

## Autumn/Winter 2010

Welcome to VAB News!

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# Voluntary Action Barnsley

# vab news

Supporting the Barnsley Community and Voluntary Network

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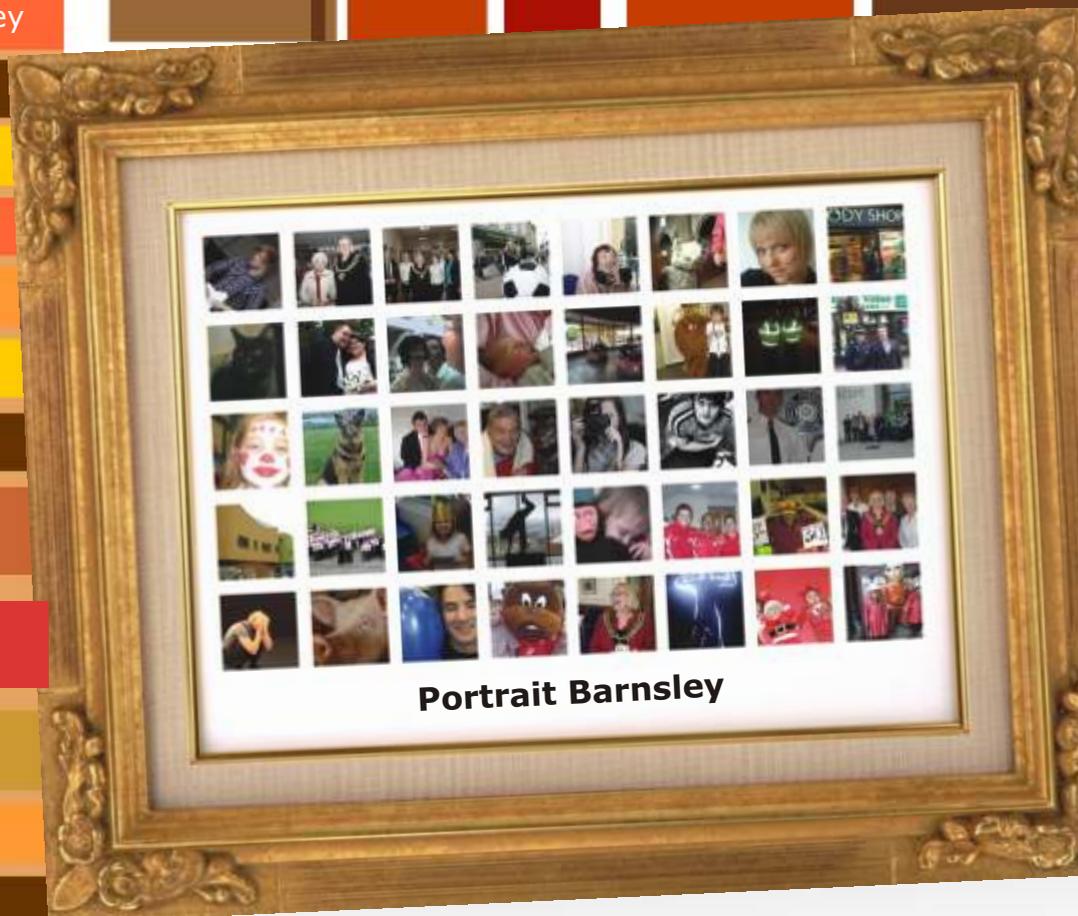
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**Portrait Barnsley**

On Friday 24th September, a special photographic event took place throughout the Borough.

Find out more on page 8

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Free information & support about developments in Health & Social care

See page 4



## Introduction by Penny Stanley, Chief Executive

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of VAB's Newsletter.

It won't have escaped your attention that we are in the middle of an Economic crisis and our sector is not immune from the significant Government cuts being announced, seemingly on a daily basis.

