

# Volunteers vital to St Vincent's

**CHARITY**

**Gemma Jimmison**

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DURING VOLUNTEERS' Week, which runs until June 12, the *Yorkshire Evening Post* will be focusing on the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) where hundreds of volunteers make a difference to the lives of those in need.

People come to volunteer with the SVP community support projects in Leeds for many different reasons.

One helper is Livija, who has been helping at the community shop of St Vincent's Support

Centre for the past five years. She was previously a cook at a girl's boarding school before the onset of arthritis forced her to quit her job and consider a new path in life.

Livija spent a couple of years at college studying social care, but her arthritis worsened and slowly her confidence decreased.

She said: "My confidence wasn't great due to health problems, I had been out of work for a very long time, I was of a certain age group, being in my mid-fifties. Maybe some companies were willing to employ me, but not having the confidence I didn't get much success."

Livija came to St Vincent's,



**CENTRE STAFF:** Manager Sheena Eastwood with volunteer Livija.

where she began volunteering in the community shop. Her role involves sorting stock, organising the displays and managing the till.

Livija said: "A long time ago I thought that only retired people volunteered in charity shops. But that has changed - I have

met lot of people from different age groups and it is very diverse here. I thoroughly enjoy it.

"I now feel a lot more comfortable helping others.

"I enjoy the social aspect, being able to work with other people, plus I have learnt new skills like using the till. I am more

confident and my self-esteem has improved."

If you would like to support the SVP, visit [www.svp.org.uk](http://www.svp.org.uk), phone 020 7703 3030 or email [info@svp.org.uk](mailto:info@svp.org.uk)

**ONLINE:** For breaking news, visit [www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk](http://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk)

**IN BRIEF**

**FUTURE OF ARTS UP FOR DEBATE**

**CITY:** The future of the arts and humanities in the 21st Century will be debated on Monday, July 4. The Future of the Humanities day will take place at the Tetley centre. The event is being hosted by Leeds Beckett University in collaboration with Palgrave Macmillan and the Tetley. Visit <http://bit.ly/FutureofHumanities> to book a free place.

**CRAFT AND GIFT FAIR IN MORLEY**

**MORLEY:** A gift and craft fair will be held at Morley Town Hall on Saturday, June 18. Visitors will be able to buy a range of craft-related items and gifts. Admission is free. The event will run from from 10am to 3pm. For more information, or to book a stall, email [morleycraftfair@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:morleycraftfair@yahoo.co.uk)

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