

South Somerset Voluntary & Community Action



September 2009

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HELLO FROM THE CHIEF OFFICER

Lots of hellos and goodbyes; I want to say thank you and goodbye to Julie Bailey who was our Volunteer Centre Manager for 5 years; Julie provided support and advice to hundreds of potential volunteers over the years, advising organisations on good working practice and campaigned tirelessly for the rights of volunteers, she will be sorely missed. John Robinson replaces Julie and will be a great asset to our organisation and the Voluntary Sector in South Somerset. Becky Britten joins us in October as our new Development Worker, Becky will be working with small groups on the ground, offering support and guidance in a number of areas. The voluntary sector in South Somerset has been in need of a dedicated development worker for some time, so I hope you all take advantage of the support Becky will provide.

Last but not least I want to say a huge thank you to our Chairman Nigel Engert who will be stepping down at our AGM in October. Nigel has been a great support to me over the last 3 years and his dedication and loyalty to SSVCA has been an inspiration, thankfully Nigel is not going far and will stay a Trustee on the board, concentrating his efforts on projects such as the Volunteer Centre and Furnicare. Mike Sandells our Deputy Chair, will be stepping into the fore and I look forward to working more closely with him over the coming years, building on the great work we deliver to the voluntary sector and community within South Somerset.

Sam Healy

HELLO AND GOODBYE FROM THE CHAIRMAN NIGEL ENGERT

How time flies! It hardly seems yesterday since I was asked to become the Chair Elect of Yeovil & District CVS back in late 2003, shadowing the previous Chair Morgan Edmunds until he retired in September 2004. I blush to think how delighted I was to be accorded this honour, little realising the challenges that faced not only myself but also my fellow trustees over the next few years until SSVCA became fully established.

I am immensely grateful to Mike Sandells for agreeing to take over as Chair. Mike joined the CVS as a trustee many years ago and also weathered the transition period. He has been devoting ever increasing amounts of time to SSVCA recently and is exceptionally well equipped for the job.

I am also delighted that Sarah Hunt, our most recent trustee, has agreed to become our new Vice Chair in Mike's place.

I cannot leave the Chair without expressing my enormous gratitude to Sam for all that she has achieved since becoming our Chief Officer in September 2006. She coped admirably with the crisis that faced us very shortly afterwards and has matured since into a highly capable and professional voluntary sector senior manager, never losing her patience and sense of humour.

I should also like to pay tribute to Nick for his invaluable help in identifying the true extent of our financial problems and then devising highly effective ways of addressing them as well as ensuring the SSVCA's long term sustainability.

Finally, I must thank all our loyal and hard working staff for their efforts that have made SSVCA so well known and appreciated amongst people at the bottom of the heap as well as those at the top.

I look forward to remaining a Board member and continuing to work alongside staff and other trustees to improve our governance, maintain progress within our very successful Volunteer Centre, expand Furnicare into South East Somerset/North Dorset and in any other way in which I can be of assistance.

Nigel Engert

LOCAL SECTOR NEWS

REVIEW OF THE LOCAL COMPACT

The Compact is: an agreement between the voluntary and community sector and the public sector to improve the relationship between the two sectors. The agreement covers five areas:

- Funding
- Equality and diversity
- Communication
- Volunteering
- Consultation

The stated benefits for the statutory sector are:

- Better relations, better planning, better services
- Grass roots engagement
- Recognition and understanding of the sector
- Help in policy development, planning and delivery

While those for the voluntary sector are:

- Consultation and involvement
- Equal partnership working
- Recognition and valuing of the sector
- Better access to information

Opinions differ as to how effective the Compact is in delivering these. A consultation event to gather information for a review of the Somerset Compact in 2008 showed that statutory sector representatives felt that it was working better than their voluntary sector colleagues.

The Somerset Compact is currently being reviewed again. A small team, led by Phil Lincoln, Community Development Officer with Somerset County Council, has been charged with reviewing and refreshing the current document.

Phil's team consists of a representative from district councils, a representative from NHS Somerset (PCT), and three representatives from the voluntary sector. The voluntary sector representatives are: Liz Simmons (Somerset Voluntary Sector Network), David Baker (Chair of Taunton Deane CVS) and Cara Falkener of (CHYPPS) representing grassroots organisations.

They will be meeting periodically over the next few months, and Phil is planning to speak to groups at the various Voluntary Sector Forums across the county. In addition, a questionnaire will be distributed during October or November, which will give groups an opportunity to comment on how they feel the Compact is Working.

For more information, contact Phil Lincoln: plincoln@somerset.gov.uk

SECTOR NEWS

CONSOLIDATING CHARITY LAW

A draft consolidated Charities Bill, bringing together the Charities Acts of 1992, 1993 and 2006, but not substantially altering charity law, is due to be published by the end of the summer. A consolidated Act should help to simplify the legislation (in England and Wales). See Third Sector news item, <http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/921201/> (registration required).

EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ACTION ON THE LOSS OF RURAL SERVICES

A new guide describing how the Exchange at Crosthwaite was established and operates illustrates effective community action in the face of the loss of rural services. It was compiled by the committee of the Exchange with the help of Voluntary Action Cumbria so that other communities can copy their example. At http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/what_we_do/page/the_exchange_approach. (Via ACRE news feed)

OFFICIAL HEALTH AND SAFETY BOOKS TO DOWNLOAD

The content of around 230 priced publications from the Health and Safety Executive can now be downloaded from their new HSE Books web site at no cost. The format of the online versions may have been adapted to some extent, and the price is still shown as printed versions are also available. News item at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/lr6byl>, or go direct to <http://books.hse.gov.uk>.

