Crafting Happiness

Crafting Happiness is an art and craft-making project where volunteers design and make craft making kits, cards, small gifts or letters which are sent to hospitals and care homes. This year the project was run by international students all of whom were based overseas. They established a rota, taking it in turns to volunteer late into the night to run the project via zoom for UK based students.

"Volunteering helped me throughout this pandemic tremendously. As an international student, I'm miles and miles away from my family and it does get lonely occasionally. Volunteering gives me something to look forward to every week and it's always great to enjoy the company of other students."

Hannah Amir, 2nd Year Accounting and finance, volunteered on the Crafting Happiness Project

Kenilworth Phab

Kenilworth Phab is a group of local disabled and non-disabled people who meet weekly to enjoy social activities together. It was moved online with student volunteers organising magic shows, singing music concerts, games, chats and dancing activities.

"It is a highlight of my week and it is making such a difference to my life and world and I know it is to the whole of phab too, the Warwick Volunteers who come to phab zoom are like a huge burst of life and energy that lifts us all up. I am so grateful to them and feel they are so much part of our phab family, thank you."

Nat Parr - Kenilworth Phab Service User
This was my first-time volunteering, and I will definitely do it again as it was so nice to meet and make friends with other like-minded people whilst also helping such a good cause. I wanted to help out around Coventry as it is where I live, and I think it's important to help the people in your local community.

Charlotte Robb, 2nd Year Chemistry

When I heard about the food bank volunteering, I immediately felt compelled to participate, even though I had never done anything like this before... I really enjoyed volunteering in Coventry alongside other Warwick students because it made me feel more connected to the community that I am part of... I thoroughly enjoyed engaging my brain for something other than academic work.

Ellie Smith, 2nd Year English Literature

"Keeping up to date with technology is a huge challenge for primary schools and to have this sort of help makes a significant difference. Extra devices means we have the capacity to help those children with particular and specific needs to realise their potential both in computing and across the curriculum - it's a huge thank-you from us all!"

Grange Farm Primary School

Chromebooks For Schools

Just before Easter Warwick Volunteers including volunteers from WBS joined forces with other members of the local community to help Coventry Foodbank pack 3,100 food parcels to ensure local vulnerable families didn’t go hungry over the holiday when free schools meals were not available.

"This was my first-time volunteering, and I will definitely do it again as it was so nice to meet and make friends with other like-minded people whilst also helping such a good cause. I wanted to help out around Coventry as it is where I live, and I think it's important to help the people in your local community."

Charlotte Robb, 2nd Year Chemistry
Friends of Canley Green Spaces

Restrictions on indoor activities this year led to Warwick Volunteers engaging in more outdoor conservation activities in partnership with Friends of Canley Green Spaces. This included Balsam Bashing along the Canley brook where volunteers removed thousands of Himalayan Balsam plants, which grows in dense colonies, blocking sunlight and preventing other native species from thriving.

Other activities included woodland management tasks in Park Wood; cutting back holly trees to increase light levels and encourage biodiversity, sowing wildflower meadows that create a haven for wildlife, and guided walks where students explored the local countryside and learnt about conservation activities taking place.

Volunteer Feedback

It was absolutely lovely, one of my favourite events of the year. Really hope there are more events like this.

It was very fun and a great way to get some fresh air and exercise!

Amazing! Lovely people, fun way to get some moving in and a rewarding task.

Really fun! Nice to explore parts of campus I had never been to, and learn a lot of interesting facts from Michael.

"Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of the volunteers, we have made a real difference to the local green spaces, producing outcomes that benefit people, wildlife and the environment."

Michael Wileman, Friends of Canley Green Spaces
Kenilworth Station Garden

Volunteers supported Friends of Kenilworth Station to maintain the station garden, laying bark chip for a new path, clearing weeds and undergrowth from around saplings, and creating new bug hotels to support pollinators.

Canley Community Centre

Warwick Volunteers supported Canley Community Centre with several projects including helping to pack Summer holiday packs for local children with activities and crafts to entertain them over the summer holidays and with Canley Chit Chat, where volunteers joined Canley residents for tea and activities and providing friendly conversation and companionship.

Canley Big Lunch

Canley Big Lunch is an annual community event aiming to bring neighbours in Canley together to share food, have fun and get to know each other better. Warwick Volunteers helped run stalls involving T-Shirt decorating, planting flowers and herbs in pots and provided giant inflatable games.

“It’s a huge pleasure to work with Jenny and others, and I’m glad I could help out the children. Thank you for the precious experience.”

Dr Nor Aziz, Local resident and Event organiser

"This is our fifth community big lunch event and the best so far! The inflatable assault course provided by Warwick Volunteers was very popular - we had Mums and daughters, siblings and many others queuing from start to finish. Everyone had a great time and had shown a great sense of community spirit."

Dr Nor Aziz, Local resident and Event organiser