



UL STUDENTS' UNION  
volunteering  
www.lincolnsu.com/volunteer

# ULSU Volunteering Newsletter

Autumn  
2010

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**Featuring the latest events from RAG and information on their up and coming events!**



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## Make a Difference Day 2010

Each year the CSV (Community Service Volunteers) arrange a national day of volunteering under the heading "Make a Difference Day" when voluntary organisations across the UK are invited to do a one-off event. This year ULSU Volunteering contacted a number of local organisations that we have links with and asked them to come up with ideas for something that students could do for a day. As a result we decided to work with Age UK who had asked for us to decorate the reception area of their Day Centre on Park Street.



So, on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, a merry band of students, supported by volunteer staff members and officers from the Students' Union worked on a rota basis throughout the day painting and decorating. The great thing was that the centre was open so, whilst we were having to work round staff and service users, it gave us a

fantastic opportunity to have a chat with everyone (and we got many handy decorating tips from them not to mention a number of requests to go round to their homes to do a bit for them there!).

At the end of the day we had completed what we set out to do and the Centre Manager Rosie Davidson, sent the following message: *"I just wanted to send you a quick email to thank you and your team for such a great job you did in my reception area. We have heard nothing but positive comments from staff, volunteers and customers. Everyone has said it has really brightened up the area. There have also been several comments about how friendly your students were. It was a pleasure to have you all here, and should yourself or any of your students need any assistance with anything, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

***Best wishes to you all!"***



On the back of this one student would now like to volunteer with Age UK on a regular basis, and Jane is liaising with Rosie to set up an arts project to paint some murals at the centre which will hopefully happen in the New Year.

The day was a huge success and gave us a chance to do something really worthwhile for our local community – a big thank you to everyone who got involved!

CSV &  
MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE  
DAY

Jane Kilby, ULSU Volunteer Co-ordinator

## Changes to the Department

We've had lots of changes over the summer!

To start with, we are now looking after SU Volunteering as well as the traditional brokerage to organisations so if students want to volunteer in the community, as a student rep or as part of a sports committee, they now come to us! We're also still here to provide community based opportunities to staff of the University. This is a really exciting development for the department and ensures that regardless of where a student volunteers they have a fulfilling volunteering experience and have access to quality support and advice.

We've also said goodbye to Pam Holbrook who retired at the end of Freshers' week. After many long years working for the University which saw her setting up the volunteering department, Pam made the decision to retire to be able to spend more time with her family and at her house in France (Lucky Pam!!).

We are very grateful for all the work Pam has done for the department and wish her all the best for a long, happy and relaxing retirement!



Over the summer, we've also revamped our website. All our opportunities are now categorised and students are able to find them by clicking on the appropriate logo to reveal the opportunities related to that field.

We're trying to make it easier for students to find organisations and opportunities that they are interested in, and so far feedback suggests this is working.

We're still developing the logos and have more on the way which will make it all even better!

On top of all this, we've also introduced daily drop-in sessions for students to be able to come in and chat about volunteering. Whether it be to sort a CRB or ask about a particular opportunity, the office is open then! (see back page for the opening times)

### How To Find Us

We are open in the SOAP Centre for you to drop-in at the following times:

**Monday: 1pm-5pm**

**Tuesday: 1pm-5pm**

**Wednesday: 10am-1pm**

**Thursday: 1pm-5pm**

**Friday: 10am-1pm**

We can also make appointments for you to come and see us. If you would like an appointment, please contact us and we will arrange a suitable time.

Before dropping in or making an appointment, it would be helpful if you registered with ULSU Volunteering online. You can email us - [volunteer@lincolnsu.com](mailto:volunteer@lincolnsu.com)

You can ring us - 01522 886420



We understand that as students you have a lot of pressures on you during your time at university. Due to these, it may be that you are unable to commit to volunteering every week for an organisation.



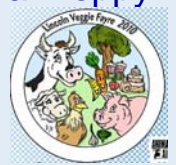
We have plenty of one-off opportunities for you to take part in. Some examples that have happened since September:

**Oxjam:** A live music night run by Oxfam aimed to raise money for the fight against poverty.

**SFM Bag Pack:** Shepherd Food Ministries helped shoppers pack their bags at Morrisons to raise money for their charity.

