

Voluntary Action Barnsley (VAB) BCVN Bulletin November 2008

VAB news

Please note that Voluntary Action Barnsley has moved.
Our new address is

**The Core
County Way
Barnsley
S70 2JW**

Our new reception telephone number is 01226 320100

After years of planning and hard work this move should have been a celebration for VAB. However, just before handover it came to our attention that Lotus Construction, the main building contractor for The Core had gone into administration.

This has obviously placed VAB in a challenging and unexpected situation. VAB staff and existing tenants have moved into The Core, however, there are a few outstanding building jobs that need to be completed before we can open to the public. It is anticipated that The Core will be offering its full range of services and facilities within the next couple of weeks.

This has obviously come as a shock to us at VAB. However, we are endeavouring to continue to provide quality services to the sector in Barnsley. We apologise for any inconvenience or rescheduling that this delay in opening causes and we want to reassure our customers that we are doing everything we can to finish the outstanding work. We hope that our customers will bear with us over the next couple of weeks until we can officially open our doors to the public.

Meeting room bookings are still being taken and existing bookings will be honoured.

We will keep you informed of progress.

VAB AGM

Our AGM will take place on December 2nd 2008 at The Core. If you would like to attend please contact naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk please note that you must book onto this event.



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VAB news cont...

VAB Art Competition - deadline date extended to November 24th

VAB is holding a competition open to young people to design a piece of art which will be displayed at The Core. The three winning entries will be unveiled at the official opening of The Core (date to be confirmed). The winners will be invited to attend this event. The artwork will continue to be displayed in the reception area so that members of the public can come and view the artwork.

Theme:

Reflections of Barnsley/ Your Barnsley

The theme is very broad so that you can be creative! However, we would like the art to reflect your interpretations and experience of Barnsley.

The artwork

VAB is looking for three pieces of artwork, no bigger than A1 in size (841 x 594 mm). Alternatively, you can design a sculpture (no bigger than 2m high and 1m wide).

You must also tell us your name, telephone number, address and data of birth plus a short paragraph about your piece of art.

There will be three age categories

- 18-21
- 12-17
- 11 and under

Please send entries to Naomi Douglas at The Core, County Way, Barnsley, S70 2JW or call 01226 320 100 for more info.


Next BCVN meeting

The next BCVN meeting will take place on January 14th 2008 at The Core. The full agenda will be circulated soon. However Heritage Lottery Fund will be presenting. See below for more info about them in Funding News below.

THE VAB PARTICIPATION TEAM INVITE YOU TO GET INVOLVED!

The next VAB Participation Team Provider Forum is to be held on Monday 24 November 2008. This event will be a morning session at Priory Campus and is aimed at Third & Independent sector providers of health and social care services for vulnerable adults. It brings together guest speakers of interest to those working in the sector, provides opportunities for getting involved in consultations in the health and social care field, as well as aiming to give attendees the chance to network and build effective working relationships with other organisations.

The agenda for 24 November is as follows:



9.15am - Refreshments & Registration
9.30am - Welcome & Introduction
9.35am - Update on Individual Budgets Pilot (Avril Watson)
10.00am - Feedback on the consultation into the future of GP services in Barnsley (The Campaign Company on behalf of Barnsley PCT)
10.30am - NHS Barnsley Memory Team (presentation)
10.45am - Break
11.00am - Updates from the Planning & Commissioning Expert Partnerships
11.15am - "No Secrets" consultation exercise - The Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board would like your views to feed into the Barnsley response to this national consultation
12 noon - Information sharing/Provider presentations
12.30pm - Lunch (including the opportunity for informal networking)

Don't miss out! For more information or to book a free place, please 'phone 01226 320100 and ask for the VAB Participation Team.

Funding News

Grassroots grants available

Does your Community Group operate for the benefit of local communities in Barnsley, Rotherham or Sheffield?