COLLABORATE FOR COMMISSIONING

bassac has developed a range of self-help and capacity building guides to enable you to tender for and deliver public services.

Community anchor and smaller community organisations are well placed to tender for public services contracts, especially when working in collaboration. How can they work together to optimise each other's strengths to benefit their community?

Explore our user-friendly resources, discover how key players collaborated and overcame the challenges. Find a working model that suits you and take advantage of these opportunities.

For further information please go to www.bassac.org.uk/node/539

SECTOR NEWS

COMPANY CHARITIES' AUDIT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A Question and Answer pack on the issues most frequently raised with the Charity Commission on 'Audit and examination of company charities' has been produced. This includes audit exemption under the Companies Act, the audit or independent examination of company charities and the audit of group accounts prepared by company charities.

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/supportingcharities/auditqanda.asp>.

BASIC LEGAL ADVICE BY WEB AND EMAIL

A new web-based system has been created to provide brief legal information in response to straightforward legal queries, to assist not for profit organisations and individuals who cannot afford to pay for solicitors privately. Initial Electronic Advice is run by LawWorks (the operating name for the Solicitors Pro Bono Group) in partnership with advice agencies and voluntary sector umbrella bodies. <http://www.lawworksiea.org.uk> (Source:WCVA Trustee News)

IMPACT OF THE RECESSION ON LOCAL THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

The umbrella body for local sector support organisations NAVCA has published a report on the impact of the recession on the frontline. It finds that demand for services has increased, especially for financial advice, housing support, employment advice and support on issues relating to domestic violence. There is also an increase in volunteers and those seeking placements, which is stretching resources to match them with appropriate opportunities. However the impact varies widely between organisations. News item with link to 'Crunch Time' report (pdf, a chunky 6.62MB) at <http://www.navca.org.uk/news/crunchtime>

QUALITY MARK QUALIFIES AS HALLMARK OF AN EFFECTIVE CHARITY

The Charity Commission has announced its endorsement of the PQASSO Quality Mark, a kite-mark for the third sector. The PQASSO Quality Mark at levels 2 and 3 is rated as meeting the Commission's Charity Quality Standards, showing that the charity meets the standard for the Hallmarks of an Effective Charity. Information about the PQASSO Quality Mark is at <http://www.pqassoqualitymark.org.uk>.

ASSESSING COMMUNITY GROUP INFLUENCE

A tool which helps community groups and networks to assess and improve the influence they have on agencies and partnerships has been created by a consultancy specialising in community empowerment. There are some resources on 'Voice' at <http://changesuk.net/resources/axis-of-influence-series-voice-and-echo/>

SECTOR NEWS

FREE - ONE-TO-ONE BUSINESS ADVICE CLINICS FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

An hour with a specialist business advisor is available for all social enterprises. We can advise on legal structures, financing, contracting, planning new products and services, and general business planning. We may also be able to put you in touch with other specialist services. If you are unable to make any of the dates please let us know and we will give you a call to make alternative arrangements. For more information please call Marie White on Tel: 01752 - 500888 ext 230

ADVICE FOR EMPLOYERS OF LONE WORKERS

A leaflet from the Health and Safety Executive, giving advice and guidance on how to keep lone workers healthy and safe, has been updated. Download 'Working alone Health and safety guidance on the risks of lone working' in pdf, 79KB from <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg73.pdf>.

AGREEMENT ON NJC PAY AWARD

Final agreement on the 2009/10 pay award for NJC pay scales, widely used in the voluntary sector, has been reached. In general the award, backdated to 1st April, is for a one per cent increase but there is a higher rate for some of the lower scale points. Find the NJC scales on NAVCA web site at <http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/scales>.

The VoluntaryNews web site is at <http://www.VoluntaryNews.org.uk/wp/>.

LEGAL NEWS

COMPANY LAW CHANGES FROM OCTOBER 2009

From 1st October, a number of company law changes will impact on charitable companies, trading subsidiaries owned by charities and community interest companies. This includes forms from Companies House, new filing requirements and changes around company constitutions. WCVA Trustee News says that Bates Wells and Braithwaite solicitors have produced an excellent summary of changes, but its not specifically written for charitable companies, at <http://www.bwbllp.com/Updates/Detail.aspx?UpdateID=243&Location=1&ID=0>.

Sandy Adirondack's Legal Update in July gave further information on the change in model articles for company incorporation, <http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#companyformation>. However, further news on model rules for charitable companies is awaited, <http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#charM&A-amendment>.

LEGAL NEWS

WEBSITE SUPPORTS THE THIRD SECTOR TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE

Fairness and equality is now no longer an aspiration but an expectation. To help achieve this it is vital that organisations have a policy on equality and diversity and also understand how this is implemented in practice, ensuring that their staff have access to the relevant training.

ladder4learning not only holds details of relevant, affordable courses for the region on equality and diversity but also offers a range of resources to help the third sector develop their policies and procedures and provides links to other relevant websites and resources. Key legislation organisations should be aware of :-

Disability Discrimination Act 1995
Disability Discrimination Act 2005
Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006
Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003
Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003
Equality Act 2006
Equal Pay Act 1970
Human Rights Act 1998
Race Relations Act 1976
Sex Discrimination Act 1975
Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001

On 24 April 2009 the UK government published the Equality Bill. The Bill is currently in the process of undergoing detailed scrutiny by a Parliamentary Public Bill Committee. The Equality Bill seeks to simplify the law which, over the last four decades, has become complex and difficult to navigate by replacing 9 different acts and 100 other measures with a single act. Aside from unifying existing legislation, the bill, introduced by Minister for Women and Equality, Harriet Harman, will provide a number of progressive measures.

