



# RCV Reading Review

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## Branch News from the Coordinator

So summer seemed to be over before it had begun and now we are on the slippery slope to Christmas—only 18 weeks to go!

Here at RCV we are constantly striving to provide the best service we can, for the best price for our members—free. But in order to continue we do need to raise funds. Our hardworking fundraiser Sandy does her best, applying to trusts and grants but a little bit extra will secure our branch for that little bit longer.

Attached to this newsletter you will find a sponsorship form from the lovely Alex Knapp who has agreed to run the New Forest Half Marathon on our behalf. Please give all you can and encourage friends, family, neighbours or work colleagues to do similar.

In addition we will again be street collecting along Broad Street in Reading on Saturday 25th September. If you think you could spare an hour or two to hold a tin we would welcome your support, contact myself or Sandy for more details.

*Lucy Burden, Reading Coordinator*



## Personal Assistant Matching Service (PAMS)

*Supporting your Lifestyle, your Choice*

In the last newsletter, we introduced RCV Reading's new service called PAMS. 12 people have now joined and are working towards a place on the Approved PA Register, ready to be matched with adults looking to employ someone to support them to live independently. This may be because of physical or learning disabilities, sensory needs, mental health issues or long-term illness.

PAMS was launched on 19 July at the Direct Payments Service

Users Forum. The photograph shows Martin Jeffery, Treasurer and Trustee of RCV Reading, holding a celebratory cake, with representatives of the Service Users Forum and Reading Borough Council. Daisy Benson, Lead Councillor for Community Care, Housing and Health, said



"Working with direct payment service users, the Council is pleased to be able to offer this new service in partnership with PAMS (RCV). It is a welcomed opportunity to provide a high standard of personal assistants to direct payment service users matching their needs."

For more details of the Personal Assistant Matching Service, email [jill.hunt@rcvreading.org.uk](mailto:jill.hunt@rcvreading.org.uk) or telephone 0118 948 7042 (Tuesday to Friday, 9am–5:30pm).



## Coffee Meet-ups

All members and volunteers are invited to these social events. It's a chance to meet others in the community and to have a good gossip, a laugh or rant and nice muffins!

Please let Lucy know if you are planning to attend

so we can warn them if we are to be a large group! All will be held at Starbucks Coffee House, Broad Street/Kings Road—just keep an eye out for Lucy.

**Tuesday 14th September—10-12am**

**Friday 22nd October—2-4pm**

**Wednesday 17th November—10-12am**

If you have an idea for a future venue or dates or have feedback, feel free to get in touch.

## Care to Share—giving a voice to disabled people and carers

The Care to Share Forum is a space for disabled people and carers to share their experiences of holidays, breaks and travel. Care to Share hopes to be a lively and engaging space where people can discuss the issues and challenges that really affect disabled people and those who care for them.

So log on and share your stories, experiences and concerns about holidays in the UK and abroad, transport, accessible - or not so accessible - accommodation, day trips and eating out.

With your help Care to Share will become a real voice for change. Help them inspire the UK's travel, holiday and accommodation providers to make greater efforts to improve accessibility and provide more choice for people affected by disability.

[www.vitalise.org.uk](http://www.vitalise.org.uk)

*\* RCV (Reading) is not endorsing these services, but we hope the information may be of interest to our Members \**

## Disability and Dosh

If you are after a bit of financial advice then check out Martin Lewis, the Money Saving Expert's website, which is crammed full of money saving advice. On the forums there is a section called Disability and Dosh, which provides useful tips on saving money if you have a disability.

[www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com)

## Find us on Facebook and Twitter

We now have a new Facebook page set up for members and volunteers to keep up with our latest news. Simply search for Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers (Reading).

Or follow us in real time on Twitter @rcvreading

## Volunteers Needed:

We are still looking for volunteers in the following fields of interest, if you think you can help, speak to Lucy.

Gardening   Cooking   Painting   Singing

Watching Football   Pottery

Art Galleries   Archery

Shopping   Motorcycles



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