**Does your group have income of less than £20,000 per year?
Are you looking for a grant of between £250 and £5000?**

**If you can answer YES to these questions, then
GRASSROOTS GRANTS
May be for you!**

The South Yorkshire Community Foundation is the region's spearhead for the national £130 million 'Grassroots Grants' scheme. Grassroots Grants, which is funded by the Office of the Third Sector will run for three years and is split into two parts, an £80 million small grants fund, and £50 million endowment challenge.

Through the small grants fund the Foundation is able to distribute grants of £250-£5000 to small grassroots community groups in Barnsley. £334,095 is available between now and March 2011.

**Contact South Yorkshire Community Foundation for more information:
Tel 0114 2424294 email grassroots@sycf.org.uk or download an application pack from www.sycf.org.uk**



Heritage Lottery Fund

Your heritage needs you!

Heritage means different things to different people and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grants have helped communities from across Yorkshire and the Humber to share what they find special about their past.

But there are some still areas that have received fewer HLF grants than others and despite their rich history, Barnsley has been identified as one of these.

HLF's Development Team's are working hard to change this. For your chance to meet them, why not attend a workshop designed to help groups develop project ideas and apply for funding. The team can offer advice and guidance to not-for-profit groups who want to run projects involving historic buildings, natural heritage, records, archives, culture, local traditions, oral histories museums and collections.

To find out more please contact the development team on 0113 388 8030, or visit www.hlf.org.uk. If you have a project idea that you would like to discuss, a member of the Development Team will be attending the Community and Voluntary Network on January 14th at The Core please contact Naomi Douglas at VAB for further information.

Providing support across Yorkshire and the Humber

Key fund Yorkshire has money available NOW to support the development and growth of social enterprises across the whole of Yorkshire and the Humber.

If you are a voluntary and community organisation or an existing social enterprise, we have a flexible grant and loan fund to help you to write your own future:

- Up to £10,000 for the early stage development of social enterprises
- £10,000 to £30,000 for the on-going development and growth of social enterprises
- Up to £100,000 for social enterprises with an established track record

For more information and to see if you are eligible please call

0845 140 1400

Email: info@keyfundyorks.org.uk

Web: www.keyfundyorks.org.uk



**South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau
"Meet the Funder"
Information, Advice & Support
Event**

**Thursday 27th November, 3-00 to 6-00 Miners Welfare Hall"
Park Road, Worsbrough Bridge**

Coalfield Regeneration Trust

Grant managers from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust will explain what their grants are for and who is eligible to apply.

South Yorkshire Community Foundation

Small Grants & Grassroots Grants

Information, Advice & Support on group organisation & development related to funding will be available from

- SYFAB Funding Development Workers
General funding Information, Advice & Support
- Voluntary Action Barnsley
Policies, Procedures/Legalities
- Together for Regeneration
Group & Project development support
- Association of Community Partnerships
Community Business Development/C R B Checks

This event is open to groups based in the Barnsley Area
Refreshments available.

Please book a place (2 per Group) Contact: Ian Paisley (Barnsley) Tel: 01226 320142 or e mail ian@syfab.org.uk

Local news

**One Barnsley Volunteering Forum – Saturday 29th
November at Barnsley Interchange**

"Good will to all"

How to get involved in your local community

Put the heart back into Christmas and drop by our feel good celebration at Barnsley Bus Interchange. Chat to local volunteers and agencies about exciting and important projects happening in Barnsley at the moment that you can get involved with. Enjoy the festive entertainment and activities we have planned before heading to the winter wonderland of Christkindlemarkt. This event is aimed at all ages, so please bring along friends and family.



Barnsley Transport Interchange
Saturday 29th November
10-2pm
Drop by and take a look!

This event is organised by One Barnsley and Voluntary Action Barnsley.
For more information please contact for Helen Knox 01226 773405

Get your stories on Radio Sheffield by Andy Kershaw

"As from this month, I take up the role of Regional Community Reporter on the team here at BBC Radio Sheffield. This is a key role to identify key community stories and the people behind them and get them on BBC Local Radio, Online and even Look North if there's enough to go at.

