

COVID-19 VACCINATION HERO



Angela Lloyd

Born and bred Herefordian, Angela Lloyd, is a regular volunteer at the Leominster Sports Hall Vaccination Hub. She's been volunteering since February, since when she's helped out approximately 8-10 times. Her usual job is to clean and sanitise chairs, which she enjoys as she says it gives her the chance to chat to patients who are waiting to leave after their jabs.

Until 2019 Angela was the head of Holme Lacy College in Herefordshire, but now she spends her time researching and writing her forthcoming book on Orchards of the World. Living and working alone has, she says, given her an insight into how lonely people can be and this is what motivated her to want to 'give something back' to her local community. As well as volunteering at the Hub, Angela has also in the past volunteered for many conservation projects.

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

For Angela, the best part about volunteering is the buzz she gets from helping people. "Some people have felt very isolated," she says, "They don't see anyone from day to day and when they come to the Vaccination Centre it might be the first time they've seen friends in ages. Some are frightened when they arrive as they haven't been out of the house for months. By the time they've been through and had their injection, there's a palpable sense of relief. Everyone is so grateful. 'Thank you' are the words we hear the most."

Angela also values the opportunity that volunteering has given her to make new friends. "Everyone is so warm and welcoming. The other volunteers are amazing and we all work together as a team."

She admits it's not always been easy. On some occasions the Hub has administered more than 1,000 jabs in one day. When Angela helped out at a recent specialist clinic for the most vulnerable, she clocked up more than 20,000 steps on her FitBit! Even so, she has made some lifelong friendships with volunteers and wouldn't have missed it for the world.



*It's in my DNA to volunteer.
If you've never volunteered before,
my advice is to do it - it really helps
to stop feelings of isolation*