



Chris Parker challenges Derek Forbes from SAB to describe his organisation in under 3mins

Sutton signs up to volunteering

Sign me up is the name of an incredible campaign launched on Saturday 16th April by the Volunteer Centre Sutton (VCS) as part of Sutton's Year of the Volunteer 2011.

Adam Knuckey, new Chief Officer of the Centre said, ' The campaign is wholly reliant on the public 'wanting' to be involved, recognising that Sutton residents have been encouraged to take part and take pride for many years. VCS offers an opportunity to celebrate those who already volunteer, and we would also like to invite others to join the swelling and vibrant movement. For many, 2011 will offer a chance to imagine Sutton differently.'

The campaign was unveiled at an exhilarating event held at the Salvation Army Church, Sutton, attended by Deputy Mayor Cllr Sheila Andrews, Cllr Simon Wales and Cllr Sean Brennan as well as many voluntary organisations and volunteers. In a departure from the usual proceedings, master of ceremonies, Chris Parker took to the stage and, from the comfort of armchairs; guests Cllr Simon Wales and Caroline Mingay of the Salvation Army were able to start the day of with some in depth interviews on the campaign. Set against a projected countdown clock, representatives from the Food Bank, Shopmobility, Street Pastors, SCVS and Sutton Association for the Blind then had just three minutes to describe their organisation and how they work with the Centre.



Deputy Mayor Cllr Sheila Andrews, Cllr Sean Brennan and Cllr Simon Wales compete with other attendees to create the 'perfect' volunteer.

With the stirring addition of specially written music by the 'Sign up band' it was highly reminiscent of the style of a certain well known TV show.

The highlight of the day was the moment key champions from the London Borough of Sutton and the public committed to signing up on our iconic wall signifying their pledge to volunteering.



All volunteers will be offered the Sign Me Up badge as a symbol of belonging to a good practice movement. We expect to see a sea of bright blue badges adorning the bags, jackets, hats etc of the citizens of Sutton as more and more people catch on to the vision!

For organisations, small businesses and the council, VCS offers expertise in recruiting, and maintaining good practice when involving volunteers, as well as the opportunity to be recognised as a local centre of excellence through our 'Sign Me Up - Gold Shield' kite mark.

The Centre will be recording the influence of the campaign and telling the stories of ordinary heroes who have chosen to sign up as well as those of organisations impacted by new volunteers. We will be celebrating the campaign outcome on our website www.vcsutton.org.uk