

**Voluntary Action Barnsley (VAB)
Third Sector News
For Barnsley's Community and Voluntary Network (BCVN)
Bulletin – September 2007**

VAB News

**Reminder... VAB's Annual General Meeting
"Remaking Voluntary Action Barnsley"
October 2nd 2007**

**St Johns Community Centre, Penistone
11:00-12:30 (lunch provided from 12:30)**

Find out more about VAB's ambitious and exciting plans for service development over the next three years.

If you would like to attend our Annual General Meeting please contact Sue Brown on 01226 242726.

Building Update

The Trustees of Voluntary Action Barnsley signed off the relevant contracts & paperwork, which means that the new Building will become a reality. Building work commenced and Contractors have been on-site since 20th August.

Dr Elizabeth Norris, Chair of VAB said: ***"The signing represents an important and momentous day which VAB has been striving towards for years. It has been an exercise in team working which has strengthened our experience of partnership working with BMBC and other "funders".***

The Centre is a long-awaited dream come true, not only for everyone connected to VAB, but Barnsley's Third Sector organisations in general. It will provide high-quality facilities in the town centre and encourage much needed networking and support opportunities as well as excellent office accommodation and facilities.

VAB has almost 900 Barnsley based voluntary and community groups on its database and recent research has shown that there are at least 4000 volunteers in Barnsley, a number growing every year. Groups and volunteers will be able to benefit from the centre and from the range of services that VAB provides: training, legal advice, payroll and accountancy services and help with the recruitment of volunteers.

We will be producing information packs to inform all interested parties of what the Building has to offer, and will continue to send updates to all who are currently on the mailing list. A series of meetings will be held to discuss the availability and allocation of accommodation spaces and prices. These meetings will take place over the next few months.

The new centre is on schedule for completion in 2008, until then VAB will remain at their offices on Queens Rd. If you would like to find out more or attend meetings, please contact Angela Jones on 01226 242726.

VAB's Research Questionnaire

VAB is conducting its annual market research. Last year we had a really positive 30% return rate, however, we are hoping to increase that this year. The research will assist VAB establish a complete and comprehensive picture of the nature and extent of the Third Sector in Barnsley. It is really important that we hear from projects and organisations of all shapes and sizes. In addition we are keen to know your opinions about VAB's services.

This information will provide a strong case for VCS funding in the future, and will also assist VAB in its future service provision.

All returned questionnaires will be entered into a prize draw and groups will be eligible to win up to £500 in vouchers for a store of your choice to benefit your group.

1st Prize £500

2nd Prize £300

3rd Prize £100

If you belong to more than one group then please let us know and we will send you another questionnaire.

If you haven't received a copy our survey in the post then please let us know and we will post one out to you. Please contact Naomi Douglas on 01226 242 726 or e mail naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk for more info.

Young Volunteers Agency (YVA)

The YVA supports young people by giving them the opportunity to participate in a wide and interesting variety of volunteering activities promoting their personal, social and educational development.

The Young Volunteers Agency (YVA) wants to hear from groups interested in working with young volunteers to discuss their needs and potential volunteering opportunities; they would also love to talk to young people about how they'd like to volunteer.

If you think your group may benefit from young volunteers or are a potential young volunteer yourself then please contact Caroline Burns at VAB, 23 Queens Road, Barnsley, S71 1AN, phone 01226 249468 or email yva@vabarnsley.org.uk

Adult Services Provider Forum for voluntary, community & independent sector organisations working in Barnsley

Wednesday 26th September, 10am - 1pm
Barnsley Rugby Club, Shaw Lane, Barnsley

This event will bring together the four adult service areas of Older People, Mental Health, Learning Disability and Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment. The programme will include guest speakers, information and discussion workshops for each of the client areas.

The event will also provide the opportunity for you to meet with your Board representatives to find out what is happening at a strategic planning level in Barnsley, to express your views and to raise any issues or concerns you may have.