For more information please see www.ladder4learning.org.uk or call the helpline on 01225 792505 between 10.00 am – 3.00 pm.

GET BRIEFED ON THE VETTING AND BARRING SCHEME

The latest 'Legal Eyes' column in the Directory of Social Change newsletter gives a good rundown on the Independent Safeguarding Authority and the new Vetting and Barring Scheme, with some pointers on action to take. At <http://preview.tinyurl.com/kt6gz2>.

LEGAL NEWS

THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW VETTING AND BARRING SCHEME WILL BEGIN OPERATING FROM OCTOBER 2009.

What is it?

The Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland was a recommendation of the inquiry into the murders of two schoolgirls by school caretaker Ian Huntley in Soham, Cambridgeshire, in 2002.

The system replaces the three current barring lists in England and Wales (Protection of Children Act (PoCA) List, List 99 -the list of those prohibited from working with children in education- and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoVA) List) with two new barred lists administered by the ISA rather than several government departments.

The scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland launches on 12 October 2009 and will be phased in. Individuals will be able to apply to register from July 2010. Registration and the checking of people's status will be mandatory from November 2010.

Who will run it?

Parliament has established a statutory body to take decisions on who should be barred, called the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). This has a board of 10 members with expertise in safeguarding, chaired by Sir Roger Singleton, and more than 200 caseworkers/decision makers. People can apply for vetting with the ISA via the website.

Who has to apply?

Anyone who works or applies to work with children or vulnerable adults - either in a paid or voluntary capacity. There is a one-off £64 fee for those seeking employment, which is waived for volunteers. So the scheme covers teachers, private tutors and sports coaches but also people such as doctors and nurses, opticians and dentists and taxi drivers on education contracts.

If you volunteer with more than one club you only need to be registered once - the club can then check you have a registration - as long as you give your consent.

How will it work - can anyone check my ISA registration?

No, all information held by the ISA about individual applications and cases will be secure. Prospective employers are only able to check if the person is ISA-registered if they have the explicit consent of the individual, along with a unique reference number and other personal data. A feature of the scheme is that the status of individuals will be continuously updated on receipt of new information, such as convictions or referrals from employers.

Does it replace CRB checks?

No. What ISA registration shows is that there is no known reason why the applicant should not work with children or vulnerable adults. It does not check for malpractice or all criminal convictions if they are not relevant. Employers concerned about wider issues will still need to obtain an Enhanced CRB check.

So who and what is deemed unsuitable?

Anyone who engages in conduct that endangers a child or vulnerable adult, or is likely to, by causing physical, sexual, emotional or financial harm. This includes having sexual material relating to children or depicting sexual violence against people, or conduct of a sexual nature involving a child or vulnerable adult if the ISA thinks it is inappropriate. Some practices will result in automatic barring. Others are deemed to represent a very probable risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults but not necessarily in every conceivable case - so people will get a chance to make representations to the ISA.

Is there an appeal against barring?

Yes, via the Upper Tribunal.

For more information please go to www.isa.gov.org.uk or call 03001231111

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

CASCADE TRAINING

Strategic Planning for Trustees & Senior Management - Thursday 8th October (Yeovil)
Full Cost Recovery : from theory to practice - Wednesday 14th October (Bristol)
Financial Management Demystified – Friday 16th October (Yeovil)
Full Cost Recovery : from theory to practice - Tuesday 20th October (Plymouth)
Project Management for the Third Sector – Wednesday 21st October (Bristol)
Effective Communication in the Workplace - Friday 23rd October (Taunton)
Effective Recruitment & Retention of Staff - Tuesday 27th October
Introduction to Training Skills - Thursday 29th October (Bridgwater)
Getting Your Message Across - Media Management for Smaller Organisations -
Tuesday 3rd November (Taunton) With Mary Edwards
Public Speaking & Presentation Skills - Wednesday 4th November (Yeovil)
Disciplinary and Grievance – Thursday 5th November (Bridgwater)
Effectively Managing Performance in Lone Workers – Monday 9th November (Exeter)
Effective Change Management – Tuesday 10th November (Taunton)
Improving Organisational Performance - Thursday 12th November (Bridgwater)
Dealing with Pressure in the Workplace – Tuesday 17th November (Taunton)
Strategic Planning for Trustees & Senior Management - Thursday 19th November
(Bristol)
Full Cost Recovery: from theory to practice - Friday 20th November (Yeovil)
Membership Management & Retention – Tuesday 24th November (Taunton)
Supervision & Appraisal of Staff – Wednesday 25th November (Exeter)
Managing Performance - Thursday 26th November (Bridgwater)
Building Effective Working Relationships – Tuesday 1st December (Taunton)
for Staff - Thursday 3rd December (Exeter)
Working Towards Financial Sustainability - Tuesday 8th December (Taunton)
Equality and Diversity in the Workplace – Wednesday 9th December (Exeter)
Managing Change: from solving problems to creating opportunities - Thursday 10th
December (Bridgwater)

TO ENSURE YOUR PLACE AND THAT THE COURSES ARE ABLE TO RUN,
PLEASE BOOK AT LEAST A MONTH IN ADVANCE OF THE COURSE YOU WOULD
LIKE TO ATTEND.

