



Notes taken from comments to one of our training supporters

I'm a kitchen assistant which means I do a little bit of everything. I was employed originally to do the sandwiches, salads but if the volunteers want to do some of my role I step aside so that they can learn something new. I coach the volunteers as well so it's quite a varied job.

When the volunteers first arrive, they are very nervous, but gradually they try new skills and become more confident. It's about workplace learning. The biggest change is when you see someone who wouldn't interact with anyone, speaking to customers. You see people change so much - and it's such a nice thing to see.

I got in contact with Olive Tree through Wiltshire counselling service. I'd been getting support from the Richmond Fellowship and was thinking about getting in touch with their employment service but they suggested I do some voluntary work first. I really like the cafe and I do find it helpful because it gets me used to working and eventually it will take me to some part time or permanent employment.

I do mostly front of house, dealing with customers taking orders and servicing, and tiny bit of cooking. I'd like to do more cooking but I'm good with customers so that's where I am - but I would like more variety.

I was an independent volunteer at Twigs therapeutic garden so it was logical that I took over the kitchen garden when I started volunteering at Olive Tree. I enjoyed it over here so I carried on in the kitchen over the winter when I couldn't garden. Then I was offered a few paid hours so that's when I headed up a team. There's a lot of satisfaction in running a team and I feel it's going well..

"I volunteer at Olive Tree three days a week and I really enjoy it. It's a great experience because it's a nice place to work. It's always busy and people are always nice - the food's good too. I do a bit of everything here - washing up, tables and I sometimes make food. I've always wanted to try cooking because my uncle has a cafe and my mum was a chef - so it's what my family does.