However, this is not the time to be defensive about what we do, or to be caught on the back foot. As a sector, and in our individual organisations, we need to be looking out for and seizing opportunities to:

1. **promote what we do** - we need to evidence the impact of the services we deliver and show the difference we are making to people's lives;
2. **make us more sustainable** - is anyone out there running a similar service? Have we considered collaboration and/or merging our operations? We need to be efficient as well as effective;
3. **encourage change and innovation** - in the current climate we will need to achieve more with less - are we using all the knowledge, experience and skills available to us and rising to that challenge?
4. **shape the future of our sector** - we need to invest the time and search out opportunities to get involved in consultations, collaborations and participation processes that will give us a voice and enable us to influence the future size, nature and importance of our sector.

Overall, to achieve an independent, effective and sustainable sector, we need



confidence and self-belief. And, we need to work together. We need to build stronger relationships across the sector.

We need to move up a gear from self-preservation mode to sector preservation mode. Only then will we realise our true potential - a thriving, cohesive sector that is a positive force for social change.

Enjoy the Newsletter!

## Tribute to John Wood



Anyone who met John Wood, knew he was a kind, thoughtful man, with a heart of gold, and a stubborn, steely streak if he needed it!!

Before his death in October 2010, at the age of 84, John had been a Trustee of VAB for more than 20 years. During this time, John played his part in helping VAB develop into the organisation it is today.

His interest in volunteering began as



long ago as 1966. Over many years, John gave his time to a host of good causes, including Oxfam, Age Concern and the Alzheimer's Society; often encompassing Local, Regional or National level. He was also a founder member of a number of groups that went on to become well established in Barnsley, such as Dial a Ride and Crossroads. He frequently worked with several Charities, building up tremendous knowledge and experience across a range of organisations.

But John did much more than attend meetings, take decisions and initiate charities.

One person who needed help was a frail, elderly lady called Joyce, who first came into contact with him through Age Concern. During her life, Joyce came to rely on John more and more, and over a period of 25 years, he went way beyond the call of duty, and effectively became her carer. As a single, lonely lady with few close family members, Joyce was a challenging, needy person from the outset. As the years rolled by and her health further deteriorated, John was really her only trusted lifeline to the world.

For 25 years, Joyce always needed him. And John always gave his time and compassion freely.

That was how I first met John, as he was looking after Joyce, in his own caring, private way. His commitment and insatiable desire to help others could be a lesson to us all.

I can only presume that he was a Saint in a Suit.

David Brannan

Chairman VAB

## What is the census?

A census is a count of the Population. We have had one in the UK every ten years to find out more about who we are as a nation. We ask everyone to tell us a bit about themselves to help census users decide how best to plan, fund and deliver the everyday services we all need – like housing, education, healthcare and transport.

## Why do we need a census?

A lot's changed over the last ten years. But what - exactly?

How many more people live in England and Wales compared with ten years ago? What kind of people are they? And what services do they need in their area?

One way to find out is to count them.

We have to find out how people's lives and needs have changed, so that Government and local authorities plan the kind of services that everyone needs.

So on 27th March 2011, every household in England and Wales must complete a census questionnaire.

## How do I do it?

You can complete your questionnaire online or on paper;

**Online:** Your paper questionnaire has a code on the front. This is your key to unlock your online questionnaire. Just go to **[www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)**, click 'Start here' and follow the on-screen instructions. When you've finished, click 'Submit' to send your information.

**On paper:** If you don't have access to the internet or prefer not to do it online, you can fill in your answers by hand, sign the declaration on the front and post the questionnaire back in the pre-paid envelope provided.

For more information please visit:  
**[www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)**

## Free information and support from the VAB Participation Team....

***Do you provide Health and/or Social Care services?***

***Are you interested in free information and support, in order to ensure a prosperous future for your organisation?***

The VAB Participation Team are here to support voluntary and community sector providers of Health and/or Social Care in the borough, to have a say in how services are planned for the people of Barnsley...

**We can also arrange training and supply information** around topical issues to help you ensure a prosperous future for your organisation (such as how to be Commissioning ready and use of the Supplier Contract Management System - SCMS).

