

## Our volunteers say...

"I came to gain experience of admin work and found myself building giant, mechanical insects for Reading Carnival. Anything can happen."

**Iftkar Mahmood**

"I volunteer at Finchies and it's the best night ever, it's not like working, it's just great fun."

**Ouma Prayag**

"Through my involvement with the Rising Sun I was encouraged to apply for jobs which I would never have done. I worked for Reading Borough Council Arts development and The Arts Council. The Rising Sun was instrumental in my creative career development."

**Mary-Venetia Genis**

Artistic Director of Culture Mix Arts

"The first piece of graphic design work I ever did was volunteering to produce the Centre's leaflet. Now I design and publish a National Music Magazine."

**Richard Lucas**

Publisher and Designer of ArtRocker Magazine

"Half the people working in the arts in Reading appear to have been involved in the Rising Sun for significant periods."

**Huw Champion**

Editor, Mailout Magazine. (The National Magazine for Developing Participation in the Arts).

## I would like to volunteer for The Rising Sun Arts Centre

Name

Contact Details

I am particularly interested in

Please return to: Larry Watson, Rising Sun Arts Centre, 30 Silver Street, Reading, RG2 2ST

# Volunteer

## at The Rising Sun Arts Centre

Be part of a team of people helping to run Reading's independent arts space.

Gain experience, meet new people, have fun and make a difference.

Help out at events, work behind the bar, help with building maintenance, write press releases, distribute posters and leaflets, fundraise, join our Programming and Marketing Teams and exciting new projects. See inside for more info...



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The Rising Sun Arts Centre  
30 Silver Street, Reading RG1 2ST  
(0118) 986 6788  
[www.risingsun-artscentre.co.uk](http://www.risingsun-artscentre.co.uk)

**RISING SUN ARTS CENTRE**

## The Rising Sun Arts Centre

is a small independent Arts Centre situated in Silver Street in Reading. The Centre is housed in a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Temperance House built by the Architect Sir Alfred Waterhouse and this building has been our home for over 15 years. The Rising Sun is a remarkable success story, an independent Arts Centre run by a team of volunteers and thriving despite its meagre resources in a highly competitive field. The Centre is used by thousands of people each year. We run a high quality programme of live events as well as workshops and projects and the Centre is a lively and vibrant place much loved if a little worn at the edges.



You can find out more about the Centre by visiting our website at: [www.risingsun-artscentre.co.uk](http://www.risingsun-artscentre.co.uk)

## Why do people volunteer at the Rising Sun Arts Centre?

The Centre has a growing team of volunteers and everyone has their own reason for getting involved. Some people come to the Centre for an event, enjoy the atmosphere and stay to help out. There are many practical reasons for volunteering with us, an enhanced CV, learning new skills, meeting new people etc. for some it's a belief that the arts should be more accessible and inclusive, for others it's the opportunity to make a contribution to the cultural life of their town.



Our volunteers organise and get together for meetings and social activities.

## What's in it for You?

Our society, we're told, is becoming more affluent but less content. While we can't promise that by getting involved in the Rising Sun you will become richer, we can promise that you will be involved in a fulfilling and significant project providing creative opportunities to a huge number of people. We can offer anyone who feels that the arts are a valuable aspect of our community, a chance to be part of a strong and supportive team of people who feel the same way. Volunteering at the Centre has concrete results so you are able to see the benefits and outcomes to your involvement.

## Working together

By volunteering at the Rising Sun you will be contributing to a resource with a pioneering and independent spirit. Volunteers at the Centre are encouraged to get involved at their own pace and to take on just as much as is right for them. Any help is appreciated and makes a difference.

We offer training to volunteers in the areas they choose to be involved in and provide a supportive and friendly environment. The Centre keeps everyone informed and involved and provides social events so that Volunteers can get to know each other. Volunteers have a stake in everything we do, are consulted on policy, take responsibility for aspects of the Centre's work and help to define our vision.



Carnival event and workshops



## How YOU can help?

There's all manner of tasks you can get involved with. You may like to **help out at events, working behind the bar** alongside more experienced members of our team or help with the **ongoing maintenance of the building**. You might help to **write press releases, distribute posters and leaflets** or **help with fundraising**.



We produce a regular newsletter for volunteers

Or you might like to join one of our teams. Established teams such as the **programming** or **marketing** teams do vital work for the Centre and are always looking for new people to join them.

We are also looking for people to help out at **"Finchies"** a night at the Centre which is run by people with learning disabilities.

You can get involved in exciting new projects such as the project to **create a programme of world music** at the Centre.

Or you can help to **improve our recycling** or help **put together our Volunteer Newsletter** or with **various other tasks**.

## What to do next?

If this sounds interesting and you would like to know more please contact **Larry on 0118 9866788** to discuss what might be the most suitable place to start. We are growing all the time and always need more people to join us. We will arrange to have a chat to discuss how we can benefit from working together.

