

Volunteer Update May 2020

Dear Volunteers,

We hope that you are well and managing to keep busy and safe during this difficult time. We will of course let you know as soon as we have information about returning to normal duties and we look forward to seeing you again. Please do contact us if you would like a chat or another volunteer to contact you. It is really nice and important for volunteers to keep in touch with friends and colleagues.

Welcome also to all new volunteers and thank you for stepping in at late notice to help out. We hope you might continue to stay with us when things return to normal and become part of our volunteer family at The Royal Free.

We wanted to let you all know about our latest important work.

The Community Sewing pool at WAC Arts Centre – Belsize Park

A team of volunteers are setting to work to produce thousands of surgical gowns for the Royal Free London.

Fashion and sewing experts, volunteers from the Royal Free Charity and staff from the RFL supported by The Fashion School UK have come together to create a pop-up workshop capable of producing hundreds of surgical gowns each week. While the trust is confident in its existing supplies, these gowns will make use of surplus material to provide a boost at the Royal Free Hospital and Barnet Hospital. If you would like to join the sewing group then please email alix.temple@nhs.net.

The ability to use a sewing machine is desirable but not essential, as there are roles available cutting and folding, packing and working as machinists. The sewing is basic and you really don't have to be a Vivienne Westwood to make a difference. There is of course social distancing and the sewing pool is based over 2 floors of the old Town Hall in Belsize Park. It is a grand and beautiful building and opened in 1878. Please do look it up if you are interested in local history. There is an impressive example of a Victorian vestry hall, designed in the Italianate style. <https://www.wacarts.co.uk/who-we-are/our-building>

Julia is our volunteer who usually helps on 10N with activities and music for the elderly care patients each week She has started volunteering in the sewing pool. She says " it is fantastic to be part of the new initiative to provide the extra PPE for the Royal Free. Hampstead Town Hall is a wonderful space to work in with a fun team creating gowns out of theatre drapes to protect the frontline medical staff. It is great to be making a positive difference." If you know anyone who would like to join the sewing pool, please ask them to contact Alix directly. **Volunteers must be between 18 and 70 years old and not in the vulnerable category.**

The Free Supermarket at the Rec Club Thanks to the volunteers who continue to support the supermarket. This has been a great success and staff have been immensely appreciative. The shop is now only open to staff from 630am til 930am for them to pick up essential supplies after their night shift or before they start their day. Our regular songwriter and guitar player Matt Smith, who regularly used to visit the elderly care wards has been playing at the Rec Club supermarket twice a week to help cheer up the staff and take requests. **First glimpse of Hospital documentary** The trailer for BBC documentary Hospital: Fighting COVID-19 is available to view now – a first look at the programme which was filmed at the Royal Free London. The special two-part documentary will be broadcast on BBC Two at 9pm on May 11 and 12. It will shine a light on the heroic efforts of staff at Barnet Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital and the experience of the patients we have been treating. Filmed during a three-week period in March and April when the virus was hitting its peak, the documentary captures the challenges facing our trust and the incredible care provided to our patients and their families. If you are reading this on line then you can [view the trailer here](#)

Please contact any of the volunteer team Please do contact us by phone or email if you would like a chat or would like to be put in touch with another volunteer. Gill Gill.hyatt@nhs.net 07904 208277 Sharon Sharon.howarth1@nhs.net 07932 609748 Sam Samantha.boyce@nhs.net 07904 208 376 LaDonna Ladonna.casey@nhs.net 07904 208392 Monika Monika.sobanska1@nhs.net 07930 950158

Kind Regards

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