**In order to give you an opportunity to meet others in the sector, share ideas and good practice and hear guest speakers on current Health & Social Care matters, we hold free half day information giving events.** We can also visit your group/organisation to speak about the help we offer and provide meetings based within your local area to distribute Health & Social Care related information; we are also looking to attend meetings in the community where we can promote our work (if you have any meetings planned in the borough over the coming months and would be happy for us to attend, please let us know).

From our partnership working with colleagues at BMBC, **we can help you to link in with the ever growing Personalisation agenda;** we have provided a dedicated section of the VAB website to assist you with any queries you may have around this subject.

By joining our email network, **we can supply you with regular updates which may be of interest to you** and by becoming a member of VAB, you may be able to benefit from discounted room hire here at The Core, whilst having access to the full range of VAB services which includes such things as Human Resource and Legal Advice.

In addition to our being able to assist providers of services for Vulnerable Adults, **the Participation Team has a dedicated Children's Services Officer, who can offer a range of help including guidance around Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy development.** We also have an email network and hold monthly meetings for Children's Services, to keep you up to date with information which could affect your day to day operation.

**We are currently looking to fill Health & Social Care related volunteering opportunities,** in order to represent the voluntary and community sector at meetings throughout the borough. These opportunities are a relatively small time commitment but have the potential for a big impact, by letting decision makers know the sector's thoughts on Health & Social Care provision in the area.

**We really would like to hear if we can help you.** If you wish to become a member of VAB, join our email networks or have suggestions in order to address your training needs, **please do not hesitate to get in touch.** Our direct dial telephone number is:

01226 320106 or you can email: [participationteam@vabarnsley.org.uk](mailto:participationteam@vabarnsley.org.uk)

We really look forward to working with you; together we can make a positive impact in the field of Health & Social Care!



## What would you do if you no longer had the ability to make decisions about your wishes and needs?



The VAB Participation Team, in partnership with Barnsley Arena and BMBC, have been working to promote Advance Statements/Advanced Decisions to people in the area. Advance Statements/Advanced Decisions record important information about your wishes and are only acted upon if you lose the ability to make decisions for whatever reason (this may be accident, ill health, etc).

The Advance Statements/Advanced Decisions document is owned and stored by you and it is your responsibility to make sure that it is kept somewhere where you or your nominated person can get to it in times of trouble. Examples of things you could include information about are: who you would like to visit you in hospital, children and dependents, care of pets, security, your home and finances as well as details of the type of medical treatment you may wish to refuse.

For further details, please call VAB on 01226 320100 or Barnsley Arena on 01226 770023. A website providing more information and related documents for Advance Statements/Advanced Decisions can be found at the following address:

**[www.advancedstatement.co.uk](http://www.advancedstatement.co.uk)**



### Is someone you care about using drugs or alcohol?

### You don't have to cope alone!

Barnsley Beacon Support Services work to support parents, relatives and friends of drug and alcohol misusers. The group is a voluntary organisation which is run by volunteers that are (or have been) affected by someone else's substance misuse and offer:

- Confidential listening, support and information;
- One to one support at your request;
- Raised awareness and education about drugs and drug related issues.

Barnsley Beacon Support Services also recognise that they would not be successful without the help of others, so if you have time to spare and would like to know more about their volunteering opportunities, please contact the number below.



If you feel Barnsley Beacon Support Services could help you, please contact 01226 242990 or visit: **[www.barnsleybeacon.com](http://www.barnsleybeacon.com)** for further details.



August 2010 saw a busy start to Barnsley LINK's (Local Involvement Network) 3rd year.

On the 4th of September 2010 Barnsley Link held their Annual Celebration Event at Barnsley Metrodome, with over 80 members attending. The event is held in celebration of all the hard work and commitment of LINK members in achieving LINKs aims and ambitions, as LINK members, over the past 12 months.

Music and entertainment was enjoyed by all and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress presented certificates to a number of members that have worked with the 'Enter & View' Sub Group and undertaken LINK training, in order to enable them to carry out LINK's activities of visiting services.

The 'Enter & View' training was developed by Barnsley LINK for the 'Going to Look at Service's' sub group (as part of the authentication process), in order for people to become LINK representatives.