**Veggie Fayre:** An event put on to give people the opportunity to try veggie and vegan food, learn more about healthy eating and watch live cooking demonstrations.

**Poppy Appeal:** We had volunteers that helped with the annual Poppy Appeal which raises funds for The Royal British Legion.



## Employability

***“On average, 69 graduates apply for each vacancy, compared to 49 last year”***

**The Association of Graduate Recruiters July 2010**

Many statistics, like the one above, may leave many students feeling despondent and concerned about graduate employability. Whilst, with the recent Government announcements on cuts, the situation may appear bleak; it is something, like volunteering, that can aid in securing the dream graduate position.

***“Relevant voluntary experience is really important; it differentiates the candidate from others and shows initiative”***

**Senior recruiter, Christian Aid**

It is not just ULSU Volunteering that recognises the value of volunteering. The University as a whole is moving with the times and as a result, have created The Lincoln Award.

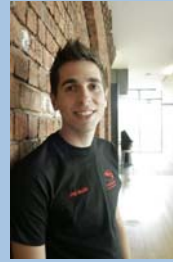
The Lincoln Award is an achievement award for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students. The Award is designed to enhance the employability of University of Lincoln graduates by providing official recognition and evidence of employability related activities. These include; work experience, part-time employment, volunteering, attendance at workshops and presentations and many other extra-curricular activities and achievements.

[For more information on The Lincoln Award, please visit www.lincolnsu.com/lincolnaward](http://www.lincolnsu.com/lincolnaward)

***I would also just like to say thanks for everything that the volunteering team have helped me to achieve this year, not only has it really helped me to get through to the interview stages for jobs that I have applied for - as it looks good on my C.V. but it has also given me the opportunity to gain some valuable and rewarding experiences. Please pass on my thanks to the rest of the team!***

**Emma Palmer, Previous ULSU Volunteer**

# RAG News



Just 9 weeks in and Lincoln RAG (Raise and Give) have raised £1241.73 for charities that depend on our help. Its been a busy few months, but it seems like all the hard work is paying off. At the start of the academic year, with a team of four, we had to make sure we publicised who we were and what we did to as many people as possible. We worked heavily on promotion during fresher's week which paid off as at our first rendezvous we managed to fill The Hub with over 100 students willing to help out. Now 2 months on and we have a dedicated team consisting of 8 Leaders, 4 of which are newly elected, and a larger team of students regularly attending meetings and organising events. I think it's fair to say that all the hard work in fresher's week did indeed pay off.

## So what have we been up to?

### Wear it Pink

On Friday 29th October RAG raised £373.04 for the Breast Cancer Campaign charity with a simple cake sale. Have no fear, RAG are about more than just a cake sale! We put this on just to get the ball rolling and get people into the swing of things. 5 teams of people cooked up some tasty treats and brought them along to sell the next day. Aside from the cake sale, we also had a competition of how many marshmallows a student could fit in their mouth... slightly less conventional. In return for a donation, students attempted the challenge in the hope to win a meal for two at Nandos. Overall the day was brilliant: a great event and fantastic results!



### Manchester Raid

On Sunday 14th November £546.54 found its way to Sightsavers courtesy of 20 Lincoln RAG members raiding the streets of Manchester. RAG Raids happen in many different cities, involving many university RAG groups UK wide. It takes a lot of courage to approach a stranger on the street with a collection tin and explain why and who you are fundraising for so I was very proud to be supporting Lincoln students as they managed to raise such a great amount. We all dread walking past the person with the charity tin on the street, but put yourself in their shoes, realise that they are only there to help those less fortunate and it's a different story. On a day like that day in Manchester, it is warming to meet people who are genuinely interested in what you are doing, realise it's for a good cause and generously donate. The results are clear: it does pay off.



