

Barnsley Community and Voluntary Network (BCVN) Bulletin March 2010

VAB News

Rising (and Rowing) to the Challenge!

On Thursday 18th March a group of young people on the Pre'V' programme run by Voluntary and Community Connexions and the Vteam at VAB held a fundraising event at The Core.

The young people rowed or cycled a mile using equipment donated by DW Gym with help from local charity SportActiv.

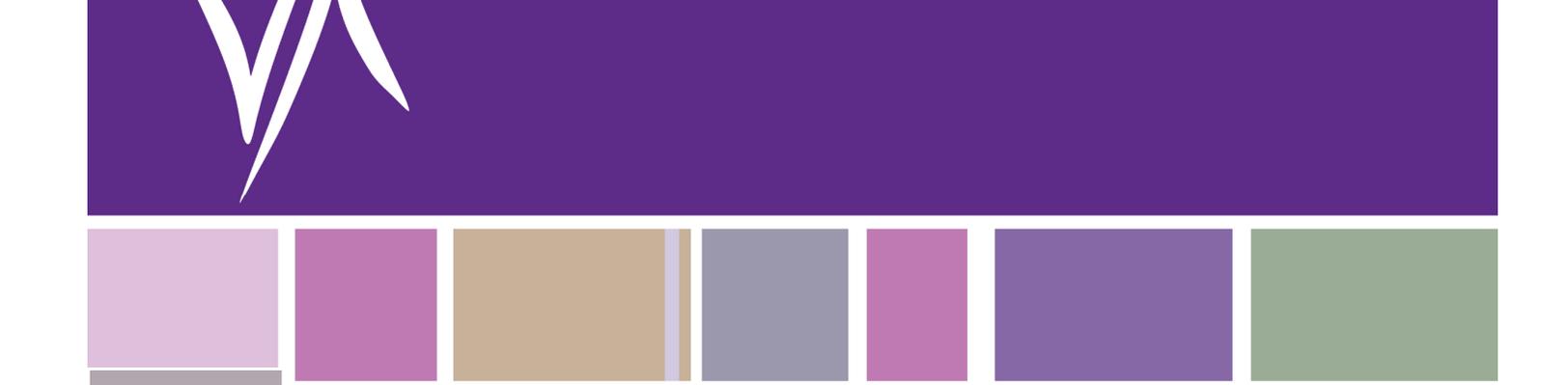
The group of young people sold cakes and drinks to staff and conference attendees and overall they raised **£145.00**

All the money raised by the public is spent by Sport Relief to help transform the lives of poor and vulnerable people, both at home and across the world's poorest countries.



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London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games inspire volunteering opportunities for all

Over 1,000 local organisations will be given the chance to hear how to create volunteering opportunities inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, during a series of regional workshops rolled out from July 2010 by the charities Volunteering England and YouthNet.

On 30th March Volunteering England will announce which Volunteer Centres across the nine English regions will host the workshops, during which Volunteering England will show local organisations how to use the 2012 Games to create and promote Games inspired volunteering opportunities.

Voluntary Action Barnsley will be hosting one of these workshops in February 2011 and anyone interested should contact either Beryl Cooper or Martin Sugden on 01226 320 105 if they wish to attend and/or if they have 2012 inspired volunteering roles that they would like to develop.

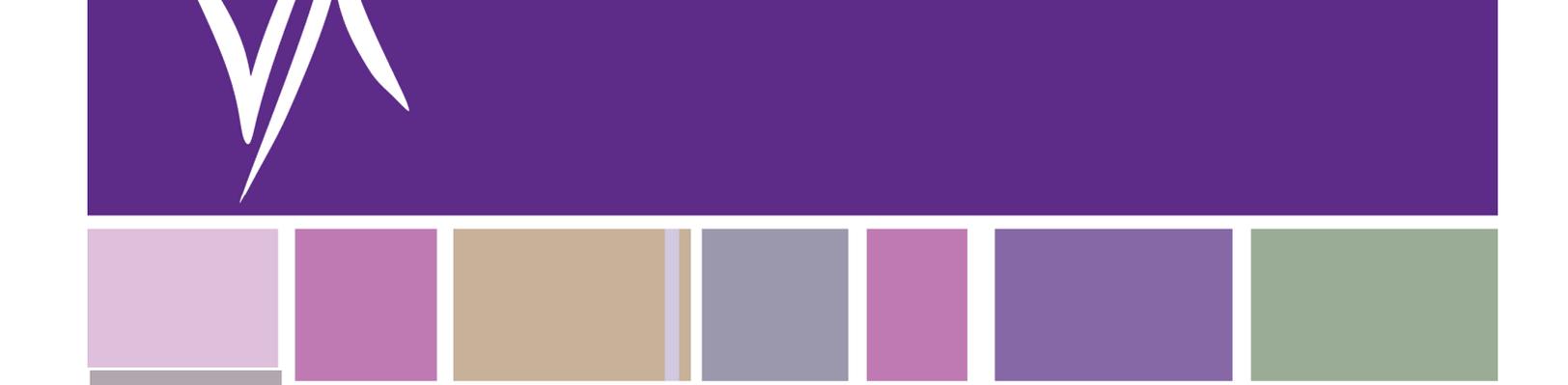
These opportunities will form the backbone of the **25th Hour campaign**, launched today by the Tessa Jowell MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office, the Olympics and London, which aims to inspire hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country to give time to volunteer before, during and after the Games in their local communities.

Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England, says: "The Olympic and Paralympic Games are such massive events that smaller organisations may feel they don't have a role, so these workshops are designed to make sure local organisations can get involved and also be supported by their local Volunteer Centre.

"We want the positive impact of the 2012 Games to be felt throughout England, and by creating Games inspired opportunities, everyone has a chance to take part in their own local communities."

A recent report published by YouthNet showed that almost a quarter (22%) of volunteers had been inspired to give up their time by the upcoming 2012 Games.

Any organisation can get involved and create Games inspired volunteering opportunities by using online promotional and resource materials provided by Volunteering England at www.volunteering.org/gamesinspired. Interested organisations should sign up for the Games Inspired newsletter by emailing gamesinspired@volunteeringengland.org.



New Volunteer Management Programme

VAB will be running a new programme throughout 2010 focusing on helping and advising new organisations using volunteers for the first time, groups not currently registered with them or have staff new to the role and are looking for advice on Volunteer Good Practice Management.

We are particularly interested in new managers or people who have responsibility for volunteers.

More details will be available on our website shortly and in the next News Letter but if you would like to register your interest in taking part in this at the moment please contact

Martin Sugden

**VMP Co-ordinator, VAB, The Core, County Way, Barnsley, S70 2JW
01226 320105 martin.sugden@vabarnsley.org.uk**

Organisational Health Check

Voluntary Action Barnsley Human Resources and Organisational Development Team are offering a series of free Organisational Health Checks for voluntary and community groups.

The purpose of the health check is to identify organisational development needs and ensure that they have up to date policies and procedures in place. For example, when employing staff are you compliant with the requirements of the Charity Commission and Companies House?

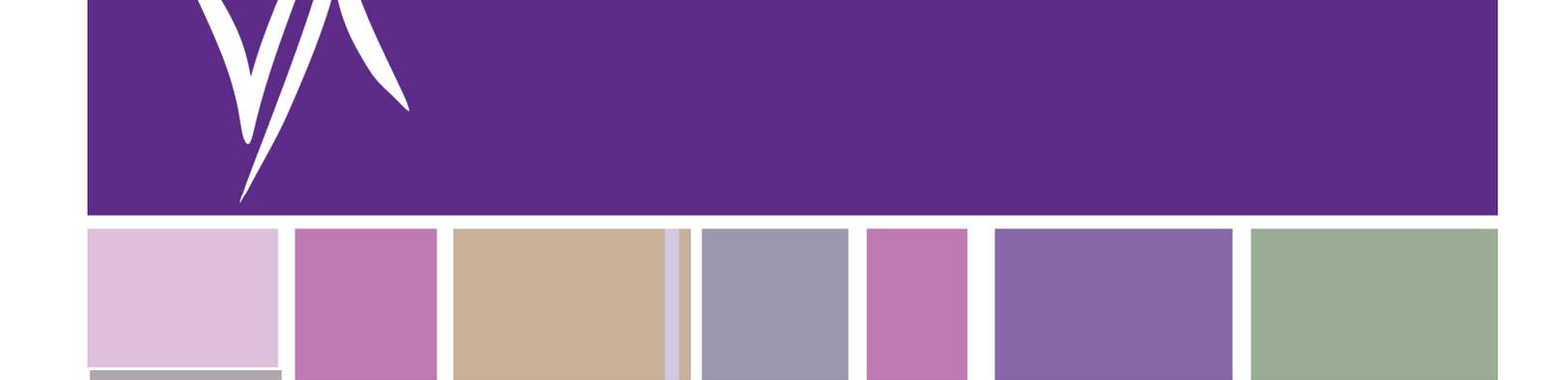
The advisors will work with you and develop appropriate action plans for areas of improvements and with your agreement facilitate any policy implementation with your staff and/or trustees.