*Courses are held at fully accessible venues. Directions will be sent to delegates.
A sandwich lunch and certificates confirming course completion will be provided.
The cost of each course is £99 per person (unless stated otherwise). The cost of three
bookings made at the same time by the same organisation, is discounted by 10%.
Cascade is the Third Sector Support Service set up in 2007 by Lindy Booth, an experi
enced charity and fundraising manager, who now works freelance. Lindy's new
business partner, Lauren Evans, is an experienced Human Resources professional.*

*For further details and/or to book a course please go to
www.cascadetrainingplus.co.uk*

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

VISTA COURSE PROGRAMME – OCTOBER 2009 TO FEB 2010.
Full details can be found on www.vistaproject.org.uk or call us 08453 580372

Action Learning Set for Managers

Thursdays: 15 Oct, 5 Nov, 26 Nov, 9.30am-12.30pm
£360 or FREE through Business Link/Capacity Builders

Emergency First Aid in the Workplace

Weds 14th October or Tues 2nd February, 9.30am-4.30pm - £80

Health and Safety One-Stop-Shop

Mon 12th October, 9.30am-4.30pm - £98

Coaching and Supervision for Managers – 2 day

Thurs 22 and Thurs 29 October, 9.30am-4.30pm
£176 or FREE through Business Link/Capacity Builders

Introduction to Welfare Benefits

Thursday 12th November, 9.30am-4.30pm - £98

Complete Guide to Practical Project Management – 2 day

Weds 11th and Weds 18th November – 9.30am-4.30pm
£176 or Free Through Business Link/Capacity Builders

Certificate in Community Development Work – Social Justice

10th and 24th November and 8th December - FREE subject to eligibility

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Weds 25th November, 9.30am-4.30pm - FREE subject to eligibility

Common Induction to working with Children and young people

Mon 30th November - FREE subject to eligibility

Community Development Work- Funding and Resources for Community .

Tuesdays 17 November, 1st and 15th December - Free subject to eligibility

Making Social Media Work for You

Thurs 3rd December, 9.30-4.30pm - £98

The New Vetting and Barring Scheme Explained

Mon 7th December, 9.30am-12.30pm - FREE subject to eligibility

10 Steps to the Perfect Funding Bid

Fri 11th December, 9.30am-4.30pm - £98

Personal Safety and Working Alone

Mon 11th January, 9.30-4.30pm - £98

Action Learning Set for Chief Executives

Fris 15th, 29th January and 12th, 26th February , 9.30am-12.30pm
£480 or FREE through Business Link/Capacity Builders

Emergency First Aid in the Workplace

Tuesday 2nd February, 9.30am-4.30pm

CORE SERVICES

MORE SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY GROUPS IN SOUTH SOMERSET!!

Great News!! Our new Development Worker, Becky Britten starts with us on 6 October 2009, Becky's role will be to support voluntary organisations with a whole host of issues, including setting up, putting policies and procedures in place, advising on funding opportunities, helping with funding applications, where to go for training, financial support and lots more. Although based in Yeovil, Becky will cover the whole of South Somerset and is happy to meet you at your organisation. For more information or to arrange a one to one meeting with Becky please call 01935 475914.

DON'T KEEP YOUR PROBLEMS IN THE DARK

In the last 3 months I have heard of a number of groups who have closed down due to financial problems. Unfortunately we were unaware that these groups were in crisis until it was too late and therefore unable to help.

Last year South Somerset Mind were having their own difficulties and SSVCA were able to provide them support to look at their financial reporting and to put in place a temporary Chairman. Fortunately through the mind team pulling together, putting in place strict financial and policy control they have managed to turn the organisation around; please remember that it was only 3 years ago that we too were in a similar position.

I am not promising that we can resolve everyone's problems but if we know early enough, then maybe we can start knocking on doors and gaining support for groups to survive in these hard times. Please speak to Sam on 01935 475914.

NEEDS ANALYSIS SURVEY OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN SOUTH SOMERSET

Our needs analysis survey was sent out to over 200 organisations in South Somerset with 10% replying. Of the 10% we found that 27/28% of organisations needed help with recruiting volunteers and funding respectively with 16% needing help with training, other areas of help needed was with writing business plans and drafting policies and procedures.

These statistics will now be passed to our new Development Worker and she will be contacting these organisations in due course to support them further..

OFFICE SERVICES

No access to a PC, photocopier, fax machine, projector, lap top, laminator, digital camera or the Internet? Then call into our offices at Houndstone Business Park, Yeovil. Our service is open to small voluntary & community groups in South Somerset who need support in these areas. To find out charges please call Donna on 01935 475914.

PAYROLL SERVICES

Why have all the worry of NI contributions, PAYE and sick pay, when we can do this for you. For £11 per person per month we can offer voluntary groups a payroll service tailored to your needs. We are happy to deliver the whole service for you, or we can just complete the calculations for you. For more information please call Liz or Donna on 01935 475914.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children in Need – grants to organisations that work with disadvantaged children and young people. Next deadline 15th October. They are keen to receive local applications for under £10,000

www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

Youth Music – www.youthmusic.org.uk Check website for availability.

Heritage Lottery Fund – Young Roots – Between £3,000 and £25,00 available for young people between the ages of 13 and 25 to find out more about their heritage www.hlf.org.uk

Media Box – funds for disadvantaged 13 -19 year olds to produce creative media projects, using film, television, print, radio or the net £1,500 - £40,000 www.media-box.co.uk

Hilden Charitable Trust – Up to £1,000 funding for summer play schemes. Application forms available from April. www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk

Steve Redgrave Trust – Focus on improving young peoples lives in relation to medical, social, educational and economic needs www.stevedredgrave.com

Somerset Crimebeat – Awards of £500 available for projects lead by young people to reduce crime and disorder and/or support youth activities. ‘Google’ Somerset CrimeBeat for website and apply online or contact Simon Selby on 07768598106.