I don't just want events, I want to bring your organisation, group, scheme or initiative alive by profiling the wonderful people involved. An event is NOT a story - this involves people willing to chat about themselves and their experiences and why they're doing it.

I can come along and meet your people (volunteers, beneficiaries, users, etc) and record material or we can arrange for you and them to come on BBC Radio Sheffield to chat to one of our presenters - a fantastic way to talk up your event of activity.


If you're interested in this offer or if you have some news or events which have great people behind them, give me call on the numbers below". Andy Kershaw Broadcast Journalist (Community Reporter)
0114 2675496 Mobile: 07711 913313 email:actiondesk.sheffield@bbc.co.uk

Autumn Watch on your doorstep - New members invited.....

The Rotherham and District Ornithological Society (RDOS) was formed in 1974 to promote an interest in wild birds through discussion, public lectures and field meetings. In addition, a Charity Fund was created and RDOS has raised tens of thousands of pounds towards local and national wildlife conservation projects since its formation.

Working closely with local government, RDOS has conducted surveys and provided information to assist with a variety of local environmental issues, planning applications and land management for the benefit of wild birds and wildlife in general. RDOS fully supports the work of the British Trust For Ornithology and the RSPB and has carried out Common Bird Census, Farmland Bird surveys and Winter Wildfowl counts in the Rotherham area on a regular basis.

Whilst the area for recording counts of birds remains within the borough of Rotherham, membership is open to anyone with an interest in wild birds and



wildlife and there are a wide range of activities for members to enjoy. As well as regular field meetings and trips, RDOS arranges 8 indoor meetings each year with professional speakers from around the UK.

RDOS field meetings and indoor meetings are open to newcomers, where a warm welcome is assured; there is no charge for going along and seeing what the group is about. If you do decide to join, you can do so at a field meeting or indoor meeting and the subscription currently stands at £10.00 per year for adults.

Don't delay....join today!

For more information, please visit the RDOS website at www.rdos.350.com

Alternatively, you can contact Malcolm Taylor (RDOS Secretary) at:
18 Maple Place
Chapletown
Sheffield
S30 4QW
Telephone: 0114 2461848 / Email: rdos@hotmail.co.uk

General News

Legal Update from our Advice Team

Protecting workers and businesses

Business groups, unions and the government joined forces from 5th November for the first meeting of the **Fair Employment**

Enforcement Board

The Board will lead the fight to protect vulnerable workers from the minority of unscrupulous employers who exploit their staff and undercut their competitors. Employment Relations Minister Pat McFadden said:

"Workers in the UK enjoy better rights than in the past, but there are still some unacceptable cases of rogue employers mistreating their staff.

"We must safeguard workers rights and ensure unscrupulous employers cannot prey on those who are desperate to earn a living in difficult times.

"Denying workers basic rights on wages, leave and conditions is not only illegal, but cheats the majority of honest businesses. These practices must be stamped out." The new Board brings together government enforcement bodies, unions, business leaders, and Citizens Advice to ensure effective enforcement of the law.

ACAS code of practice on disciplinary and grievance procedures

The final version of the revised ACAS Code of Practice on Disciplinary and Grievance procedures was issued on 7 November for parliamentary approval. It comes into effect from 6 April 2009 to replace the statutory disciplinary, dismissal and grievance procedures. ACAS has also issued a detailed guide to what has changed since the earlier (consultation) draft of the code. An unreasonable failure by an employer to follow the Code will result in a



tribunal having the power to increase any award by up to 25%.

It can be downloaded here

<http://www.acas.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=961&p=0>

The current version has the word 'draft' stamped all over it as it is awaiting approval by parliament - but this should be a formality.

New HMRC Gift Aid Declaration Forms

HMRC have amended their pro forma gift aid declarations to take into account the reduction in basic rate tax to 20p in the £ and transitional relief. Charities may wish to update their gift aid declarations accordingly. It is always worth remembering that wrongly phrased gift aid declarations can be declared as invalid by HMRC and as a result you could be required to repay your gift aid claims back to HMRC!

