

## **Volunteering Rep's Report for the 2006/2007**

I have enjoyed my first year as Volunteering Rep. I have learnt a lot and, I hope, made a contribution to the Volunteering Working Group. There has been one overriding issue since I joined the group: how to increase the numbers of volunteers in Herefordshire.

### **Increasing the number of Volunteers in Herefordshire**

As part of the Local Area Agreement there is a target to increase volunteering in Herefordshire by 5 percentage points by March 2008. Herefordshire Partnership has government funding to take this forward. At the Volunteering Working Group meetings HP have been in discussion with the Volunteer Centres and other representatives from the voluntary and community sector to find the most effective ways of increasing volunteering. As a result we are launching a major marketing campaign to encourage more Herefordshire residents to volunteer and we hope that this will benefit all VCS organisations who are looking for volunteer support. Look out for advertisements on the backs of First buses and on advertising pillars in the next few months.

### **Pre-retirement Project**

This is another initiative that has been launched this year. Ledbury Volunteer Centre is piloting a project to contact local businesses to offer information to encourage staff who will soon be retiring to think about volunteering. If this proves to be a successful way of recruiting new volunteers then it will be rolled out across the county.

### **Contact**

I would very much like to hear from any organisations who work with volunteers to get a feel for what the issues are around volunteering. So do contact me, Sarah Crowley, through the VSA: [admin@thevsa.org.uk](mailto:admin@thevsa.org.uk)