

Welcome to your new-look ECHO newsletter! You will find updates on ECHO activities, Volunteer news and all about ECHO's recent fundraising. Read on!

Coming Soon - Clever Betsy Pop Up Shop



Clever Betsy is having a pop up shop at Leominster Library during the week of 7th October. We'll be there Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, selling beautiful hand made gifts and cards, along with a small selection of fabric, wool and haberdashery, and a range of high quality items from the talented ECHO Weavers. More details to follow in next month's newsletter!

AGM 2024 - Save The Date

The ECHO AGM is going to be on **Thursday 10th October** at the Sports and Social Club in Leominster at the earlier time of **3.30pm**.

After the official business there will be a presentation, followed by a buffet and then music and dancing until 8.00pm.

It is a great time to see friends and celebrate all the amazing ECHO projects.

Please let the ECHO office know if you are coming so we can make enough sandwiches!

If you would like transport to the AGM, please tell us as soon as possible so we can help.



We want to invite you to the

ECHO AGM 2024

Thursday
10th October

3.30pm for a 4pm start

Buffet then music and
dancing until 8pm

At the Sports and Social
Club, Leominster, HR6 8JQ

RSVP - ECHO Office West Street, Leominster HR6 8ES
01568 620307 or echo.info@echoherefordshire.co.uk



We always want to hear about anything you have to say to ECHO

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A Summer's Evening at Eaton Barn



Eaton Barn were blessed with glorious weather and a great turn out for their first Fundraising Quiz Night. The team is very grateful to everyone that came and supported the event, to Leisure and Social's Letty for hosting the quiz and to [@leominsterfestival](#) for lending their tent.

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Welcome to New Staff

We welcome two new members to the ECHO staff team. Jessica Edwards will be working as a Support Worker with the Theatre Skills Group, on a Thursday. Polly Taylor will be working as a Theatre Support Worker at About Face's new Youth Theatre in Hereford on a Wednesday. They are both excited to be working with About Face and can't wait to get started!



Jessica Edwards



Polly Taylor

Join The Team

For updates of staff vacancies at ECHO, please check on our website

[Work for ECHO Herefordshire](#)

JOIN OUR TEAM

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Welcome to the September edition of the Volunteer Voice newsletter! Read on to find out about the new monthly meet ups for StEP beneficiaries, a welcome to new ECHO project volunteers and updates on StEP work experience placements. But first, congratulations are in order for StEP beneficiary Rachel Exelby who has started her new job with Wye Valley Trust at Hereford Hospital. The StEP team are really proud of her for how much work she put in for gaining paid employment and we wish her all the best for the future.



Interview ready!



Rachel on her way to her first day
at work!

Calling all StEP beneficiaries , ECHO participants and supported volunteers!

The Steps to Employment Project is going to be having monthly meet ups on the last Thursday morning of every month.

If you are already on the StEP or if you would like to find out more about joining the StEP, please come and meet Roz and Michelle for a chat and refreshments.

You can also meet other StEP beneficiaries and find out what they have been up to!

Each month will have a different theme. We will be offering training sessions, networking opportunities, social catch ups and more.



StEP Monthly Meet Up

When?

10am-11:30am on Thursday 29th August

Where?

Unit 4 Buttercross Arcade Leominster HR6 8BN
(Radio ECHO)

Why?

For the first monthly meet up, this is a chance for you to come and meet other people on the StEP and have a chat!

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided free of charge.



Welcome!

137 volunteers volunteer each week at ECHO. We have **nine** volunteers in training.

21 StEP beneficiaries have completed the StEP. **11** beneficiaries are in placement and **6** beneficiaries have been supported into paid employment.

Since the start of the StEP in October 2023, over 30 new ECHO project volunteers have joined us, which is fantastic.

Therefore, we would like to welcome Lisa Liles and Debbie Robinson, who will hopefully be volunteering at Eaton Barn and Clever Betsy respectively. Louis Baker has become a Radio ECHO volunteer, Annie Taylor has been volunteering at Clever Betsy whilst home from university this summer, KP at Eaton Barn, and Coral Lemm with the ECHO Weavers.

We also welcome Chris Page who has joined as a new volunteer with Thursday darts, Jeanette Davies, a volunteer with the ECHO fundraising team, Linda Robertshaw will be joining Friday Club, Laura Matty has become a volunteer admin assistant for the StEP, and last but not least, Emily Freer who has started volunteering at About Face.



StEP Work Experience Placement Update

ECHO participant and StEP beneficiary Leroy Riches has completed a successful work experience placement at Brightwells Auctioneers in Madley.

Brightwells told the Volunteer Voice, “Brightwells has enjoyed hosting Leroy for his work placement, we feel the business and staff have benefited from his efforts and company. He has been productive and strived to become part of the team, working across two sites in both practical and administrative roles. He was able to take instruction and worked well to assist with preparation of goods for auction. He asked questions and displayed enthusiasm for the work.