Transforming LINKs into Healthwatch Consultation Event took place on the 21st September, at The Core. This event was organised so that LINK members could respond to the "Establishing Healthwatch" consultation document, which forms part of the Government's Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS White Paper.

The Government proposes that local HealthWatch will be a "citizens' advice bureau for health and social care". It will help people with complaints advocacy and, by providing information and signposting, will assist people in making choices about health and care.

It will also keep the current LINK role of finding out people's views on services and recommending improvements. This will expand the role of the LINKs and members were asked what they thought

about this proposal and how it could work in practice.

Over 50 members attended and findings from the event has formed Barnsley LINK's response. This report has been sent to the Department of Health, LINK members and partners, and shared with the Yorkshire and Humber Regional LINK Network. You can view this report on our website:

**[www.barnsleylink.co.uk/latestnews/establishinghealthwatch](http://www.barnsleylink.co.uk/latestnews/establishinghealthwatch)**

If you would like to find out more about the work of the LINK in Barnsley, and how your group or organisation can be involved, please visit the website **[www.barnsleylink.co.uk](http://www.barnsleylink.co.uk)** or call Caroline Makinson, Barnsley LINK Development Officer, on 01226 320106.



## Volunteer Management Programme VMP - Update

The new Volunteer Management Support Programme for 2010 has proved to be very successful and involved helping twenty organisations and managers by offering Volunteer Good Practice advice and guidance to them. From advice on policies to role descriptions and development of new organisations, the response from those involved has been excellent.

The Volunteer Centre has also seen additional roles available following work with the groups for people to experience and learn new skills from. Part of the programme involved new training courses on Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Motivation and how to involve more young people in volunteer roles. One participant on the course went on to say "It's been a real boost to my volunteer

management as being new to the sector I had little knowlege" Although the VMP funded by Capacity Builders is coming towards the end project, some helpful advice for new volunteer managers will still be available in 2011 through the Volunteer Centre by contacting Martin on 01226 320105

## New for 2011 - Employer Supported Volunteering - ESV

Following a successful pilot project this Autumn, a new Employer Supported Volunteering programme is planned for role out in 2011.

This is part of the "Modernising Volunteering Workstreams Programme" throughout the UK, where employers will encourage employees to get involved in this important sector to gain new experiences and learn new skills. Some of this will fit in with a number of companies that have a "Corporate Social Responsibility Policy"; such companies like to put something back into the local community that adds value.

The idea behind ESV is for the employer to release a number of employees as volunteers for 1 to 3 days throughout the year on average, to work in the local community on various projects to help a charity or non profit making organisations. This normally involves a team building element to the programme where employees get to know each other away from the work place, whilst discovering new skills and improving motivation and friendships. Activities can include environmental conservation, building refurbishment, woodland management / drystone walling, fund raising and many more.

Advanced ESV involves skills-based volunteering activities such as mentoring or becoming a school governor or a trustee of an organisation. It can also utilise someone's knowledge or professional skills in areas such as management, law and accountancy for

example. This can also help people practice their skills in a different context and grow in confidence or motivation.

The Volunteer Centre Barnsley is ideally placed to facilitate successful Employer Supported Volunteering given its close links and experience of working with voluntary organisations in the local area. They will look at the objectives and manage the expectations of both parties and deal with the process of matching companies to organisations. They will also ensure a good level of support including administration of the programmes and feedback to both parties.

Any companies wishing to take part or find out more information should contact Martin or Beryl at the Volunteer Centre on 01226 320105 for an informal chat and explanation of the process.

