

COVID-19 VACCINATION HERO



Steve Ratcliffe

Retired Financial Director, Steve Ratcliffe, admits that since lockdown began he hasn't been up to much. Perhaps a bit of work around the house or watching TV, dependent on the weather. That's why, when he heard that the NHS were looking for volunteers, he was keen to get involved.

He registered for volunteering via the Royal Voluntary Service's 'Good Samaritan' App. Disappointed not to have heard anything back, he popped down to the Leominster Sports Centre where he knew vaccinations were taking place to offer his help.

Steve is a newcomer to volunteering, but really wanted to get involved. The site manager at the Hub, Charlotte Bounds, was only too pleased to accept Steve's offer and now he's a regular volunteer, helping out perhaps twice a week, dependent on need.

Mostly, Steve works as a car park marshal, directing traffic as patients arrive at the Hub for their jabs. He's often the first person who patients see, and he provides a cheerful and reassuring face that's particularly important for those who are hesitant or nervous.

What's the best bit about volunteering at the Hub?

Steve says he's really glad he volunteered to help out at the Hub. He feels like he's making an important contribution to the whole vaccination programme and admits that, if he hadn't got involved, "I would be sat at home doing nothing!"

He says the atmosphere at the Hub is really positive. Patients appreciate how well-organised the site is and Steve has found the other volunteers really happy and friendly.

"I would count the other volunteers as friends now," he says. "The only difficulty is that sometimes we don't recognise each other because we're all wearing facemasks!"



I'm glad I volunteered. I really feel like I'm making a contribution. If I hadn't offered to help, I'd be sat at home doing nothing!