

Project

helps local people into the workplace

disabled and disadvantaged people will be getting the chance to work at this year's womad festival, due to take place from July 28th to 30th.

The festival will provide 28 members of the local community with the opportunity to work in a variety of roles, including bar staff, kitchen porters, car park and lost property attendants.

Rivermead and Reading Borough Council have provided the placements under the New Untapped Workforce Project, which provides information and support to businesses in order to help them

overcome the barriers associated with employing disabled and disadvantaged members of the community.

The project is also holding further events over the coming months and will help around 80 people to find work experience placements, which will be supported by relevant training.

Graeme Hoskin, lead councillor for community care and health at Reading Borough Council, described it as a "fantastic project".

"Along with the rest of the country, Reading is missing out on a great untapped workforce because we do not do enough to help people with disabilities get into the job market," Mr Hoskin said.

"This is an example of the good work going on in Reading to support the disabled and disadvantaged into work."

Joanna Robins, a spokeswoman for event coordinator Graft, added: "This is a fantastic opportunity for local people to have hands on experience and tailored training.

"This will help them on their journey to long-term employment."



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