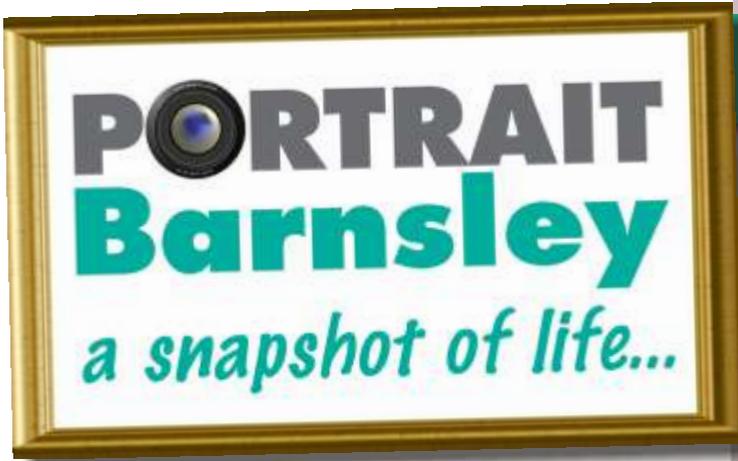


## Freelance Project Manager - available immediately to take on project work

Does your organisation urgently need an experienced project manager or require organisational support to work with your project team(s) on a project stage, to complete a project(s) or to provide cover for project staff on annual or sick leave?

If so please contact Collet on **07515 266341**.

Immediate availability to take on any short or long term project work your organisation has. Competitively priced rates available.



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The aim of the project was to get as many people as possible in Barnsley on one day to take pictures of their families, friends and colleagues at home, at work and at play.

Hundreds of people participated by taking photos of their workplaces, streets, colleges, estates, shops and offices.

In total **2070** pictures were uploaded to the We Are Barnsley website:

**[www.wearebarnsley.com](http://www.wearebarnsley.com)**

All the approved images that were submitted will now be archived by the Borough's archive service and will become a major resource for the future.

Thank you to everyone for taking part and making Portrait Barnsley such a success.



## Design for the Community

If your marketing materials are in need of a fresh new look, why not give us a call. VAB offer a full spectrum of creative solutions:

- Logo Design
- Design Templates
- Posters
- Leaflets
- Brochures
- Newsletters
- Booklets
- Pop Up Banners
- Business Cards
- Compliment Slips
- Letterheads
- Invitations



To discuss any ideas that you may have about your design needs, please contact James Wadsworth on:

**01226 320107**

**[James.wadsworth@vabarnsley.org.uk](mailto:James.wadsworth@vabarnsley.org.uk)**

## Arthritis Care comes back to Barnsley



Arthritis Care Barnsley Branch meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 6.30pm and has a programme of events for the coming months. These events include seated exercise, a male voice choir, games nights and visits by Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists from Barnsley Hospital's Rheumatology Team.

The branch aims to offer support and information to people of all ages with arthritis. Jude and Louise, who set up the branch and have arthritis themselves, would like people who are interested to come along to the meetings and maybe join the committee to help run the branch.

The group has good connections with the Rheumatology Department at Barnsley Hospital whose Consultant Rheumatologist, Dr Adebajo, is Branch President. Dr Adebajo says "I very much believe that the establishment of this Arthritis Care Branch in Barnsley will be of great benefit to the people of Barnsley in general and especially to Barnsley Hospital and its Rheumatology Team and patients".

For further details of venue and branch activities, please call:

**Mrs Judith (Jude) Oxley on:**  
**01226 321978** or  
**Mrs Louise Short on:**  
**01226 727884**

## Affordable Office Space for the Voluntary and Community Sector



### 23 Queen's Road, Barnsley, S71 1AN

Following a recent substantial refurbishment, this building now offers a fully compliant Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) facility including two individual platform lifts (which give wheelchair access to the first floor), ample kitchen and WC facilities and a fully automated main entrance door with ramp.

### What are the contracts and terms?

The offices are ideal for voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, or developing organisations wanting immediate, available office space, part or unfurnished.