## Children in Need

Last time I organised events for Children in Need it was as Head Boy at my secondary school and I ended up getting my legs waxed... this time round I think I got off lightly. Events such as a giant twister game, sponsored silences, silent statues on a podium, another cake sale and an unofficial world record attempt of how many smarties you can eat in 1 minute with chopsticks raised £224.29 for Children in Need.



Again, dedicated RAG members gave up a lot of their time to help out on the day. I was surprised at how insistent a student could be in wanting to stand on a podium, outside in the cold, in a Happy Potter costume to grab people's attention and raise money for the charity. To maintain the interest of members it's important we have a laugh in the process of fundraising money. This is exactly what we did. It was a fun day that again, raised a good amount courtesy of generous students passing by. I have to admit though, the highlight for me was watching 'East Street' (When Coronation Street met Eastenders) on the BBC Children in Need evening of entertainment.... funniest thing ever!



So far I am very happy with how things are going this year. RAG plans to move on and hold bigger and better events. Coming up we have the largely waited for sky-dive which many students want to take part in. We have RAG Week in March which guarantees to be a week full of activities that will squeeze as much money out of staff, students, Jim and the public as possible - all for a good cause. As stressful as it can be at times, I'm more than happy to be a part of a team of people who want to contribute what they can to help make a difference to not only the UK, but to the world, It's a privilege to work among students like these. We also have a laugh on the way...why not! We are thrilled with the enthusiastic RAG members we have. We would like to thank everyone who have made donations and all of RAG for their contributions, we hope to raise lots more money during the course of the year.

Written by Phil Krstic (Community Action & Student's Fundraising Officer) and Kelly Nicholls (RAG Secretary)

## Volunteering Success

Since September, we have had 117 students and staff members take part in volunteering whether it be regular volunteering or taking part in one off events.

Here is a flavour of the success so far:

- ◆ 8 students inducted with a further 5 awaiting induction at Mount Street Nursery and Infant School
- ◆ 15 student have been accepted for this years JUMP (Joint Universities Mentoring Project). This is split across JUMP4Success, the 10 week programme of weekly after school sessions with a mentee, and JUMPFree, a 2 night activity based residential.
- ◆ 4 students have so far successfully applied to take part in next year's Village Experience with People First International in India

We also have students awaiting referral to St Francis Community Special School and Lincoln MIND.

ULSU Volunteering  
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Students' Union  
Student Centre  
Brayford Pool  
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LN6 7TS

Phone: 01522 886420  
Fax: 01522 886628

E-mail:  
jkilby@lincoln.ac.uk  
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## Access Online

We are part of the Students' Union website. This contains details of all our current opportunities, copies of the Newsletter, links to related websites and how to sign-up for volunteering on line.  
This can be viewed at [www.lincolnsu.com/volunteer](http://www.lincolnsu.com/volunteer)

### Drop-in Times

During these times, we are available for staff and students to come and see us with any enquires they have about volunteering.

Monday	1pm-5pm
Tuesday	1pm-5pm
Wednesday	10am-1pm
Thursday	1pm-5pm
Friday	10am-1pm

Alternatively, they are welcome to book an appointment with Jane at any time.

## Why Volunteer?

***"When recruiting we would look favourably on candidates who have volunteering experience in the charity sector. Nowadays employers are looking for the candidate who is prepared to go that little bit further and experience of volunteering can provide that evidence."***  
Alan Jeffs, Head of HR, British Heart Foundation

***"Volunteers are amongst those who are more likely to have "sparkle", the self-confident, self-aware, unafraid individuals who looks at your face when you are interviewing them as they have more confidence and more to talk about"***  
Linsey Perry, Graduate Recruiter, Network Rail

***"It's essential that applicants make links between what they have gained from their volunteering and what we are looking for"***  
Wendy Massey, Graduate Recruitment, John Lewis Group

### Useful Websites

[www.studentvol.org.uk](http://www.studentvol.org.uk)  
[www.csv.org.uk](http://www.csv.org.uk)  
[www.do-it.org](http://www.do-it.org)  
[www.lcvys.com](http://www.lcvys.com)  
[www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com)  
[www.volunteercentrelincoln.org.uk](http://www.volunteercentrelincoln.org.uk)

