

Year of the Volunteer 2005

2005 is the Year of the Volunteer, a year-long celebration of the amazing work volunteers do and a call to action to get more and more of us volunteering.

Early in 2004, Chancellor Gordon Brown designated 2005 as the Year of the Volunteer. The Home Office, as the government department with responsibility for encouraging active citizenship, worked in partnership with two well-established volunteering organisations [Volunteering England](#) and [CSV](#) to co-ordinate the Year.

Aims of the Year

The Years' main aims were to:

- ▶ Increase the number of volunteers, particularly individuals from marginalised groups and young people
- ▶ Open up more volunteering opportunities in the public and voluntary sector
- ▶ Raise the profile of the work volunteers are doing nationwide
- ▶ Thank volunteers everywhere for their time and commitment

Volunteer Organisations and the Year

All volunteer organisations were encouraged to participate in and benefit from the Year of the Volunteer 2005, as a chance to:

- ▶ increase engagement by providing opportunities for the public to volunteer,
- ▶ to increase awareness of volunteering in general, and
- ▶ increasing awareness of existing organisations specifically, by branding existing work under the Year of the Volunteer banner.



Worksop Volunteer Fair, Worksop Market Place, June 2005

As volunteering is a key part of the day-to-day work of BCVS, it was felt more appropriate to let them carry out specific events targeted at the programme. An event was held in Worksop Market Place on the 7th June. In total 27 organisations took part, with a wide variety of issues covered including conservation, arts and social welfare. There was a lot of interest from the public with very positive feedback.

A second Volunteer Fair will be held in June 2006 at Retford Library. The week-long programme will include a series of exhibitions on a number of themes, and live events.

If you are a member of a volunteer organisation and would like to get involved in the Year of the Volunteer campaign, go to [Volunteer organisations and the Year of the Volunteer](#)

For more information go to the following websites:
www.volunteeringengland.org.uk and www.cvs.org.uk
Or contact BCVS on 01909 476118 or go to www.bcvs.org.uk