To book your place, please contact Angela, James or Gail on 01226 299590 or e-mail participationteam@vabarnsley.org.uk

Planning meeting for Spice Workshop

Wednesday 19th September, 12:30-2:30pm

VAB meeting room, 23 Queens Road, Barnsley

A Fit for the Future 'Spice Workshop' is being arranged to celebrate health volunteers in Barnsley. Barnsley Breastfeeding Peer Support Network is formed from mothers who have breastfed. They have completed training in order to support other mothers who want to breastfeed. They aim to protect, support and promote breastfeeding.

Existing breastfeeding peer supporter volunteers are needed to voice their experiences, with a view to improving health inequalities in Barnsley. Would you be interested in sharing your valid views, thoughts and opinions about being a Breastfeeding Peer Supporter? Your opinions count, have your say on how Barnsley's network of Peer Support is being promoted at the workshop.

A planning meeting for the 'Spice Workshop' will take place on Wednesday 19th September in the Voluntary Action Barnsley meeting room from 12:30-2:30pm; babies are welcome, expenses can be claimed. The actual Workshop will take place on 9 November from 9.30am till 3pm -venue to be confirmed.

If you are interested, please contact the Breastfeeding Link Worker Team on 01226 242726 (office) e-mail bflink@vabarnsley.org.uk or telephone Angela Beaumont on 07761565755

Local News

Barnsley Childcare Survey 2007 including PRIZE DRAW

Are you a parent or carer living in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough and looking after a child under 18 years old? If the answer is yes then you can help to shape the future of childcare provision for children 0 to 17 years in Barnsley and take the opportunity to win £50 of High Street shopping vouchers.

The Council has a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to provide 'sufficient childcare' from April 2008. To do this they need to know what parents want. Please take a few minutes to complete their Survey. You can obtain a paper copy from Christine Brett on 01226 775977, text 07624 809924 or email christinebrett@barnsley.gov.uk. The survey can be returned free of charge to: Christine Brett, Barnsley Choices, FREEPOST NEA 12891, Barnsley, S72 9BR. You can alternatively complete the Survey on-line at www.barnsley.gov.uk/sufficiencysurvey

If you work with parents who live in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough and look after a child under 18 years old then please tell them about the Survey.

The Prize Draws will be drawn on 21st September and 12th October and all the replies will be analysed and a report placed on the Council's website www.barnsley.gov.uk

Local Community Area Conferences

As an active group/organisation/member of your local community you may be interested in the attached programme of events taking place over the next couple of months in your local area and contributing towards the remit of One Barnsley, the Local Strategic Partnership for Barnsley. These events contribute towards the Locality Planning Framework cycle and your input helps to inform service providers and partners how best to improve services at neighbourhood level.

By attending these events you can have an input, air your views, and contribute towards improvements to local service delivery; you can find out what's happening in your local area, what plans are being thought about and the opportunities that are available to become involved in making these plans a reality.

It may be that some group's need more volunteers or good ideas people to get some neighbourhood improvement projects off the ground. The Area Forum Officers, Community Engagement Officers and Elected Members along with staff such as Caroline Makinson, Community Development Officer from VAB, will be available to offer support on the day to anyone wanting help and guidance on how they can be involved.

For more information on the events that have already taken place or future ones, please contact your Area Forum Officer – contact details listed on the programme, or alternatively call Caroline Makinson 01226 785564 or email caroline.makinson@vabarnsley.org.uk

Third Sector News

Student placements required at not-for-profit organisations

The University of Derby has begun a programme to encourage its management students to take placements at charities and gain practical experience. The award for employability, leadership and management – an unaccredited programme endorsed by the Institute of Leadership and Management – requires students to complete a 70-hour project that includes "elements of leadership and management" and forms part of their assessment.

Placements would include projects such as installing databases or designing websites. The university is appealing for not-for-profit organisations to take part in the scheme. About 45 students are expected to be included in the first intake when the award is launched next month.

"We're asking organisations to offer a student a project – such as designing a website – that teases out elements of leadership and management," a spokeswoman for the award said. "Charities might need a database installing but not have the administrative support or skills. They might also spot graduates they want to employ."