The latest provisions of Companies Act 2006, which came into force on 1st October 2009, have made comprehensive changes to the governing documents of companies. Similarly, there has been a series of recent changes in employment and charity law. For example, there is an increase in trustee's duties and responsibilities.

We feel that many groups out there are not aware of these changes and consequently unaware of its impact on their organisation.

If you would like to book an initial meeting with the team to discuss your organisational requirement, please get in touch with Sarah Denton

sarah.denton@vabarnsley.org.uk or tel 01226 320100 ext 150



"How Your Town Works" programme no.5

This learning programme will run ½ day a week for 6 weeks starting **Monday 17th May 2010** and is a good chance for local activists, volunteers and paid workers to come together and gain a clearer picture of how they can be more involved in shaping their communities and services.

There will be a **"Taster Session" taking place on Monday 26th April 2010, at Voluntary Action Barnsley, The Core, County Way, Barnsley.**

Please feel free to pass this onto anyone else in your networks that may be interested.

Please contact Caroline Makinson on 01226 320 106 for more information.

The deadline for receipt of the booking slip is Friday 16th April.

General News

NHS Barnsley Health Engagement (HET) Survey - How are we doing?

As part of our ongoing communications and engagement work, we are conducting research to understand how Barnsley people are engaging with their health. This will provide us with detailed geographical data, which we can use to target health messages more appropriately.

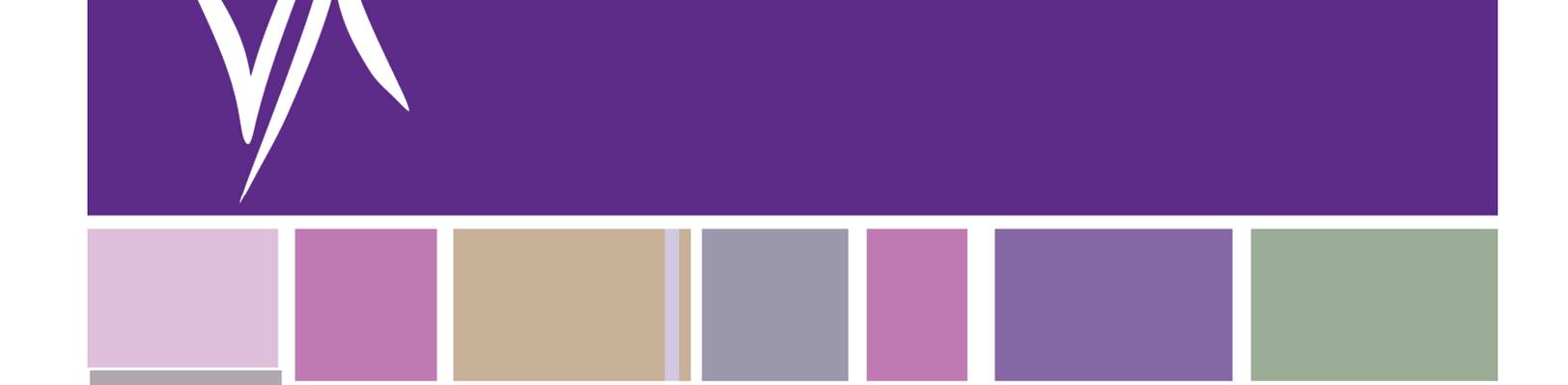
NHS Barnsley is 100% dedicated to improving the health of local people and ensuring everyone in Barnsley has easy access to a choice of high quality health services. Please give us your feedback in our confidential survey. Your answers will help us make improvements and build a healthier future for Barnsley.

You can also pass this on to your friends and family who live in Barnsley - the more responses we get the better informed we are.

<http://www.barnsley.nhs.uk/get-involved/health-engagement.htm>

Receive a free computer for your family... Phone: 0333 200 1004

The government's Home Access scheme will give you the opportunity to apply for a free computer, free internet access, free support and service, and software including assistive technologies.

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- Help your child(ren) as a resource for developing their learning and skills. Having a computer at home associates with a 2 grade improvement in one subject at GCSE. This means that a pupil who would have got a D, could, with the effective use of technology at home, now get a B at GCSE.

Are you eligible?

Are you a parent or guardian responsible for and living with a child...

- who is in school years 3 to 9?
- who attends a state-maintained school in England full time?
- who has not already had a computer from a Home Access Grant or similar programme, such as Computers for Pupils?