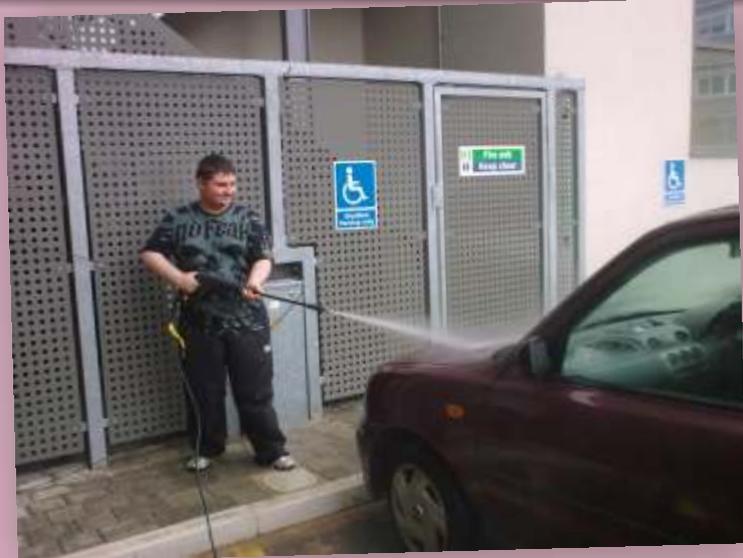
In addition, there are benefits from the strength of Voluntary Action Barnsley's buying power for any equipment or stationery you may require.



For more information contact:  
Buildings Manager  
Voluntary Action Barnsley, The Core,  
Barnsley, S70 2JW.

Tel: 01226 320100  
Email: [angela.jones@vabarnsley.org.uk](mailto:angela.jones@vabarnsley.org.uk)

## Youth Action Team Raise Money for Pakistan Floods Appeal!



On 15th September Voluntary Action Barnsley's Youth Action Team (YAT) put down their pens and pencils from college and picked up their buckets of soapy water to take part in a Sponsored Carwash for the Pakistan Floods Appeal.

The YAT washed 20 cars and in their "Enrichment Afternoon" away from college collected £170.04 for the Appeal. Also, Mr Rafiq from the local Pakistan community contributed a Vegetable Briyani to the cause, the sales of which raised a further £112.46. In total a £282.50 was generated for the Appeal.



Contact the Youth Action Team on: 01226 320104

## The Volunteering Achievement Awards 2010

The Core saw a celebration of Barnsley youth on Wednesday 6th October. The Youth Action Team Volunteering Achievement Award 2010 celebrated all the fantastic achievements of young volunteers working with the Youth Action Team (YAT). Their efforts so far include; Conservation work in the Peak District National Park, clearing shrubs, planting trees, laying paths and the superb transformation of VAB's roof garden. As well as conservation work, the YAT volunteers have been busy promoting Youth Volunteering at Barnsley's Volunteers Week. Other events included a Car Boot sale which they helped run and organise, a Sports Relief fund raising event, a radio taster session to promote Youth Volunteering and they also attended the Mayor into Office Ceremony at the church.



In recognition of all their hard work, the young volunteers received certificates and awards and a presentation by the Mayor and Penny Stanley (Chief Executive, VAB) was made in their honour.



## Games Inspired Volunteering

Find out how you can create Games Inspired Volunteering opportunities and bring the 2012 Games into your organisation.

**Date:** Thursday 3 February 2011  
**Time:** 9:30am - 3:00pm (Lunch 1:00pm)  
**Venue:** The Core, County Way, Barnsley S70 2JW  
**Host:** Voluntary Action Barnsley

### Why should you come to this workshop

Increase the number and diversity of volunteers within your organisation! Thousands of people have already registered their interest in volunteering at the 2012 Games and many of these people want to volunteer now.

### What we offer

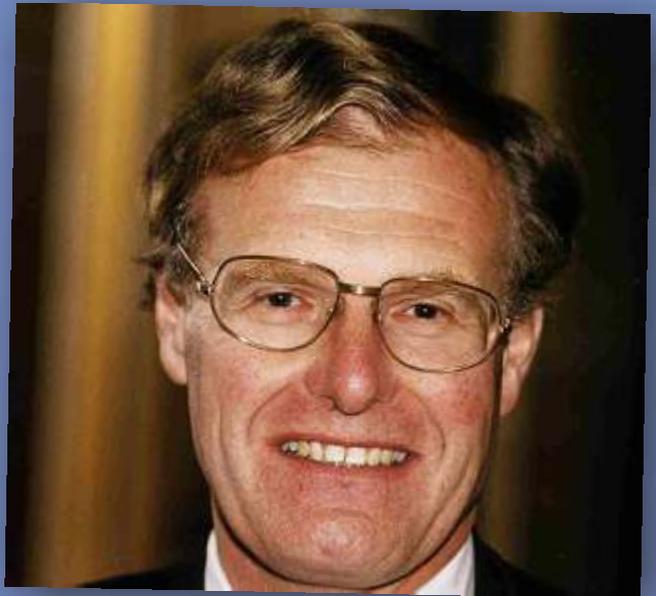
Information and advice to support you to develop Games Inspired Volunteering roles for your organisation;

