



Ted Quinn

Background

A keen photographer since his childhood, Ted's involvement with the voluntary sector began almost entirely by accident. After submitting a series of photographs to Radio Sheffield, Ted was approached by Voluntary Action Rotherham. His work as a volunteer has even led to commissions for professional photography work.

Responding to a need

Ted's involvement with the voluntary sector can be traced back to the unusual events of July 2005. BBC Radio Sheffield organised a trip to the capital for people interested in visiting the People's War Exhibition. After spending several hours travelling, news broke of the terrorist bombings in the capital, making the trip impossible.

Not to be disheartened, the organisers successfully made arrangements to take the group to Blenheim Palace. During the day, Ted took a series of photographs and as a means of thanking them, he sent copies of the pictures to the radio station.

Recognising the high quality of Ted's work, he was quickly approached to photograph a community awards ceremony. During the event he met representatives from Voluntary Action Rotherham and Ted agreed to a meeting to find out more about how he could use his skills to help voluntary organisations in the local area. Ted said:

"I wasn't sure whether volunteering was for me or not" said Ted. "But I thought that I'd got nothing to lose, so thought I'd meet up with the volunteer sector and try and find out more and since then I've not looked back".



PROFILE IN BRIEF

Ted Quinn

Who do you work with?

- Magna
- Voluntary Action Rotherham
- Aiden Volunteers Association
- Royal Engineers Association

"When you retire, you don't retire from life, just a job.

Since I started to volunteer I've made new friends, met new people and its been a great opportunity to share my interests and skills".

Engaging with the voluntary sector

Following his meeting with Voluntary Action Rotherham, Ted was contacted by Esme McQuillan, Volunteer Manager at Magna. She invited Ted to take pictures of a new nature area which was being created at the centre.

After successfully completing the project, Ted has returned to Magna regularly to take pictures of a variety of jobs on behalf of the centre. As a result of his commitment, Ted has also secured a number of paid contracts, providing him with an additional source of income. Ted said:

"Volunteering helps me to feel useful. Since getting involved with the sector it's opened up many new opportunities for me. I would say to anyone thinking of getting involved with volunteering to give it a try!" He added: "We've all got very different skills, and everyone has got something to offer. I've really enjoyed getting involved and its opened up many new opportunities for me."

Looking ahead

Working with Magna and Voluntary Action Rotherham has helped Ted to meet many new people, and get involved with a wide variety of projects throughout Rotherham:

"When you retire, you don't retire from life, just a job. Since I began to volunteer I've made new friends, met new people and have never looked back. It's given me an opportunity to contribute, to visit new places and it helps to make me feel useful. I've never looked back!"

For more information on getting involved with volunteering contact your local volunteer centre.

Doncaster Volunteer Centre

Doncaster CVS Volunteer Bureau,
Units 5 & 6 Trafford Court,
DONCASTER
South Yorkshire
DN1 1PN

Tel: 01302 343300 **Fax:** 01302 321121

Email: doncastervb@doncastercvs.org.uk

Website: www.doncastercvs.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon 10 - 2 , Tues 10 - 3, Thurs 2 - 7

Volunteer Centre Barnsley

33 Queens Road
BARNSELY,
South Yorkshire
S71 1AN

Tel: 01226 295 905 **Fax:** 01226 206 580

Email: volunteer@vabarnsley.org.uk

Website: www.vabarnsley.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9.00 - 4.30

Sheffield Volunteer Centre

The Circle
33 Rockingham Lane,
SHEFFIELD
South Yorkshire
S1 4FW

Tel: 0114 253 6600 **Fax:** 0114 2536601

Email: vc@vas.org.uk

Website: www.vas.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon - Thurs 10.00 - 4.00

Volunteers Centre Rotherham

Voluntary Action Rotherham,
Durlston House
5 Moorgate Road,
ROTHERHAM
South Yorkshire
S60 2EN

Tel: 01709 834464 **Fax:** 01709 829822

Email: volunteering@varotherham.org.uk

Website: www.varotherham.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 - 4:00