Leroy was given an initial induction and Health and safety training, then on-the-job training in each role he participated in. We saw him work alongside the Car Dept, doing the de-logoing, cleaning and photography of the vehicles, MOD Dept assisting with administration of auction sales updates, the Sundries, helping to lot up and cataloguing for the next sale and on the front gate, ensuring the correct items were leaving site and updating the system with the information.”



Summer Work Experience Students

With the StEP team working towards bringing in a younger cohort of volunteers, we were overjoyed that four school and college students chose to spend their official work experience week with ECHO in June. Having young people around had a positive impact on participants and showed the importance of having staff capacity within the StEP to accompany these 16-18 year olds to their placements in projects. Feedback from project managers, schools and the students was excellent. We currently have nine regular (weekly) volunteers between 16 and 24. 13 people from this age group have volunteered with us this quarter, which is a great start.



Work experience students Nick, Alex and Caitlin enjoyed a long walk with Wednesday LifeLinks

Charity Golf Day

We had a splendid turn out and good weather for ECHO first Golf Day at Leominster Golf Club on Friday 2nd August. 13 teams turned up, we had wonderful raffle prizes from Morrisons in Leominster and raised a massive £1200. – not bad for the first effort.

Huge thanks to Leominster Golf Club, our sponsors Be Fibre, Leominster Motors, Leominster Rotary, Minster Auction and Sterling Networks and, of course, to all the teams who took part.



Letty's Close Shave

Well it happened on 5th August. As you know, Letty was looking to raise £1000 for the Leisure and Social camping weekend and BBQ at the end of August, which was a great success.

Well done Letty!

Big Bike Ride

You may remember that ECHO participants Simon, Richard and Jason cycled from Leominster to Bishop's Castle and back, on the 13th and 14th July, with camping overnight! As before, staff/board members Maggie and Blaise went with them. They raised a huge £1,852.00 for ECHO, which included a very generous £333.00 donations from Leominster Rotary.



Well done to everyone involved!



Are you up for an abseil challenge?

Saturday 7th September 2024
St Peter's Church, Hereford

- Ascend the tower via a 70ft ladder
- Breathtaking views across the city
- Run by Hereford's Taste for Adventure

Tickets are available at £25 each plus sponsorship.

Contact: penny.weir@echoherefordshire.co.uk or ring 07796 240325.

For further information go to <https://shorturl.at/d10Xa>

Or scan the QR code



St Peter's is one of two medieval churches in Hereford. This summer it will be celebrating there having been a church on the site for more than 950 years. ECHO is most grateful to the church for allowing us to do this event down at their wonderful church.

St Peter's Church Abseil

Saturday 7th September at St Peter's Church, St Peter's Square, Hereford from 10.00 am until 3.00pm. Please come and cheer on those brave souls taking part. We have just heard that the vicar of St Peter's will be joining us – although he may not abseil in his cassock!

He's thinking about it. ..

We are also going to be holding a street collection in High Town and St Peter's Square, so please get in touch if you would like to help.



01568 620307 / email: echo.info@echoherefordshire.co.uk / www.echoherefordshire.org.uk

ECHO, 40 West Street, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 8ES
ECHO (for extra choices in Herefordshire) is a registered charity 1096449

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Remember a Charity Week: 9th – 15th September 2024.

As you'll remember from last year, Remember a Charity Week is a chance to take a moment to consider leaving a gift to charity in your will, after looking after family and friends.



**REMEMBER A CHARITY
IN YOUR WILL WEEK**

How Would you Like to be Remembered?

09-15 September 2024

This year's campaign celebrates the funny moments, interesting hobbies, and unique quirks that we remember and cherish about our loved ones. So, we're encouraging everyone to think about how they'd like to be remembered.

How would you like your family and friends to remember you. Choose as many as you like.

Honest Funny Resourceful Genuine
Successful Kind Helpful Hilarious
Loud Happy Confident Ambitious
Calm Generous Creative Optimistic
Patient Brave Intelligent Thoughtful
Trustworthy Caring Charming Passionate
Warm Wise Curious Reliable
Talented Quirky Hard-Working Loyal

Complete Guide to Making a Will

We have produced this guide in association with Remember a Charity. Please contact us for an emailable or paper copy.

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ECHO's Big Fat Quiz

Join us for ECHO's Big Fat Quiz in aid of ECHO Herefordshire, your county-wide charity which supports adults with learning and other disabilities.

The evening will be presided over by Quizmasters of Lloyds Bank, is sponsored by Irwin Mitchell Solicitors and takes place on:

Thursday 7th November 2024

Leominster Golf Club, Ford Bridge Road, Leominster

Doors open at 6.00pm.



The cost is £60 per team of 4. This includes a delicious one-course meal. In addition, you can sponsor a round of questions.

For further information, ring the ECHO office on 01568 620307

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Mand's Hair Raising Adventure.

Mand has already had her hair died multicoloured and is now getting ready for her big indoor skydiving adventure on 14th September. Claire Mee and Letty Flynn are “taking the plunge” with her!



Christmas Collections at Morrisons

These will be held on the 19th and 20th December. Please get in touch if you would like to help.



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