

# VOLUNTEER NEWS

SWAN's Quarterly Volunteer Update

Winter 2022/23 Edition

Welcome to the eighth edition Volunteer Newsletter

This edition read about Tim Unsworth's time volunteering for 9 years at SWAN.



## Latest News



### A Fond Farewell

### Tim Unsworth

### Volunteer Advocate Somerset

Tim may look familiar, he featured in our very first Volunteer Newsletter back in April 2021 talking about his role as a Volunteer Advocate within our **Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy Team (IMCA)** in Somerset. Tim is our longest standing volunteer so it is with great sadness that we are bidding farewell to him this month.

During his **9 years at SWAN**, Tim has advocated for clients who have been assessed as lacking capacity in the role of **Volunteer Relevant Person's Representative (RPR)**. Since January 2021, when I came in to post as Volunteer Manager, Tim has given SWAN **254** hours of his precious time to support his clients. Tim has been an integral member of the Somerset team and I know, his clients and colleagues are grateful that Tim chose us to give his time to.

Tim recently supported his client through the Court of Protection process as their Litigation Friend. This role is vital in ensuring that a person's views, wishes and rights are upheld if they are objecting to the restrictions being placed upon them. It is not an easy role to undertake and requires the Advocate to work closely with the clients Solicitor to establish if decisions being made, really are in the person's best interest.

*"Tim it has been an honour to have worked more closely with you over the last two years and your support when I first came into post was invaluable. Thank you for your time and dedication to your clients, the team and SWAN. We wish you all the very best."* **Anna Temblett, Volunteer Manager**

## This Issue

A Fond Farewell—  
Tim Unsworth Volunteer  
Advocate Somerset  
Current vacancies



Anna Temblett & Tim Unsworth

Tim once told me that if I wanted to use his expertise then a piece of cake would be incentive enough. It therefore felt fitting for Tim to receive a hamper of goodies as his leaving gift from SWAN.

Turn over to read about Tim's views of the Volunteer Advocate Role at SWAN



## A Fond Farewell Cont...

Tim and I spent the morning filming a short piece to support volunteer recruitment and he shared with me why the role of Volunteer Advocate was right for him and why it might suit others. Tim explained that although he did not come from the world of health and social care, his time as a Union Representative was in many ways similar to his volunteer role at SWAN.

*“I’m retired and previously worked with the Local Authority and this role was very similar, using a database, sending reports and recording what we do.”*

We discussed the support Tim had received while volunteering with SWAN and Tim explained that it was fantastic, particularly during the pandemic he was reassured by the managerial contact he received.

*“The role is really working on your own, that’s just the nature of it and you go out to all sorts of places to meet your clients. But the support was really good...management checking in and making sure you’re OK, so I never felt I didn’t have anyone to speak to.”*



Tim at our volunteer outing to Stourhead

Tim shared his thoughts, that the Volunteer Advocate role would suit people who are looking to work in the Health & Social Care and Charity sector. He feels the role provides valuable skills and training that would help people in obtaining paid positions in these fields.

Tim was very passionate and enthusiastic about his time with SWAN, when I thanked him for everything he has done at SWAN he said;

*“I was very pleased to have got this role.” ...*

and we were very pleased that Tim chose SWAN to volunteer with!

If you’d like to know more about being a Volunteer Advocate and the role of Relevant Person’s Representative then head to our website or contact our Volunteer Manager, full details below.

## Current Volunteer Vacancies

We are recruiting volunteers in the following roles and areas:

**Volunteer Advocate and Advocacy Coach—Isle of Wight**

**Volunteer Victim Advocate—VOCAS Avon & Somerset Area**

For more information about these and our other voluntary roles go to;

[www.swanadvocacy.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.swanadvocacy.org.uk/volunteer) Or contact our Volunteer Manager, Anna Temblett

**Tel: 03333 44 7928 Email: [volunteer@swanadvocacy.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@swanadvocacy.org.uk)**



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