



## STEPWAY Receives Community Award from Sandwell Council

# Monthly Newsletter

Vol-SEPT 2023 | issue 8 | Editor- Dawn Turner- CEO – Reporter-Deb Grant

## Announcement

### Community Awards

Every Step Counts! 260 miles walk.

Prison in-reach support service

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## STEPWAY Is Honoured to receive a Community Award.



Tina Dales- Operations Director, Chief Executive SMBC Shokat Lal, Dawn Turner- CEO, Lord Lieutenant Professor Helen E. Higson OBE DL.

**STEPWAY volunteers have worked non-stop throughout covid, delivering a support service to veterans and their family members to ensure their dynamic needs and mental wellbeing were sustained throughout lockdown.**

**These nominations are to recognise Oldbury volunteers who have helped others over the last 2 years.**

We would like to thank every volunteer who worked on the frontline, with delivering care packages, helping out with the homeless stations to serve hot meals to our homeless friends. For being a buddy and a listening ear to those who suffered from mental health decline.

This award from Sandwell council was accepted by Dawn Turner CEO and Tina Dales Operations Director on behalf of every volunteer who made a huge difference in the lives of the veteran community.

Together we made a huge difference! Thank you...



For more information about becoming part of the team, please call or email Tina Dales- 07498 586806 – [tina.dales@stepway.org](mailto:tina.dales@stepway.org)

**Make a difference, volunteer today.**

## Every Step Matters!



Three young men, Bren (son of a veteran), Callum and Marley set off on 2<sup>nd</sup> September on a 260 mile walk from Worcester to Lands End, aiming to complete their goal in 15 days. They volunteered to do this to raise funds for STEPWAY and make a difference to veterans lives when it's needed the most.

On their tour they endured 15 days of a relentless heatwave, blisters, sunburn, hunger and plenty of experiences.

Despite that, they continued to commit themselves and they raised a massive total of **£1,495**.

From us all at STEPWAY, thank you for your tremendous hardwork and support.



## Fundraising Lead – Sam Bartlett

Some of you may or may not know by now, Stepway has a fundraising team. The team is a group of committed and valuable volunteers.

**Andrew Paggett** - Veteran

**Blain Taylor** – Son of a Veteran

**Daz Jaye** - Veteran

**Deb Grant** - Veteran

**Jade Turner** – Sister of a Veteran

**Paul Taylor** – Veteran

**Sandy Bartlett** – Wife of a Veteran

**Tina Dales** – Veteran

There are so many ways to raise funds from holding a coffee morning, baking cakes, holding a raffle to a tug of war event or waxing strips to wax off, to mention just a few.

Would you like to fund raise for STEPWAY?

To find out more information please call or email our fundraising Lead Sam Bartlett on:

[sam.bartlett@stepway.org](mailto:sam.bartlett@stepway.org)

0121 7922 723

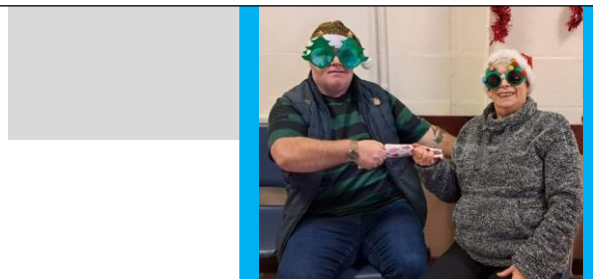


## Retirement of Carol Goult-Community Project lead-Oldbury

One of our valued members of staff Carol, retired due to ill health earlier this month. Carol has been with STEPWAY since March 2021 as a volunteer helping to renovate the Oldbury Wellbeing Centre. She moved on to develop the Community Garden, becoming the Project Lead. We could write a book on the amount of work and the difference Carol has achieved in the name of STEPWAY. More so she has touched the lives of others, always ready to lend an ear and guide those who felt lost. Carol has retired but thankfully is returning as a volunteer as and when she is feeling better. In her own words “You can’t get rid of me that easily, plus STEPWAY is in my blood”.

Thank you, Carol. Look after yourself with lots of R&R.

Worcester Community Project Lead Paul travels over to Oldbury on a Tuesday to maintain the garden until we know the plans moving forward. We welcome volunteer Bill Harley, former Royal Highland Fusilier who has kindly offered to help in the garden one day a week.



Christmas Carol!

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Courses, Presentations and Workshops

**3rd Nov** – Monthly morning workshop and afternoon training course. FREE course equipment, lunch, and refreshments provided.

STEPWAY Veterans HUB, The Trinity, Worcester WR1 2PN. Times- 1000 – 1500

For more information and to reserve your FREE place on a course or to book a company presentation, please click [HERE](#)

### Free Training Programs and Courses for your organisation

#### External training programme: Understanding Veterans’

THIS COURSE IS BENEFICIAL FOR PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SECTOR, WHO WOULD LIKE TO GAIN AN INSIGHT INTO WHY VETERANS MAY ‘TICK DIFFERENTLY’ AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW TO RETAIN THEIR ENGAGEMENT.

BOOK YOUR FREE WORK PRESENTATION [HERE](#):

Or email [dawn@stepway.org](mailto:dawn@stepway.org)

# Prison in-reach support



Left- Neil Binder-Reginal Coordinator.  
Carrie Rogers- Veterans Lead HMPPS.  
Dawn Turner-Founder and CEO STEPWAY.

Much of our prison in-reach work is to keep the residents updated on the support that we can offer upon release but also that we can support their families on the outside.

A large percentage of the support is on an advisory basis, passing on details (via the prison staff) of agencies that can offer them specific guidance for issues that they may have on release, including housing, finances, and mental health services.