Somerset Youth Bank – Applications open to young people aged 11 to 19 for the benefit of young people, either for things to do or places to go (new or enhanced facilities) £350 maximum grant. Contact Sarah Stevens on 01823 447129 or sstevens2@somerset.gov.uk Or try website www.somersetyouth.co.uk

Help Yourselves Awards - run jointly by Save the Children and British Gas. Awards of £1,000 were given for projects which help young people to get involved in community projects. Check website for next funding round. www.helpyourselves.org.uk

Change it Awards For young people between 11 & 18 who have made or want to make a positive change in their school, community or youth organization. Check website for new schemes. www.changeit.org.uk

Somerset Play Forum Small Play grants aimed at promoting natural outdoor play. Up to £400 available for schemes involving young people up to 19. www.somersetplay.org.uk

Comic Relief Projects for young people aged between 11 and 21 with mental health and alcohol problems, also those abused by trafficking and prostitution. See details under Age, Disability etc Currently looking for bids from rural areas. Next deadline for larger grants 13th November.

UnLtd Sport Relief various grants available for projects led by young people aged 11 – 21 aimed at bringing communities together through sport, arts and recreational activities www.unltd.org.uk

Terrence Higgins Trust grants of up to £1,000 were available for projects led by young people related to educating young people about relationships and sexual health. Next funding deadline 25th October www.tht.org.uk/youknowyou

BUILDINGS, PLAYING FIELDS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Funds for Historic Buildings is a good place to look for a list of funding www.ffhb.org.uk

Grant Aid www.english-heritage.org.uk money for the repair of places of worship, listed buildings, war memorials etc. Some grants available for individuals as well as organizations. Some grants made jointly with the Heritage Lottery Fund. See below.

Your Heritage www.hlf.org.uk aim to help groups who want to involve the community in the preservation and use of heritage. Grants of between £3,000 and £50,000 for heritage projects including building preservation and community projects. Programme now open.

Parks for People – Up to £25,000 available for improvements to parks, gardens, walks etc. Deadline was 31st August www.hlf.org.uk

The Conservation Foundation – Various awards available including O2 Award of up to £1,000 called **Its Your Community** www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk Also Wessex Watermark Awards for Environmental Projects www.conservationfoundation.co.uk

Somerset Global Grants – grants of up to £10,000 for projects aimed at helping people overcome the barriers they face in accessing learning, employment or volunteering 01823 355630 or global-rants@somerset.gov.uk

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Somerset Community Foundation - Rural Grants Programme — up to £1,000 for local community projects and new voluntary groups in rural areas. www.somersetcf.org.uk

Somerset Grass Roots Grants – Up to £5,000 available over 3 years for local voluntary groups with an income of less than £30,000 for core costs, capital expenditure and projects For guidelines and application forms go to www.somersetcf.org.uk or phone 01458 833133

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation – grants and loans tend to be for larger projects – most grants are around £50,000 for cultural life, education, the natural environment and enabled disadvantaged people to play a greater role in society. No deadline. www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

Lankelly Chase Foundation – grants for local charities including arts and heritage, as well as disadvantaged groups in society, also grants for community enterprises www.lankellychase.org.uk

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation – Small grant scheme up to £10,000, larger grants up to £30,000 for projects relating to health care, disability, community support, the arts and education. Also similar projects abroad www.thetrusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk

Comic Relief – Disadvantaged Communities Programme – Up to £5,000 for small scale projects run by local communities. Contact details see below under Age, Disability etc.

Connecting Communities Plus – grants to meet the specific needs of black and minority ethnic groups www.cdf.org.uk

The Big Lottery - Reaching Communities – grants of between £10,000 and £500,000 for projects aimed at helping people most in need, especially those who are hard to reach. Funding can include capital grants up to a maximum of £50,000.

Awards for All. £300 to £10,000 for local communities including parish councils and schools for the environment, healthier more active people and communities www.awardsforall.org.uk

Green Communities – a new hub to help communities reduce their carbon footprint has a searchable database of grants see www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/community

Local Food Grants – Between £2,000 to £500,000 available for projects involving growing, processing, marketing and distributing local food. www.localfoodgrants.org

Community Spaces – Between £10,000 and £49,999 available for community groups to create or improve local spaces including informal sports & multi-use games areas, nature reserves, village greens, church yards etc www.community-spaces.org.uk

Kellogs Active Living Fund - £1,000 available for projects which lead to generally non active people being involved in physical activity. Applications can be made at any time.

www.kellogs.co.uk/company/corporateresponsibility/activelivingfund

Avon and Somerset Police Community Trust – money available for schemes that reduce accidents and crime eg youth groups & walking buses. Contact Paul Lillington 012758 162440

paul.lillington@avaonandsomerset.police.uk

Lankelly Chase Fund – Grants of varying amounts available for work with disadvantaged people eg ex offenders, asylum seekers etc www.lankellychase.org.uk

Microsoft Community Learning Awards Grants of up to £2,500 available for community groups that provide IT training for 'underserved' adults and young people. www.microsoft.com/uk/community/community/awards

BT Community Connections - Awards of computers and free internet access for one year available, valued at £1,000, to enable voluntary groups to use the internet. www.btcommunityconnections.com

O2 Its Your Community Awards – up to £1,000 for various community projects. Applications only through www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk

Wessex Watermark Award – between £100 and £1,500 available for environmental projects awarded quarterly www.wessexwater.co.uk click on Community.

