

Volunteer Profile:



Name: Doug Harris

How do you help our Club? By hopefully just being available as a Jack of all trades, even if I'm a master of none. A bit of Committee work, some teaching, some mingling, some encouragement, some tidying up, the odd good idea (more odd than good usually) and a smidgin' of social glue. I can also write health & safety risk assessments (yawn).

How long have you been volunteering? Ooh, since about the third week I came along, about 4 years ago? I don't really know – time flies when you're having fun!

Why do you volunteer? Because I believe the world is changed for the better not by the few politicians and the law-makers doing their so-called big stuff, but by the sum of all of us ordinary folk doing what we can in our own small way. And we get to feel good and have a ball along the way for free. Ooh 'eck, that sounded a bit intense!

What's the best thing about volunteering? Seeing shy children (and sometimes reticent Mums and Dads) grow in confidence when they realise they CAN.

And the worst!? Loading and unloading awkward-to-pack unicycles! One day we will find a grant fund that will provide us with a van we can rack out and bring everything to our outside venues all at once.

Where do you live? In a juvenile dreamworld where Peter Pan and I juggle luminous porcupines together in an underwater cavern of chocolate, only stopping occasionally to ponder the beauty of philosophical thought.

Other interests / hobbies: Motorcycle racing (I'd go back to it like a shot if I had the money); badminton; limericks and writing them (I have the largest collection of limerick books and limerick verse-related stuff in Europe, probably the world, dating back as far as 1820 and write 'em most days); running (inefficiently); football (I miss being a goalkeeper); cycling, keep fit generally; photography (as a raw beginner); learning new skills and (weirdly) logic.

If you were given £1,000,000 how would you spend it? By creating a museum of limerick verse with my collection on display as inspiration to the visitors of all ages who would have fun (this would be the opposite of the stuffy place some museums can be) being introduced to poetry and creativity that only needs a pencil and paper.

Sweet or savoury? Both, silly and plenty of it, delivered in a wheelbarrow.

Favourite films: I hardly ever go to the flicks! But I suppose Papillon (a 1973 film starring Steve McQueen) for the never-say-die attitude and the Blues Brothers for fun.

Favourite TV shows: Grand designs (I'd love to renovate or build a house from scratch), Big Bang Theory (current favourite comedy full of quirky folk), Tomorrow's World (is Raymond Baxter still alive??), Match of the Day, Later with Jools Holland.

Favourite books: I don't read much, I (get all the information I need in Motor Cycle News each Wednesday) but Jonathan Livingston Seagull for inspiration and Edward Lear's A Book of Nonsense (if you've got an 1846 first edition in two volumes, I'd very much like it for my museum, thanks!) because it is full of limericks and has been in print every year ever since.

Favourite holiday destination / habits: I don't crave holidays but I am happy with the odd week of either activity or chillin'. Skiing is good. I advise not "going to see", but "going to do" for as long as you can! I don't mind the heat, but if I catch any direct rays I turn instantly to Lobster Boy!

The next skill you'd like to learn: I am just beginning to get somewhere with three club juggling so think I'll stick with that for a while. Something with 4 items would be a quantum leap for this ham-fisted numpty or perhaps the left foot mount so that I can progress to unicycle Level 2!

5 things to do before you die: Stand by the edge of a live volcano and see lava.

Achieve some basic skill on a musical instrument (I got a ukulele for Christmas and have only mucked about with it about twice so far). Take singing lessons. Write a situation comedy. Fly parallel to mountain terrain in a wingsuit. Make my own paper and from the original I'd make by hand - publish a book of my limericks. Are you counting here (that's at least six)? I could go on

How would you change the world? Morphsuits for everyone! Make it compulsory knowledge that there are more things that unite than divide us all – perhaps this would discourage so much automatic side-taking in politics and religion etc. I would remove the political party element from all government, starting with Local Government. It contributes zilch. I would also devalue money and status and increase the value of just being nice and helpful.

OK, can I go out to play now?