In the future we hope to be able to offer our 7 Step Civilian Skills program again, however HMP Hewell currently has quite a small community of veterans of which the majority are on remand awaiting court appearances or sentencing. The ideal would be to offer 7 Steps to a group who are within 3 months or so of release.

HMP Oakwood is a completely different environment, which currently has a large veteran community of which many are long termers. Again, much of the work is in an advisory capacity for both inmates and their families. We would also like to offer 7 Steps to HMP Oakwood, along with other prisons in the future, however the relationship between the prison and Stepway is still relatively new.

## Crime Prevention Initiative

We are working together with Riverside School Worcester to provide pathways to healthier lifestyles for children who take part in Stepway Community Gardens.

Here they can also accomplish parts of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards as the children develop knowledge and skills for life.

The big differences between the 2 prisons in which we are currently active, are that one is a privately run prison and the other is run by HMPPS. The private prisons have more scope and resources for the residents. The privately run facility has a woodworking workshop, which produces all manner of items, from hedgehog houses to playhouse and bird feeders to benches, which are available to buy by the public at very low costs and are available outside the Visitors Centre (on Friday's and Saturday's). There is a section, which teaches welding and a petting zoo for family visiting days (including owls, rabbits, chickens, ducks, and several other birds).

This is just a small snapshot of the works going on behind bars and the potential to support/work with offenders/ex-offenders in the future.

For more information, please contact Neil Binder  
[Neil.binder@stepway.org](mailto:Neil.binder@stepway.org)

## Veteran Community Payback

There has been a slight change to the Worcester Community Garden days.

Project Lead Paul, is working alongside veterans engaging with their community payback every Monday.

With immediate effect, the new days at Worcester Community Garden will be Tuesday to Fridays, from 1000-1400

# Chequered Past Scooter Club Charity All Day Shin Dig!



**The Chequered Past Scooter club Auction raised £500 for STEPWAY.**



On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September Chequered Past Worcester scooter club held an all-day event celebrating their 1-year anniversary. With live bands, Fossil fuel, the Indigos, DJs, Elvis's tribute, raffle, auction, food, drinks, lots of banter and laughter. The stunning scooters, atmosphere and energy made you feel you were a Mod in Quadrophenia wanting to dance to the Kinks and stomp the shuffle.

Thank you, Chequered Past Scooters Club and New Chequers Pub, we had a brilliant time.



## Family Day and BBQ

The day was a great success with over 57 attendees. The weather was changeable but that did not stop those of us who wanted to be there. Lots of children, adults and older people enjoyed themselves. The gardens were peaceful, the bees were calming, BBQ very tasty, and the company was sure to put a smile on your face.

We were introduced to the new Stepway Honey made by Stepways' very own bees. You cannot beat local golden nectar. There were many pots sold on the day and many were pre ordered.

'STEPPY Honeybee' is delicious!



Paul is always looking for more veterans to come along and experience nature at its best! It does not matter if you are green fingered or not, we will find your sense of belonging and purpose here at the Worcester community gardens.

For more information, please contact Paul on- 07522 965645 or email- [paul.taylor@stepway.org](mailto:paul.taylor@stepway.org)



## WATERLOO UNCOVERED- Partner in the VPPP portfolio.

We would like to thank our partners Waterloo Uncovered, for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> workshops held at Worcester Wellbeing Centre. Archaeology workshop focused on photographic history, handling and gently cleaning post excavation finds as well as drawing the finds.

Veterans have found this a great way to be able to connect with and learn about Waterloo military history.



We look forward to seeing you again this month.

For more information about Waterloo Uncovered contact [info@waterloouncovered.com](mailto:info@waterloouncovered.com)

## COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) for delivering a presentation at Oldbury Wellbeing Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> September. Great insight was given to how CWGC works, caring for the fallen and the number of volunteers who give their time to help make it happen. Special Thanks to Sarah Moody who provided the veteran with lots of information and guidance.

For more information about Commonwealth War Graves Commission contact [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)



**VOLUNTEERS-** Do you have a particular skill or something interesting to share and be willing to volunteer some of your time at Stepway in Worcester or Oldbury Wellbeing Centre? Our charity supports veterans ranging from a brew and company to complex needs. Stepway has 2 Wellbeing Centres, Worcester, and Oldbury, where veterans can access activities, workshops, guest speakers and support. Our banter and brews take place in 6 venues across Worcestershire and Oldbury.

Please see [www.stepway.org](http://www.stepway.org) for more information. If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you. Please email us for a chat: [tina.dales@stepway.org](mailto:tina.dales@stepway.org) or [dawn@stepway.org](mailto:dawn@stepway.org)

# VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



## STEPWAY will do their best to-

Introduce you to how the organisation works and your role in it.

Provide you with a role description and a full explanation of your duties/responsibilities, including the days/times when we would like you to volunteer within the organisation.

Invited to monthly workshops.

Where possible, meet the costs of/provide funding towards courses and expenses endure during your volunteering hours.

Respect your skills, dignity and individual wishes and do our best to meet them.

Consult with you and keep you informed of possible changes that will affect you.

Provide a safe and friendly workplace.

Provide you with free accredited courses to build your CV.

Provide mental wellbeing support.

## STEPWAY

Supporting all Veterans in civilian life

STEPWAY Veterans Hub | The Trinity | Worcester | WR1 2PN | 01905 745 253

STEPWAY Wellbeing Centre | Merton Close | Oldbury | West Midlands | B68 8NG | 0121 792 2723

BANTER & BREW

7-STEP CIVILIAN SKILLS PROGRAM

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

WORCESTERSHIRE AND THE WEST MIDLANDS

The Veterans' Places, Pathways & People Programme- Midlands portfolio  
Funded by



THE ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT FUND TRUST



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GCLD AWARD 2023

Proudly supporting those who serve.

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