Some of you have signed up and we hope you are noticing the benefits already. However, we would really like to see as many of our partners as possible using this service. It's really easy to use, and you can always [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

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

Honda Campaign

Honda are launching a new environmentally friendly car, the [Honda Insight](#) and as part of the promotion they want to encourage people to "do good" in their local community by taking part in environmental volunteering opportunities.

Honda will be advertising the car locally and they want to promote local volunteering opportunities as well. Therefore, we are currently syndicating volunteering opportunities from do-it.org.uk to 160 regional newspaper websites, the vast majority of which are in England.

The campaign will feature advertorial and editorial copy in local newspapers, as well as adverts in newspapers, online and other media such as cinemas. Later stages of the campaign will feature case studies of volunteers gathered via the local newspaper sites.

The next proposed promotional activity for the Honda campaign is an article to run across all regional media, in the week commencing September 28. This feature will also specifically mention Volunteer Centres. Once again this may mean that you an increase in eager beaver volunteers that week.

Simon Says:

"When writing your opportunities, it's essential to include a short description. As technology advances, increasing numbers of volunteers will search Do-it on mobile phones and iDTV. These platforms have a limited amount of space for advertising opportunities, so it's vital the short description field is completed. In V-Base 3.0, this field will need to be completed before an opportunity can be uploaded to the Do-it website.

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

Upcoming training events

Writing Good Copy training: 29 October 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 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 onto the session, please contact [Jenni](#).

V-Base Refresher training: 6 October 2009

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: 28 October 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!

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

- [Beatbullying](#)
- [Global Action Plan](#)
- [Brook](#)
- [HTV Circles](#)

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](#)

