

# Chris Crossley

Volunteer,  
Ripon Skate Park with The Works

## Tell me a bit about your volunteer role?

I support the local kids who attend the weekly Saturday morning sessions at Ripon Skate Park - weather permitting!! This session is run by The Works in Leeds. I encourage new children to join the group and have a go, particularly kids who have not tried these types of sport activity before. I help kids with maintenance of equipment and safety equipment.

## Why do you volunteer? What have you gained from doing this?

I hadn't considered this until my wife mentioned the group was starting. I was very interested being an old skater and not been on a skateboard for 35 years, remembering how much I enjoyed it.

I am so pleased she encouraged me, I enjoy every minute!! and soon realised that something I love doing is a way of passing on skills to young people. Chatting and helping the kids, exchanging ideas, techniques, encouraging each other - young and old. Respect for each other goes both ways!! I was encouraged to get back on my skateboard by one of the regular kids who attends.

## Were there any barriers you had to overcome to become a volunteer?

Not really. I was anxious at first, like starting any new activity, getting to know who all the different people from the organisation (The Works) were. Communication with the organising group was also difficult a first.

## What would you say to someone who's thinking of getting into volunteering?

It's fantastic!! You'll love every minute. As much as we help the kids, they give as much back - seeing them not just learning to use the equipment but also learn social skills, looking after the skate park environment is the best reward. By giving a couple of hours a week - I get so much back.