

COVID-19 VACCINATION HERO



Suzanne Hughes

Previously a High School Home Economics teacher, Suzanne Hughes admits that she likes ‘getting stuck into things’ and is involved in many local volunteering initiatives. Prior to COVID, she helped out at a regular coffee morning in her village and made costumes for the local primary and secondary schools. She has also recently joined a group called CoCo (Compassion in the Community) helping those who could do with extra support, and recently set up a ‘Wombling’ group to tackle local littering problems.

When COVID19 struck, Suzanne was keen to get involved. She registered her interest at her local GP Practice in King-ton and was delighted to find that the Site Manager for her local Primary Care Vaccination Hub at Leominster Sports Centre, Charlotte Bounds, was an ex-pupil of hers from Lady Hawkins School.

It wasn't long before Suzanne was undertaking her first shift at the Hub. Now she regularly does two or three shifts per week, whenever Charlotte needs her and regardless of the weather. Her duties range from clipboard and chair sanitising to marshalling and acting as a runner for the nurses and other medical team members. She says she doesn't mind what she does; she just “mucks in” wherever she can be of help.

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

Suzanne says that COVID restrictions meant that she spent a lot of time at home and was turning into a “bit of a hermit!” One of the best things for her about volunteering at the Hub is that she now feels involved and is part of a team. She has also really appreciated the feedback from patients. “Ninety-nine per cent of them are really excited to be here,” she says. This applies especially to the older age groups, some of whom haven't left their homes since the beginning of lockdown. Many treat the occasion as a day out and it's not unusual for them to get dressed up in their best clothes. Many, especially older, people see their vaccinations as the first step towards greater freedom.



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I would definitely recommend volunteering to others.
COVID-19 turned me into a Hermit!
Volunteering gets me out of the house and is really good for my mind!”