Business Link – Advice and grants available for social enterprises www.businesslink.gov.uk

Business Link Somerset – 01823 287600 enquiry@blsl.co.uk

Somerset County Council Social Enterprise Team will advise social enterprises and C I Cs on grants etc. Contact Mike Atkinson on 01823 355611 or matkinson@somerset.gov.uk

Social Enterprise Investment Fund Grants available for setting up social enterprises for health and social care activities email SocialEnterpriseFund@dh.gsi.gov.uk

UnLtd – awards of up to £5000 for individuals who want to start or develop a social enterprise www.unltd.org.uk

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

LANDFILL TAX CREDIT SCHEMES

Biffa Award www.biffaward.org.uk will fund environmental and community projects within 10 miles of a Biffa site and a few projects within 25 miles.

Somerset Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund www.somerset.gov.uk will help projects in areas affected by aggregates extraction or transport. Statutory and voluntary groups can apply for small and large scale projects which benefit the community. Visit the website for more details. Follow links to environment and planning. Last years grants ranged from £62,000 to £250

Natural England Aggregates Levy Scheme. Between £5,000 and £350,000 available to support actions that reduce the effects of aggregates extraction on the environment and local people for projects within 5 miles of a quarry. www.naturalengland.org.uk

Mendip Hills AONB for communities situated in or next to the Mendip Hills for conservation and other projects – check website for deadlines. Phone Gail Graham on 01761 462338 to discuss your project or visit www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk

SPORT AND THE ARTS

Sport England will support projects which increase participation for groups not currently doing sporting activities, particularly those from minority groups. New small grant scheme £300 to £10,000 available for capital & revenue projects. www.sportengland.org.uk

The Football Foundation grants include Capital Projects Scheme, Goal Post Safety Scheme, Community Education Scheme, Junior Kit Scheme etc www.footballfoundation.org.uk
0845 345 4555.

Foundation for Sport and the Arts – money from football pools. For projects aimed at increasing the numbers of people participating in sport and the arts, particularly young people. Fund finishing in March 2012. 0151 259 5505 www.thefsa.net

Lords Taverners awards for cricket equipment and non-turf pitches for clubs and schools. Also support for young people with disabilities to take part in sport and recreation. www.lordstaverners.org

Arts Council England - grants of between £1,000 and £100,000 available for projects relating to the arts www.artscouncil.org.uk 0845 300 6200

Clore Performing Arts Awards – grants between £1,000 to £10,000 for registered charities, limited companies and educational institutions for innovative arts education projects and events for children and young people between 0 to 18. Last deadline was 15 April 2009.

Main Grants Programme – for the arts, education, museums & health social care and disability. No deadline. Grants from £5,000 upwards www.cloreduffield.org.uk

Peter Harrison Foundation – grants mainly for capital projects which help disabled or otherwise disadvantaged people to fulfill their potential through sport. www.peterharrisonfoundation.org

AGE, DISABILITY & DISADVANTAGE

South West Foundation – Grants of up to £1000 available for community groups and networking. For more details visit www.southwestfoundation.org.uk or phone 01275333666

Awards for All – see new details above.

Comic Relief now administered by Somerset Community Foundation

www.somersetcf.org.uk . Current priorities are projects involving young people aged 11- 21, older people, mental health, domestic violence and disadvantaged communities and rural areas.

UIA Charitable Foundation – Up to £1,000 for voluntary organizations helping victims of domestic violence, drug and alcohol addiction and the rehabilitation of offenders. Deadlines end of July and end of January www.uia.co.uk

Age Concern – Bright Ideas Programme Up to £2,000 available for new projects directly benefiting older people, including capital and revenue expenditure such as staff costs. Applications can be made at any time.

St Monica Trust Community Fund Grants of up to £10,000 for projects which benefit people over 55 whose health has been affected by substance misuse. Closing date 30th September.

www.communityfund.stmonicastrust.org.uk or phone 0117 949 4003

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Mall Fountain Fund – administered by the Quartet Community Foundation. Grants of up to £1,000 for projects within 25 miles of Cribbs Causeway which help people in need. Deadline is 31st January each year www.quartetcf.org.uk

Yapp Charitable Trust – ongoing costs for small registered charities up to £3000. For examples of projects supported see www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk

CLA Charitable Foundation – grants of around £2,500 for people with disabilities and disadvantaged children and young people to enjoy activities in the countryside www.cla.org.uk

OTHER FUNDING

Parish Councils have a limited amount of funding.

Community Budget - County Councillors will soon have £10,000 each to give to local projects which benefit communities. Contact your local councillor.

Bath Building Society Check website for local branches and eligibility. Awards of £100 and £500 plus balloon fight tickets to raffle for community activities www.bathbuildingsociety.co.uk

Banks, building societies and big stores also have grant schemes e.g. **Abbey National Awards** of up to £2,500 for projects benefiting disadvantaged people. For registered charities only.

www.aboutabbey.com

Lloyds TSB Grants for registered charities only. Support for projects involving disadvantaged people. New online initial application form. www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

HBOS Community Action Programme Grants of up to £10,000 for registered charities providing financial advice and/or improving local communities www.hbosfoundation.org.uk

Nationwide Small grants Programme – up to £5,000 for registered charities for projects related to domestic violence, prisoners families and young offenders www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk

Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards grants of between £1,000 and £4,000 to support local projects involving children, adults with disabilities and elderly people. On line application forms available from www.tescocharitytrustcommunityawards-applications.co.uk The closing dates for applications for children's projects are 31 January and 30th June each year and for adults 31st March and 30th September.