Contact Colin Harrison for more details at:- Electroville, Bretton Street Enterprise Centre, Bretfield Court, Dewsbury, WF12 9DB. t: 01924 488725
e: colinharrison@electroville.org.uk w: <http://www.electroville.org.uk>

Benevolence Today Campaign

A coalition of benevolence charities launched a campaign on the 22nd August to get more voluntary organisations to refer people in need to its members. The Benevolence Today campaign is made up of 31 partners, which between them helped 26,000 people in 2006. The coalition has the funds to help many more, ranging from architects to timber workers.

The coalition intends to contact large umbrella bodies and hundreds of other charities to identify those who could benefit from its services and financial assistance, but are unaware that they qualify for help. The aim of the campaign is to build referral partnerships with other service-delivery and advice-giving charities.

"Most of our partners have an occupational link in the criteria for who qualifies for their help, so we will require other charities to ask their customers for their current or past occupations," said Susanne Kendler, head of development at Benevolence Today.

"Those in need often feel they go from one cul-de-sac to another. We want to improve that situation by starting a discussion about how service-deliverers can refer customers to others who can help."

w: <http://www.benevolencetoday.org>

Volunteers wanted for Relay for Life Event

Cancer Research UK are looking for volunteers in the Barnsley area to organise a Relay for Life event - a community based event held over 24 hours and involving teams walking or running laps of a track whilst other activities (such as live music and dance classes) are being held all around creating a festival atmosphere. For more details please contact Katie Currie at Cancer Research UK, Unit 16 Pavilion Business Park, Royds Hall Road, Leeds, LS12 6AJ.

Tel: 0113 231 9828

Community Day Bank Holiday

The TUC, NCVO, CSV, Volunteering England and NAVCA has joined forces to petition Gordon Brown and other politicians for a new national bank holiday in October to celebrate and promote community activity and involvement. The holiday could be used to help build the Government's 'vision of a society where voluntary activity flourishes and where all individuals and communities are enabled to play a full part in civil society'.

The day could be used to encourage volunteering and involvement with community groups and activities; provide an opportunity for third sector organisations to publicise their work and develop new activities or simply recognise the unsung efforts of volunteers.

Free 'It's our Space' guide

This guide is for community groups working to improve public spaces, especially if the group is involved in a public place project for the first time. It includes examples of great outdoor spaces led by community groups and lessons learnt from their experiences. The guide can be downloaded free from www.cabe.org.uk

Events

Barnsley Advice and Information Fair

13 September 2007

10am-12 noon, at the Metrodome, Queen's Road.

The Free Advice Fair that has been organised by the Barnsley Financial Inclusion Group (FIG) Advice Group, as part of its Action Plan. The event is intended to provide an opportunity for everyone - members of the public; managers and workers from local agencies; elected members etc. to increase their understanding and awareness of local advice and information support services. It will also provide an excellent opportunity for networking.

Anyone having problems with debt, welfare benefits, housing or consumer issues should come along to find out what services are available to help them. Over 20 local organisations will be on hand to provide information about advice services relating to: Debt, Welfare benefits, Consumer and community issues, Housing and Homelessness, Education and training, Asylum and refugees, Advocacy, Volunteering opportunities and more!

Eric Illsley M.P. and Cllr. Jim Andrews, BMBC Deputy Leader, will be opening the event at 10.00 a.m. and a light buffet will be available at 12.00 noon. For queries only contact: Sharon Brown, DIAL Barnsley, tel. 01226 240273

Free Expert Patient course for those living with long term health conditions

25th October at LIFT building Worsbrough, Barnsley

The Expert Patients Programme (EPP) is a free course for anyone living with a long-term health condition. E.g. arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, MS, etc. The course aims to help people take more control by increasing understanding of their conditions and teaching new skills to manage their conditions better on a daily basis - leading to improved quality of life.

The Expert Patients Programme (EPP) is a NHS-based training programme led by people who, themselves, live with a long-term health condition. The course is run over six consecutive weekly sessions of 2.5 hours each week. Each week, two volunteer tutors lead 8-16 participants through structured course material delivered from a scripted manual covering topics such as relaxation, diet, exercise, fatigue, breaking the symptom cycle, managing pain and medication, and communication with health care professionals. The EPP course is based upon the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP).