There should be no need to ask existing regular donors to replace their gift aid declarations with new ones. Declarations that reflect the updated pro formas should only be necessary for donations not already covered by an existing valid gift aid declaration.

The revised forms can be found at:

<http://search2.hmrc.gov.uk/kbroker/hmrc/forms/viewform.jsp?formId=734>

Alternatively contact Ann Moffatt in VAB's Organisational Support team at Voluntary Action Barnsley on 01226 320 100

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM BATES, WELLS & BRAITHWAITE Community Infrastructure Levy

Quote: "The government is currently attempting to pass legislation which will introduce a new tax called the Community Infrastructure Levy. This tax will be levied on the development of land and buildings – and there will be no exemption for charities. At its worst this new tax could have the effect of preventing charities from developing land or buildings that they own. It will certainly mean that charities will have to find the extra money required to pay the tax through additional fundraising or through their reserves.

In spite of the seriousness of the situation, many in the sector remain unaware of how they will be affected; and others, though aware, have not taken action to try to protect their position.

The legislation is at Committee stage in the House of Lords but time is running out for the Sector to make its voice heard. If you have any contacts in the House of Lords who will support a charity exemption please let us know. Better still contact them direct and ask for their support."

For a question and answer fact sheet which explains how this new tax will work; how it will affect the Sector; and what you should do if you want to obtain an exemption for charities follow the link



below to the Bates Wells & Braithwaite website

<http://www.bateswells.co.uk/>

NCVO Members 'Make your search box work for a living'

Did you know there's a way for all NCVO members to develop sustainable income through everyday internet activity without it costing a penny? By exchanging your internet search box for a customised 'own label' one (powered by Yahoo!) you will make money every time it's used – that's income just from doing what you, or your supporters, usually do. It's an easy, transparent and trackable way to raise money - you can see how much you're raising in real time. The service is provided by NCVO partner, Whitebox, and is used successfully by many voluntary and community organisations.

Start benefiting straight away by [signing up](#) here <http://ncvo.poweredbywhitebox.com/> and getting your employees, beneficiaries, supporters and trustees to use a co-branded search engine dedicated to your organisation.

Credit Crunch explained

Here's a link to quite a well written article explaining the basic problems in the banking sector and wider economy and how it affects us. You don't have to be an accountant or economist to understand this article.

This may be useful for groups who want an idea about what's going on.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7670313.stm>

Fund Raising for the vulnerable children of Cambodia!

Come and meet Elizabeth 1.....

Lesley Smith is the curator at 'Tutbury Castle'. She will appear in full costume and talk to us about the fascinating times of Elizabeth 1.

Friday 5th December 2008 (7.30pm- 9.30pm approx)

Priory Campus
Pontefract Road

Lundwood

Barnsley

S71 5PN

TEL: 01226 770610

Tickets £5

All proceeds and donations will support the vulnerable children in Cambodia.

For more information ask for Lynne Barnett (Family Action Barnsley).

Tel: 01226 289933



Do you want to help create better places for people to live but don't know where to start?

Foundation Degree in Sustainable Communities starting January 2009

This part-time foundation degree, starting January 2009, is part of the government's drive to train people to develop and deliver sustainable communities. It has been created in partnership with the Academy for Sustainable Communities – the national centre for delivering the skills and knowledge needed to make better places.

The course ensures you develop the skills needed to have a positive impact on communities, including partnership working, community consultation, governance and project management.

You study the core disciplines of housing, planning, design and environmental management, as well as exploring cross-disciplinary approaches to help you break down the barriers between professions in your future career.

Work-based experience and learning are key parts of the course.

Phone 0114 225 3188 or e-mail a.cook@shu.ac.uk to find out more or click [here](#) for detailed course information.

If you wish to contribute an article to this bulletin please contact Naomi Douglas on 01226 320100 or e mail naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk