

People volunteer at the Coffee Shop for a number of reasons.

When Sallie first moved to Halton she found that becoming a volunteer for the Coffee Shop was advantageous, a good way to get to know people. She supports the centre as it does such a good job; the Coffee Shop gets masses of positive feedback and it's really nice to be on the receiving end. She also loves meeting the Duke of Edinburgh award volunteers from senior schools and training them up during the Easter and summer holidays. She said, "If I hadn't done this I wouldn't feel so connected to the village."

Pauline likes the mix of people and of generations, not only local people but from further away. She loves meeting and chatting to them, and giving them advice about what's on at the Centre. She first brought her grandchildren here after walking the dog and thought what a fantastic place with a great playground, and they often had lunch or a snack. That's what led Pauline to get involved. She helps out when she can at events too. Besides organising the rota she tries to recruit new volunteers.

One of the volunteers, Susan has served in the Coffee Shop since its early days and is so pleased to see it develop into a professionally run popular venue. "Working as a volunteer is very rewarding - meeting a wide range of people, knowing that you are also making a worthwhile contribution to The Centre and the Halton community." The Coffee Shop is the heart of The Centre @ Halton, and she believes it is a fine example of a successful and well run community centre supported and appreciated by the local residents.

Another volunteer, Janet, was also a newcomer so decided to get involved and meet people. She felt as if she had her own 'regulars', especially when she ran the Coffee Shop for the Memory Café session. "They are a lovely group of people and they are always really appreciative of the Coffee Shop." She then moved on to look after publicity for the Centre and adds, "volunteering in the Coffee Shop was like a springboard to take on this role, and I still help out in the Coffee Shop or Snack Bar at events like the Fun Day, and the Children's Nearly New Sale".

One of the volunteers, Brenda, says it was with some trepidation that she offered to help in the Coffee Shop, but it's mostly serving drinks, which is easy and the prices for sweets, ices and cakes are clearly marked. Usually Centre staff are there to deal with any questions or can be contacted by phone. She has found the customers very friendly and appreciative and she too, feels appreciated here and contributing to village life. Brenda's voluntary experience has given her the confidence to volunteer elsewhere and for other events like Luncheon club, roller disco, and family fun nights.

She adds that there is no pressure to help regularly but as we all have busy lives and odd appointments, we can always do with people who could fill in occasionally so we can remain open every day. It would be great to welcome some new friends to be part of our happy team.