

News from Thames Valley Probation



Press Release

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Offenders restore Banbury's Heritage

Supervised offenders sentenced to Unpaid Work (Community Service) by the courts are transforming the Southam Road cemetery.

Overgrown graves and communal areas have been cut back and cleared to help visitors to the site locate relatives' graves. The work has also created a pleasant and calm environment in which to spend reflective time. The clearance work is ongoing but, to date, 138 offenders over 17 sessions have worked hard to tidy the area, which is a total of 959 hours' of free, supervised labour.

The cemetery is owned by Banbury Town Council, a great supporter of Thames Valley Probation and the unpaid work that offenders undertake to pay something back to their local community.

"We are very pleased to have the assistance of the Probation Service and the offenders are restoring part of Banbury's Heritage," said Cllr Colin Clarke, Chairman of Banbury Town Council's General Services Committee.

Notes for Editors

Please contact us if you would like to arrange a date and time for any additional photographs.

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Unpaid Work in Thames Valley explained

Around 2,000 of the 6,000 offenders supervised by Thames Valley Probation in an average year are carrying out Unpaid Work in the community and complete almost 300,000 hours annually. That's about £1.5m of free labour.

The work benefits local schools, faith groups, charities, community organisations and partnerships. The range of work can include: Graffiti removal, ground clearance, building maintenance and landscaping, improvement to parks and community facilities, general gardening projects, painting and decorating in community centres and meeting places.

Unpaid Work is the name of one of the 12 Requirements that comes under the generic community sentence called a Community Order. Offenders on an Unpaid Work Requirement can be ordered by the courts to do between 40 and 300 unpaid work hours.

Thames Valley Probation works with adult offenders, supervising them through their Community Orders and assisting with rehabilitation. We also supervise offenders released from prison on licence and work with victims of serious crime. The main aim of the service is to increase public protection and reduce the re-offending rate. Community Payback is the name and logo used for the Unpaid Work that offenders carry out. It has been designed to highlight the work of offenders to put something back into communities in which they've offended.

See our website: www.thamesvalleyprobation.gov.uk for further details.

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