

Lorna Stephens

Lorna has been a member and then leader of Hounslow Phab for 40 years, running the club at a local level for 30+ years. During this time clocking up 30 years with Hounslow Youth Service and is currently their Special Needs Development Officer.

She spends endless hours organising activities for young people such as quad biking, go-karting, swimming, cinema trips, orienteering, Halloween and Christmas parties, art projects, theatre trips and theme park outings. She also takes the more able young people to join in scuba diving at Latimer Girls School.

She takes Phab members on residential stays to Sayers Croft Field Centre, on narrow boat weekends and to Dukes Barn to teach young people independent living skills.

She has been a long time supporter of Phab England by helping the team with national events such as Heartbeat Hike and local and regional events, organising first aid, catering and sound equipment.

Twice monthly Lorna also works as a Youth leader for Westbrook which is a respite care establishment for young people with learning and behavioural issues.

Lorna's whole life is taken up supporting disabled people in the community, not only is she a Phab leader she also helped start Ealing Community Transport and Dial-a-Ride over 20 years ago to provide transport for disabled people. She was even arrested 20 years ago outside Ealing Town Hall for public disturbance during protesting for rights for disabled people!

She is currently the Chairman of Hounslow Community Transport, which includes Shopmobility, Social Car Scheme and the Hounslow Furniture Project. Hounslow Community Transport provides transport for use by individual and community groups. Shopmobility makes shopping accessible to disabled people by hiring scooters and wheelchairs. Hounslow Furniture Project recycles unwanted furniture to be redistributed to people in need or whose homes have been damaged by theft or fire. The Social Car Scheme is a local project whose volunteer drivers offer transport to local elderly and disabled people.

Lorna has also given up her Christmas day for the last 9 years for Pensioners Alone at Christmas, to ensure no one is alone at Christmas time. She organises the transport, catering and volunteers for these people to enjoy a festive lunch and lively entertainment.

Lorna spends much of her time finding suitable grants to keep Hounslow Phab running. This is a very difficult and time consuming task.

Lorna also fits in being a tailoress for a dry cleaners, bridal shop and a seamstress for Sound Associates whose clients include Warner Bros and many leading cinema chains.

She is a remarkable lady, her life revolves around the needs for others.

Lorna is a very worthwhile winner of the Paul Hope Award and a great inspiration to others.

March 2007