

# Volunteer Profile: Paul Tasker



( one of the founders of JUST, which started in the Millennium Year 2000, after a circus workshop at Stockton International Riverside Festival )

**Name:** Paul Vincent Christopher or PVC for short.

**How do you help our Club?:** I attend committee meetings and help out at outside events.

**How long have you been volunteering?:** I started 37 years as a Venture Scout helping people with physical disabilities. I have volunteered with the club for 13 yrs.

**Why do you volunteer?** I like to see things happen and see people involved in activities they would not normally be involved in. In Venture Scouts I established and ran a parascending team. That involved us taking part in air shows, some at Teesside. It was great to see young people involved in that.

**What's the best thing about volunteering?:** Being involved with events like: The Extreme Sports Event, The British Unicycling Convention, which were probably the biggest and best, The British Street and Trials Competition at Preston Park, Last year in the parade at SIRF and being involved with the finale in a street theatre production called Prometheus. Most importantly I like working with other volunteers from the club and the camaraderie and friendship.

**And the worst!?:** Being at an event when it rains all day and there are not many other volunteers there.

**Where do you live?** In a house

**Other interests / hobbies:**

My family, my wife Alison and children John and Sarah.

Traction Engines. There is a company in Darlington that makes brand new Taskers Traction Engines.

**If you were given £1,000,000 how would you spend it?:** Buy a Tasker Traction Engine. Then ask Alison.

**Sweet or savoury?:** Savoury. My favourite meal is a 'Shalamar' Special from the Shalamar Indian Restaurant on Station Road Billingham.

**Favourite films:** Paul The Alien, 2001 A Space Odessey by Arthur C Clarke. I went to see it in Cinerama in Newcastle.

**Favourite TV shows:** **The Prisoner 1960's series starring Patrick McGoohan based at Portmeirion in Wales. The opening sequence has a Lotus 7 sports car. I really wanted one and actually built one.** [Opening credits/sequence - YouTube](#)

**Favourite books:**

**The Odessa Files based on a true story.**

**The man who broke into Auschwitz**

**A book about the Black Watch the Regiment my Dad was in.**

**My Brother Joe Tasker's books about his mountaineering experiences. Joe developed a special talent for writing. His first book, Everest The Cruel Way, was an exciting account of his winter attempt on Everest and his second book, Savage Arena, was finished just before he left for Everest in 1982.**

**I now chair the Boardman/Tasker Prize for Mountain Literature. An annual event which interviews and gives prizes to the writers of the best mountaineering literature published that year.** [The Boardman Tasker Prize](#)

**Favourite holiday destination:**

**Japan when we went as a family to my first Unicon (world Unicycling convention). After we went on tour.**

**Also Rachel, near Vegas in the Nevada Desert. Stayed at the Little Alien not far from Area 51 where the Americans keep captured flying saucers. I went there with my son John.**



**The next skill you'd like to learn:** Some magic.

**5 things to do before you die:**

Write the club history-because I was there from the start.

Compile archives to go on the club website-press cuttings etc.

Go to Japan again.

See the British Grand Prix.

Go to the Goodwood Festival of Speed.

**How would you change the world?:** Give all the Politicians a different job that didn't involve running countries.