Tailored support to advertise these Games inspired volunteering opportunities on [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk) and other relevant websites.

**To book a place at this workshop please contact:**

**Beryl Cooper: 01226 320100**  
**[beryl.cooper@vabarnsley.org.uk](mailto:beryl.cooper@vabarnsley.org.uk)**

## 'Fit and proper person' certificate mooted in new Volunteering Bill



Conservative MP Christopher Chope (pictured) proposed the introduction of a 'fit and proper person' certificate as part of a new Volunteering Bill he tabled before Parliament last week.

Chope, who was supported by MPs Peter Bone, Philip Davies, Philip Hollobone, David Nuttall and Priti Patel presented the Bill to make provision to promote volunteering and enable potential volunteers to obtain a fit and proper person certificate for their activities (and for other connected purposes).

The Bill had a brief reading last week and is due to be read for a second time on Friday 10 June 2011.

Mike Locke, director of public affairs at Volunteering England, said; "We are always pleased to see volunteering raised on the Parliamentary agenda and we will look forward to learning more about Christopher Chope's proposal that volunteers should obtain a 'fit and proper person certificate'."

## Some of Voluntary Action Barnsley's Services

### Community Accountancy and Payroll

Our Community Accountancy Service provides a range of accounting services, advice and information to support voluntary groups, charities and social enterprises in Barnsley. All charities are required to manage funds and prepare year end accounts to comply with charity law. At VAB we specialise in voluntary sector finance and can offer a high quality, value for money service. For more information about the services we can offer, or to arrange a free initial consultation, please contact:

Angela Hayes, Community Accountant  
01226 320116

### Personalisation

The VAB Participation Team have been working with colleagues at BMBC to develop a Personalisation Forum for organisations in Barnsley to use. For more information please contact the team on: 01226 320106 or you can visit the forum at the following address:

[Http://www.vabarnsley.org.uk/services/forum.php](http://www.vabarnsley.org.uk/services/forum.php)

### The Core - Providing High Quality Conference Facilities in Barnsley

Built in 2008 as part of the Remaking Barnsley Initiative, The Core is a modern and vibrant building in the heart of Barnsley town centre, conveniently located close to the Travel Interchange with links to Sheffield, Leeds, Wakefield and Huddersfield. The Core offers a wide range of office accommodation and conference facilities and with state of the art technology it is an ideal venue for a variety of events including conferences, meetings, lectures, training courses, interviews and counselling, all at affordable prices.

All our meeting rooms are fully fitted with the latest in audio visual technology and each room has a ceiling mounted multi-media projector and presentation screen. Our IT Support Officer will be on hand to help you set up and all of this is included in the price of the room. Our rooms can all be set up flexibly to suit your needs.



Call: 01226 320100 for more information



#### VAB welcomes feedback on its services from customers and service users.

If you wish to make a compliment, complaint or comment, please contact us for a copy of our procedure or send your comments to Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Barnsley, The Core, County Way, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2JW. Tel: 01226 320100. Fax: 01226 320101

#### Newsletter/Press Queries.

Do you have any queries regarding this publication, wish to be featured or want to be added or deleted from the mailing list? Did you receive this newsletter via post? Would you rather receive by email? If so, please contact James Wadsworth on 01226 320107 or you can email him at: [james.wadsworth@vabarnsley.org.uk](mailto:james.wadsworth@vabarnsley.org.uk)

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