B&Q One Planet Living Grant between £50 and £500 worth of materials available for community groups, schools and charities for projects of long term benefit to the local community within 20 miles of your local store. Contact the store manager. www.diy.com click on social responsibility. **One Planet Living Award** – Up to £10,000 of materials available for groups with an environmental focus. Closed for this year.

NLDC Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities capital or revenue grants from £1,000 to £7,000 available to support learning leading to economic activity for people over 18.

First deadline 28th September. Contact Pauline McCarthy on 01823 355733 or pmccarthy@somerset.gov.uk .

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS IN SOMERSET

Community-based voluntary groups helping to improve local community life in Taunton Deane are being urged to apply for grants from the Somerset Community Foundation.

In the past 12 months over £280,000 has been awarded by the Foundation to local projects in Somerset but there have been fewer applications from the Taunton Deane area compared with the rest of the county. Most of the funding is available through the Government Grassroots Grants scheme, which offers grants up to £5000 to organisations with incomes of £30,000 or less. They also manage funds on behalf of local donors, including Summerfield Developments.

Grants Manager, Jocelyn Blacker, says 'The Foundation supports a wide variety of projects and activities run by local groups responding to local community needs, from pre-school groups in remote rural areas to luncheon clubs for the elderly. We are particularly keen to hear about projects in and around Taunton where a small amount of money will make a difference to the lives of people in most need. Our friendly grants team is always happy to discuss your ideas and answer your questions.'

For more information or to apply please call 01458 833133 (please note this fund is available to all groups across Somerset, not just Taunton Deane)



VOLUNTEERING IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

The Department of Health has published its response to the consultation 'Towards a strategy to support volunteering in health and social care', <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/>

MORE EMPLOYMENT CONNECTED VOLUNTEERING

A new government-supported scheme to get more people volunteering during the recession has been launched by the Prime Minister. The National Talent Bank will target businesses which are releasing employees for a fixed period, reducing the working week, deferring the start dates for new recruits, but still paying them, or retaining staff whose posts have been made redundant. It will support existing volunteering programmes and initially run for twelve months. News item at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/lnor6g>.

CSV MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

"CSV Make a Difference Day is the UK's largest day of volunteering. It takes place this year on 31 October, with activities from 24 October - 7 November.

This year people across the country will be taking part to create a wave of kindness across the UK, through acts of kindness for a neighbour, a stranger or even their whole community!

You can be part of it - whether you're looking to recruit long-term volunteers, or just fancy changing something in your community, this is your opportunity to make a difference and have fun at the same time!

All activities receive an Action Pack, which includes t-shirts, posters, balloons, stickers, volunteer certificates and a Handbook with extra information on how to publicise your activity.

Potential volunteers can find your activity by searching on the campaign website. Kindness Kits are also available, and include simple ideas for kind activities, as well as free chocolate, wildflower seeds and wool!

To register an activity for the day or for more information, phone 0800 284 533, email difference@csv.org.uk or visit www.csv.org.uk/difference."





**NCVO HAS PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING FIVE KEY TIPS ON HOW TO
MANAGE VOLUNTEERING DURING A RECESSION.**

- A quick, helpful and informative response mechanism is needed to be ready to deal promptly with inquiries. Make customer care a priority for everyone in the organisation who will be involved with welcoming new volunteers from their first contact by phone, email or in person, right through the interview, selection and screening process. Do not keep possible new volunteers hanging around; they will soon get disheartened or lose interest.
- Have a 'menu' of options ready so that you can offer an interesting range of tasks to new volunteers. Think ahead about how you could involve more volunteers to help get more of the things done that you have always wanted to. Volunteers will expect to make a rewarding, satisfying and worthwhile contribution to a charity, so prepare a mixed list of tasks to suit different abilities, skill sets, backgrounds and interests.
- New volunteers might be looking for ways to keep their skills up to date while they do work of community value that mutually benefits themselves and your charity. Are you geared up to the newly redundant shop worker as well as the unemployed banker; to both the redundant manager close to retirement who may never again be in paid employment and the recent graduate looking for their first job?
- Volunteers present a huge opportunity to do things differently and try out new ways of working. Those with previous experience of organising, managing other people, or leadership in organisations, could themselves make excellent managers of other volunteers and be first rate developers of new projects. Identify where the pressures are in the charity and how volunteers might bring a fresh view to bear on them and offer new solutions.

For charities that employ paid staff, integrate volunteers with them rather than see volunteers as an 'add on'. Regard them as another essential people resource. That means reviewing the capacity available to supervise and manage them effectively, giving them proper support and encouragement. With sensitive direction, they have time to give which can extend and strengthen your charity's work and its impact.

For more information please go to: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/recessionresources, alternatively please call you local Volunteer Centre on the number below.

If you have any changes to your contact details or volunteering opportunities please let Leonie know on 01935 414023 or email leoniegirling@ssvca.org.uk so that she can update her details. Many thanks.

SSVCA PROJECTS

FURNICARE

Furnicare is a Furniture Re-use project operating from Yeovil and Chard. The project enables people on low income and charitable groups to purchase good quality furniture, household items and electrical goods at affordable prices. Our service is open to anyone claiming benefit or who earns less than £15,000 per year. If you would like to find out more information or would like to donate unwanted furniture to the scheme please contact:

Yeovil on 01935 433416 Tuesday to Friday between 10.00am and 4.00pm or
Chard on 01460 68221 Monday to Thursday between 10.00am and 4.00pm.



COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

We operate 3 transport schemes in South Somerset, Community Transport (minibus service), Community Cars and Links.

