

# SHOUT ABOUT YOUR VOLUNTEERING



*H*i, my name is Julie Mallett and I live in Mitcham.

When I was offered the chance to create my own volunteer role I was intrigued.

I've given my time in various ways over the years but this was a different approach.

The work of the Merton Partnership's Volunteering Strategy was described to me over a coffee and I went away and thought about how I could contribute.

Important considerations were that I couldn't commit to something on a regular basis and I wanted to do something that didn't involve looking at a computer screen.

I'm job-hunting and so deadlines and online applications are already big parts of my life! I also wanted to be talking with people.

I offered to carry out some research in Merton's five town centres, to find out from passers-by what barriers they face when wanting to be involved in their local community. I also handed out information about how to get involved in volunteering locally.

The cold weather meant being out on high streets and getting people to stop was a bit difficult. However, I enjoyed meeting people and hearing their volunteer stories and ideas about what they wanted to do.

There are many people with both the time and skills who want to make a contribution and being able to shape your own role is another way of tapping into that pool.

## I Volunteer—Why Wouldn't You?