

Meet shop volunteer Carol Gwilliam



Having left school at 16 I worked for 17 years in a bank followed by 3 years as an administrator for a Housing Association. I left in 1998 when my first son, Robin was born. I was fortunate enough not to have to return to work and after Eddie came along in 2003 I continued to be an “at home” mum. As is often the case with stay at home mums I began to lose my confidence and with both boys in school felt I needed more than just housework to fill my days.

In 2013 a new charity shop opened in my local area and so I took the plunge and decided to volunteer. My first day was pretty nerve wracking but went really well and I decided

to stay. Whilst visiting Albany Road in Cardiff three years later, however, I noticed a new charity shop was due to open, a charity for rescued greyhounds. Having been an animal loving vegetarian for most of my life, I felt this charity would be much closer to my beliefs and so applied there and then. I instantly connected with the (then) assistant manager, Janine and knew it was the right decision to join the team.

I have now been with Greyhound Rescue Wales for almost three years and the change in my life has been enormous. There are so many benefits volunteering for such a compassionate and close-knit organization. Free tea, coffee and treats aside, the managers are a real pleasure to work alongside. Their faith in me has helped to re-build my confidence in both myself and my abilities. When customers

remark upon what a pleasure it is to visit the shop it imbues a great sense of pride in what we strive to achieve. I never know what weird and wonderful items will be donated and no two days are ever the same. I would certainly say that volunteering for Greyhound Rescue Wales is one of the best decisions I have ever made, with benefits for both myself and the beautiful greyhounds at the heart of everything I do here.