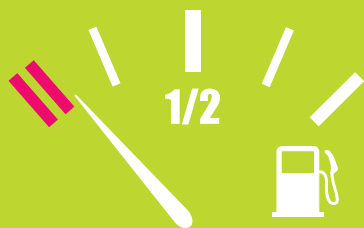


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Norwich
Evening News



Lord Mayor dons blue vest to join the City Hosts for a day

Rebecca Murphy

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The Lord Mayor of Norwich put away her gold chain and donned the blue vest worn by the City Hosts to spend a day experiencing the work the volunteers do and to encourage people to get involved.

As part of the Norwich Business Improvement District, which helps to increase economic prosperity for local companies of all sizes through collaboration, the City Hosts were launched in June 2013 to help visitors to the city to get everything they can out

“I want to understand the issues the hosts have to deal with. And it may be that the city council can help with some of these issues

Judith Lubbock,
Lord Mayor of Norwich

of their time in Norwich.

The Lord Mayor, Judith Lubbock, who was invited by the City Hosts to experience the work the volunteers do, said: “I want to understand the issues the hosts have to deal with. And it may be that the city council can help with some of these issues.

“It’s interesting to have a dialogue with people and hope-



■ Left and above, Lord Mayor Judith Lubbock joins the City Hosts in Norwich city centre.

Pictures:
BILL SMITH

The mayor's top Norwich hotspots

1. The Forum: “The space has held so many events, where would they have been without it?”
2. St Stephen’s church yard: “It’s a tranquil spot.”
3. The Lanes: “This is something very special to Norwich with the independ-

- ent places. A lot of cities don’t have that.”
4. Chapelfield Gardens: “There are wonderful trees and it’s a nice place to eat sandwiches.”
5. Norwich Guildhall: “They have a lovely tea shop there.”

fully it will encourage people, if they see any of the hosts, to approach them.”

The mayor spent time moving around the city hotspots with the volunteers and manager of City

Hosts, Mike King, to see how they offer their knowledge, advice and help to tourists.

“I’m more of a doer than a watcher. To understand the work you have to do it and I wanted to be involved in it, what they do is important,” said Mrs Lubbock.

Mr King said the City Hosts are always looking for volunteers to join the 40 that already help out. Anyone can get involved, to help give directions, offer advice and tell of personal favourite spots in Norwich to tourists.

“What a wonderful thing for the Lord Mayor to do. I hope it will appeal to other people to join this wonderful organisation,” said Mr King.

“We are targeting 50 volunteers by the end of the year and are looking to expand our age group. We have links to the UEA and last year we had 10-15 students helping out.”

■ **Are you involved in a project to boost Norwich? Email rebecca.murphy@archant.co.uk**

Do you want to become a volunteer?

Want to become a City Host volunteer? City Hosts are looking for individuals who are passionate about Norwich and can share knowledge and help people to find interesting and different places to visit. Current volunteers

come from a variety of backgrounds, from retired individuals to students looking to develop their skills and experience.

Volunteering is flexible and can be done around studies and life, with a minimum

commitment of three hours. City Hosts are out in the city seven days a week, from 10am to 6pm.

■ **For more information, call 01603 727931 or visit norwichbid.co.uk**