The next course will be at the LIFT building Worsbrough, Barnsley on 25th October. Contact Claudia Hart for more details on Tel: 01226 202 812, write to Expert Patients Programme, Hilder House, 49-51 Gawber Road, BARNSELEY, S75 2PY or email claudia.hart@epcic.co.uk

Special Events from Elsecar Heritage Railway Group – Revised Dates

DAY OUT WITH THOMAS - *Sat 29th & Sun 30th September*

Steam Trains every half hour: 10.30am - 4.30pm

Thomas the Tank Engine will be in full steam. Children and adults alike will have the opportunity to ride behind Thomas and then enjoy all the fun of the fair. The day with Thomas runs from 10am to 4pm. Other attractions include steam train rides, miniature steam train rides; have your photo taken with 'Sir Topham Hatt - The Fat Controller', children's entertainment, fairground rides and the Thomas shop.

HALLOWEEN HAUNTINGS - *Wednesday 31st October*

Trains every half hour: 5.30pm - 8.30pm; Tickets on sale on the night but pre-booking is recommended.

Dare you ride aboard the spookiest train in the Country? Brave souls can visit for a spooky ride at the Halloween Hauntings event. Travellers are encouraged to get in to the spirit of the evening by wearing fancy dress. Many of the craft shops and businesses at Elsecar Heritage Centre are operating Halloween late night openings. Shops will be open until 8.30pm for spooky fun for adults and children alike. Admission to the site is free.

SANTA SPECIALS - *1st/2nd/8th/9th/15th/16th/22nd/23rd December*

Trains Depart Elsecar at: 11am, 12.15pm, 1.30pm, 2.45pm and 4pm

Christmas rides with Santa on the Elsecar Railway. All Children will receive a wrapped present from Father Christmas. All Adults will receive a Mince Pie and Miniature. Advance booking is essential for this event as trains become fully booked very quickly after tickets go on sale.

Please call 01226 746746 to book your tickets, write to Elsecar Heritage Railway Group, Elsecar Heritage Centre, Wath Road, Elsecar, Barnsley, S74 8HJ or visit www.elsecarrailway.cjb.net

Join the Eighth Big Draw

The Campaign for Drawing's annual showpiece – the eighth Big Draw, runs from 1st to 31st October. The event aims to show that drawing can be both a public activity as well as a private passion. Events will take place in hundreds of venues – galleries, museums, heritage sites, community centres, schools and village halls; and offer people of all ages the chance to discover the joys of drawing, using materials ranging from pencils, crayons, charcoal, sand and clay to digital imagery, choreographed movement, vapour trails and fire drawings. If you think your centre should be involved then register at www.thebigdraw.org

Funding

Funding for creative projects across South Yorkshire

Seven voluntary and community projects from South Yorkshire were delighted to receive a combined total of £131,000 worth of funding from the Creative Exchange: South Yorkshire (CE: SY) programme last week.

The projects, based in areas of Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley have each received Innovation Fund grants to cover activities such as feasibility studies and business planning to enable them to purchase and renovate community buildings, which will be turned into enterprise centres for new creative and digital businesses. Tracey Johnson from Creative Barnsley received a cheque towards the renovation of part of Elsecar Heritage Centre into the CB Hive - a hub of creative workspace and activity.

The CE: SY programme, funded by Yorkshire Forward and Objective One and to a lesser extent by Sheffield Investment Bond and supported by the Arts Council and BBC Sheffield, is a strategic economic initiative working in partnership with communities and the creative and digital industries to facilitate the development of the creative industries infrastructure and enterprise/employment opportunities in key priority neighbourhoods and communities of interest groups across South Yorkshire.

The CE: SY team will continue to scope out further projects to receive funding. If you are a community organisation interested in developing a building that can be used for creative workspace then please contact Amy Carter on 0114 275 2622 or email amy.carter@ciq.org.uk.

If you wish to use the VAB News Bulletin to advertise an event or activity or if you wish to be added or deleted from the mailing list then please contact Naomi Douglas on 01226 785564 or email naomi.douglas@vabarnsley.org.uk