

Volunteers urgently needed to help with the Farmers' Market

We could really do with some slightly younger folk to help with our quarterly markets on Sundays in March, June, September and Christmas. This is not just because some of us are getting older, so setting stuff out before and after the market is less easy than it was, but more importantly because it would be good to inject fresh ideas.

On market days marshals erect gazebos and tables from our store under the Bowling Club at about 9am and set out litter bins and such-like. Then we manage the stallholders throughout the day to ensure they are in the right positions; dealing with the unexpected such as cars parked where they shouldn't be; wind blowing gazebos away and occasionally snow! Our volunteers also man the PA system and coordinate first aid / lost children throughout the day, then at 4pm we have to pack everything away again and make sure the streets are left clean and tidy. We are all done by 5.30pm and the whole thing usually runs like clockwork.

We have detailed 'to-do' lists and risk assessments to guide us at all stages and to help new volunteers, so getting involved is both enjoyable and satisfying for visitors and stallholders alike. We raise lots of money for local charities and everyone loves our market.

There is also quite a lot of work involved in planning each event. This includes booking entertainers; organising publicity; selecting and coordinating stallholders; allocating pitches; ensuring receipt of £40 stall fees; agreeing which charities to support and dealing with occasional bureaucracy. At present each of these tasks is delegated to a specific committee member, but it would be good to have some back-up. We meet a couple of times before each market, but you wouldn't have to be part of the meetings and we're a relaxed and friendly bunch.

If you are able to help out regularly on market days, that would be much appreciated. If you would like to become more involved, after giving us a try on market days, we are always on the look-out for new market committee members.

Please contact nengfarmersmarket@gmail.com or for more info, please text me on 07798 801670.

Many thanks, Howard Fry