Community Transport provides transport to older, frail and disabled people who are unable to access mainstream services. All of our 11 minibuses are wheelchair accessible. We transport people and groups to a number of places including day care, social groups and hospital and GP appointments. To find out more information please call 01935 477399.

Community Cars recruits over 50 volunteers who using their own cars will transport people unable to access mainstream services but who can use a normal car. The client will pay the driver his/her mileage rate of 40p per mile plus a £2 booking fee to cover the administration cost. For further information please call 01935 411572.

Links is based in Langport and serves the towns of Somerton and Langport and the surrounding villages and hamlets. Links uses smaller vehicles than the minibus scheme due to the small rural lanes, however all the vehicles are wheelchair accessible. This scheme is open to anyone unable to access mainstream services or who does not have a mainstream service in their village or town. For further information please call 01458 250169.

TALKING COMPUTERS

Talking Computers is a Big Lottery funded project that provides training to people who are unable or find it difficult to access mainstream pcs because of a visual impairment, physical impairment or dyslexia.

One to one training is provided to all users in differing software packages identified to meet individual need. Training is carried out at our training suite at Houndstone, Yeovil or at Somerset Association for the Blind based in Taunton. For further information please call 01935 414034.

AFFORDABLE COMPUTERS FOR EVERYONE!!

Our IT re-cycling project can set you up with a re-used PC. With its hard drive wiped of any previous data we can offer you a pc with Windows 98, Windows 2000 or Windows XP (subject to eligibility) from £20. Monitor, keyboard and mouse bundle to go with your pc is £15. For more information call Jo on 01935 414034 Tuesday – Thursday.

SSVCA CONTACT DETAILS

Sam Healy - Chief Officer
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samhealy@ssvca.org.uk

Peter Bagg - Support Officer
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Becky Britten—Development Worker
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Donna Cook - Finance
Administrator
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donnacook@ssvca.org.uk

Mike Clothier - Admin/Finance Officer
Tel: 01935 475914

Liz Stevens - Payroll Administrator
Tel: 01935 475914
lizstevens@ssvca.org.uk

Volunteer Centre

John Robinson - Volunteer Centre Manager
johnrobinson@ssvca.org.uk
01935 414023

Leonie Girling - Volunteer Centre Administrator.
leoniegirling@ssvca.org.uk
01935 414023.

Community Transport

Sue Scammell - Project Manager
suescammell@ssvca.org.uk
Sue Barnfield - Administrator
Sue Rickerby - Administrator
01935 477399

Community Cars

Chris Manley - Project Manager
Karen Smith - Deputy Manager
Carol Duchscherer- Administrator
Shirley Bayliss - Administrator
01935 411572
chrismanley@ssvca.org.uk

IT Resource Centre

Catriona Eagle - Project Manager
Rachel O'Rourke - Administrator
Jo Culliford - IT Re-use and support
joculliford@ssvca.co.uk 01935 414034

Furnicare Yeovil

Teresa Bell - Project Manager
32 Goldcroft, Yeovil, Somerset. 01935 433416
furnicareyeovil@btconnect.com

Furnicare Chard

Peter Bagg - Project Manager
Boden Mill, Chard, Somerset. 01460 68221
furnicarechard@talktalkbusiness.net

South Somerset Links

Martin Hawkins - Project Manager
LADT office, Langport, Somerset. 01458 250169
southsomlinks@btconnect.com

This newsletter is produced free of charge for the voluntary and community sector and statutory partners, within South Somerset and is circulated to over 500 organisations registered with us. It is written for everyone concerned with voluntary and community organisations - volunteers, committee members, trustees, staff and partners. All sections can be copied and passed around your organisations, so please don't keep it to yourself, there is something for everyone!

We hope you find the newsletter useful and easy to read, however if you would like to make suggestions on how we can improve this format or you would like to be registered on our mailing list please contact Donna on 01935 475914. The next issue will be out late December 2009. If you would like to include any articles or information please send copy to Sam Healy or email at sam-healy@ssvca.org.uk by the end of November 2009.

SSVCA DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES

Nigel Engert - Chair & Finance Committee

Mike Sandells - Deputy Chair & Finance

Brian Maxwell - Legal Advice

Dave Gladding - Finance Committee

Chris Watson - Website

Katherine Nolan - Business Planning & Marketing

Sarah Hunt - HR Advice

OBSERVERS

Voluntary Sector

Penny Mitchell - South Street Centre

County Council

Vicky Breeze

SSDC

Ric Pallister

Alan Smith

**The main SSVCA office is situated at:
Units 4/5, Yeovil Small Business Centre,
Houndstone Business Park, Yeovil,
Somerset, BA22 8WA.**

From the ASDA roundabout take the Lufton Way exit following signs for Houndstone Business Park, take the first right into Mead Avenue and follow the road past Screwfix (on your left hand side), turn right into Memorial Road and follow the road round. SSVCA is situated opposite St. John Ambulance.

Articles and information should not be considered full or definitive. The information contained is not a substitute for professional advice and whilst every care has been taken to produce this newsletter, SSVCA accepts no responsibility for any errors that may have occurred.

**DON'T FORGET TO COME ALONG
TO THE NEXT SOUTH SOMERSET
VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM!**

Wednesday 18th November 2009
10.00AM TO 1.15PM

Donyatt Bowling Club, Chard Road
Donyatt, Ilminster
Somerset
TA19 0RG

Come along and network with other
voluntary and community organisations, get
updated on sector and legal news
affecting you.

For more information or to
book a free space,
please call Donna on 01935 475914