

Who are we?

Brunswick Organic Nursery and Craft Workshop is a thriving independent charity for adults with learning difficulties in the village of Bishopthorpe, just south of York city centre.

Many adults with learning difficulties are eager to work and engage with their local community, but find there are few opportunities to do so. Brunswick was founded in 1992 to address this need. It took over a run down plant nursery and has transformed it over the years through hard work, fundraising and support from the local community and volunteers into a successful enterprise offering sheltered work opportunities.

What we do

- Our Crafts teams make a range of handmade crafts including woven rugs and greeting cards.
- Our Horticulture teams grow a wide range of organic vegetables and plants in pots.
- Our Cooking teams produce a cooked lunch and bake cakes each day.
- Our Gardening teams provide a gardening service to the local community.
- Our Woodwork team make items such as bird boxes and insect houses.



The products made here are sold in our shop and local community.

Brunswick Social Club

The Brunswick Social Club was set up because there are many barriers to people with learning difficulties 'joining in leisure activities like everybody else'. The social club is run by people with learning difficulties for people with learning difficulties supported by staff and volunteers. It organises leisure activities such as walks, theatre trips and fundraising events.

Volunteering at Brunswick

Brunswick currently has over 75 very committed volunteers. They offer their time, energy, enthusiasm and skills in a number of different ways and their involvement makes a huge difference to the work we do.

What do volunteers do?

- Support and work alongside small teams of adults with learning difficulties.
- Help get jobs done around the site which may be too demanding for most workers.
- Contribute to the running of the Brunswick Social Club by helping organise activities and events and supporting individuals to attend these events.
- Help run stalls at local shows and help out at Brunswick's fund raising events.
- Help run the Brunswick shop and café at weekends.

Who can volunteer?

As our volunteers are working with vulnerable adults we have a minimum volunteering age of 17 years. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and bring a variety of skills and experience.

Why volunteer?

Volunteering has many benefits. Some of these include:

- Feeling valued
- Sharing skills and experience and learning new skills
- Trying something different
- Being part of a team
- Making a real difference by helping others

"Volunteering has improved my self esteem"

Do you need experience to volunteer?

No, although if you have experience of any of our work areas or of working with adults with learning difficulties that's great but it isn't essential. What is essential is lots of enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

Suitability

We do need to make sure that the volunteers who come to Brunswick are suitable for the role which they take up and are safe to be around vulnerable adults. A volunteer can start at Brunswick straight away but continuing with us is subject to a successful Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) clearance.



What we need from our volunteers

We need our volunteers to be reliable, have good communication skills and be friendly and patient. You will need to listen and follow instructions from our staff so that you can support our workers with their work.



How much time will volunteering take?

Some volunteers come for 1 or 2 days a week while others come for half a day a week. It depends how much time the volunteer has to spare and space in the groups. We are grateful for any time that a volunteer can spare but we do ask our volunteers to try and give us a regular commitment. This is important as it enables volunteers and workers to get to know each other. It also enables staff to plan work for the session.

“Volunteering here is satisfying and enjoyable!”

Next Steps

If you think you have what it takes to be a volunteer and you'd like to join our friendly community, please contact:

Caroline McMahon
Volunteer Co-ordinator
**Brunswick Organic Nursery
and Craft Workshop**

Appleton Road, Bishopthorpe

York YO23 2RF

T: 01904 701869

M: 07583 945356

E: brunswick.york@gmail.com



Brunswick Organic
Nursery and Craft
Workshop



Becoming a Volunteer