If you think you are eligible, and to order an application form, please phone the grant administration service on 0333 200 1004, (minicom: 0121 748 1471), or visit www.homeaccess.org.uk for more information.

Events

Barnsley Men's Walking Club

**Aged between 50 and 64 and want to loose weight and feel fitter?
There's a new competition you might like to take part in.**

All you've got to do is form a team of six and get walking! Set your own pace and see how many miles you can clock up.

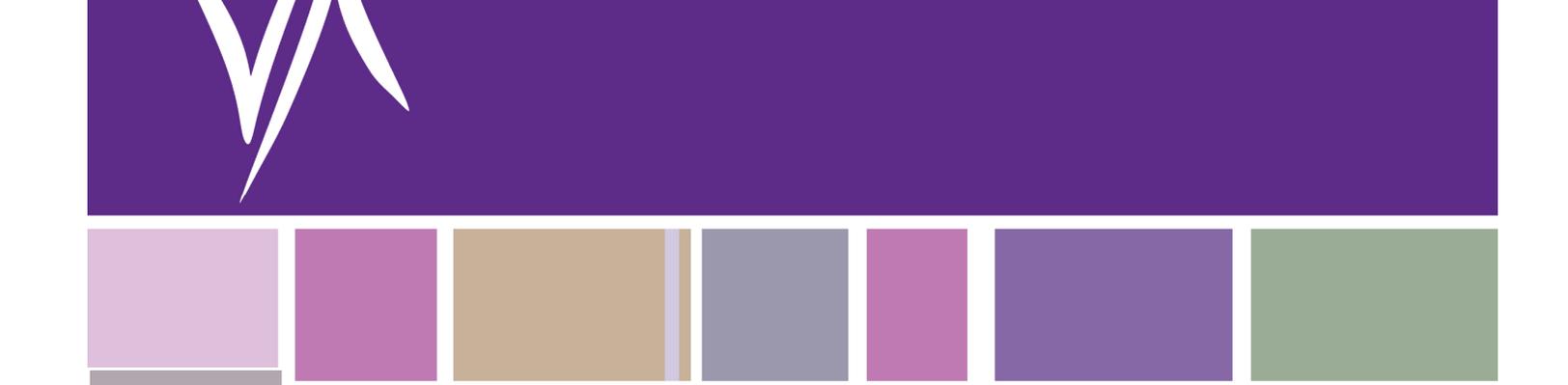
You'll receive a free pedometer, information packs including ideas for local walks and tasty recipes for when you head home.

The person who walks the most steps and loses the most weight overall wins a Barnsley FC season ticket, and there are lots of other prizes to be won.

1. Just form a team of 1 to 6 and get walking
2. Set your own pace, take part in fun challenges - you could win Barnsley FC tickets and more!
3. FREE pedometer for each team member, plus ideas for local walks and tasty recipes
4. FREE advice and support from a personal coach
5. No personal details required

Lose weight and feel fitter! Want to join in? To find out more, call co-ordinator Nick Gillott on 07920 839178.





Funding

CRT Bridging the Gap

The Bridging the Gap Programme offers grants of £500 to £5,000 to voluntary organisations and community groups for projects that make a positive impact in the most deprived coalfield wards. The grant can be for capital or revenue costs and previous applicants may be able to apply if the previous project has been completed and signed off. The application process is simple and there is support available from Anne Hammond throughout the application process. The Trust aims to let groups know the outcome of their application within 12 weeks of submission.

It's worth picking up the phone and talking to Neil Topliss, the Yorkshire Support Officer, on 01709 765573 who will be happy to check the eligibility of your project. Alternatively you can visit our website at www.coalfields-regen.org.uk and download the guidance notes before you give us a ring. We look forward to hearing from you.

Big Lottery Awards for All Grants open

Awards for All England is a simple small grants scheme making awards of between £300 and £10,000.

The Awards for All programme aims to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need.

To do this we want to fund projects that meet one or more of the following outcomes:

- ✓ Stronger communities - with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems.
- ✓ People have better chances in life - with better access to training and development to improve their life skills.
- ✓ Improved rural and urban environments - which communities are better able to access and enjoy.
- ✓ Healthier and more active people and communities.

**Application details from <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk> or
Telephone: 0845 4 10 20 30 Textphone: 0845 039 02 04
Email:general.enquiries@awardsforall.org.uk**

If you would like to contribute to this bulletin please contact Naomi Douglas on 01226 320107 or e mail naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk