



Volunteer Dacorum, June 2006

Volunteering in Hertfordshire

Volunteering is giving unpaid help to the community, a charity, local clubs or voluntary organisations. This can mean anything from coaching a sports team or helping an elderly neighbour, to more formal roles such as being a school governor or a board member of a charity. It can also mean a team activity for a group of individuals. It can be a regular commitment, or a one-off activity.

Volunteer Centres in Hertfordshire

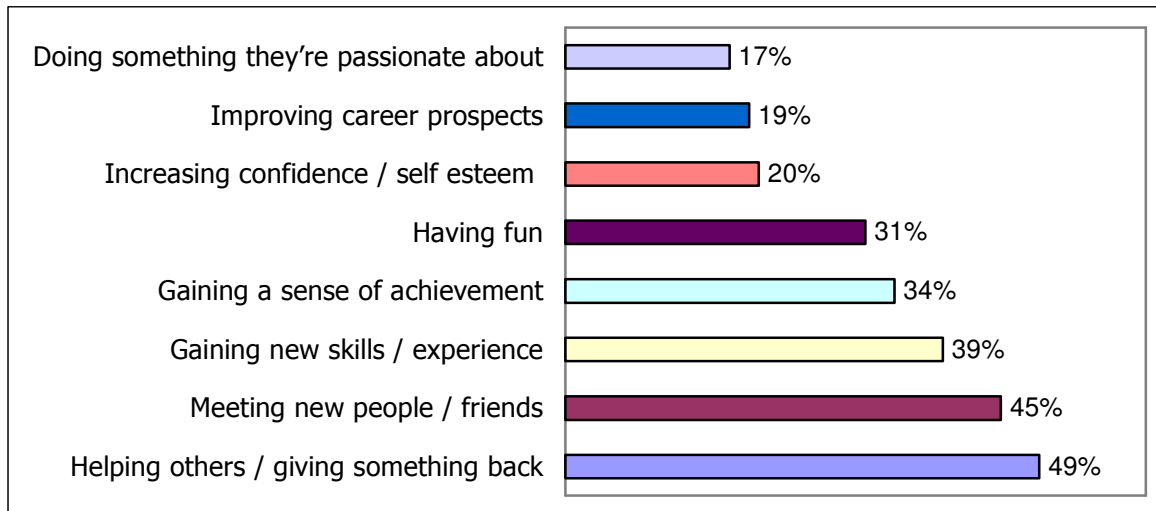
There are 9 Volunteer Centres* in Hertfordshire. They are based in Broxbourne, Dacorum, Hertsmere, North Herts, Royston, St Albans, Stevenage, Three Rivers and Watford. (There is also a Volunteer Bureau in Welwyn/Hatfield offering some Volunteer Centre services). Recently the Volunteer Centres have developed closer working partnerships, using funding from ChangeUp through the Hertfordshire Infrastructure Consortium. Centres offer information on volunteering to potential and existing volunteers and to organisations that involve volunteers. More information about them, and about volunteering in Hertfordshire, can be found at: www.volunteeringherts.org

What volunteers get out of volunteering

Volunteers develop new skills and abilities, meet new people, have fun and give something back to society. Volunteering can also provide a very useful stepping-stone on the way to paid employment.

Why do Hertfordshire people volunteer?

An estimated 3,600 people in Hertfordshire find volunteering placements through Volunteer Centres each year. A recent survey by the Centres came up with these results. The sample was 267 newly recruited volunteers.



National volunteering database

Volunteer Centres across the county maintain databases of voluntary opportunities within their localities. These opportunities cover a huge range of interests and areas of activity. These opportunities are uploaded regularly to the national volunteering database on the [do-it web site](http://www.do-it.org.uk/) (<http://www.do-it.org.uk/>).

This site enables potential volunteers to find appropriate voluntary opportunities by entering their postcode, interests and time available. They can also register on line and have their details emailed to their local Volunteer Centre.

* Quality Accredited by Volunteering England