

Staffordshire

sharing news and views across the community of Staffordshire

Local Group Wins Prime Minister's Big Society Award

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Volunteer Staffordshire Awards 2013

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Welcome to the first edition of the Staffordshire Voluntary & Community Sector Newsletter

Staffordshire hosts a vibrant and energetic voluntary and community sector, made up of over 4000 organisations offering services and activities for all. From befriending services to relationship counselling, from mother and toddler groups to Venture scouts, and from small local groups to larger national charities, there is truly something for everyone.

Increasingly, voluntary and community organisations are delivering vital services to local communities – such as day centres, lunch clubs and support for families. The majority of these organisations are run by unpaid volunteers with some larger organisations operating with a combination of both paid staff and volunteers. In this publication we will celebrate some of the outstanding achievements that individuals and organisations in the voluntary and community sector in Staffordshire have enjoyed over the past year. We'll show how ordinary people, on the back of challenging experiences, have gone out and made a real difference to the lives of others in their local community.

We will look at the support available to voluntary and community groups to ensure that they are run in an appropriate way and can thrive and prosper.

Finally, we will highlight the role of volunteering and see how just a few hours a week can transform the lives of volunteers and the individuals and groups they are supporting. If you would like to know more about any of the content in this edition or have any articles for inclusion in future editions of Staffordshare, please contact us at editor@tli-staffs.org.uk.

We'd like to know what you think of our newsletter and how we can make it even better in the future. We have created a short on-line survey to obtain your views and all responses received by the 1st March 2013 will be included in a draw to **win £50 gift vouchers**. The link to the survey is as follows: www.surveymonkey.com/s/Staffordsharefeedback.

Community Voluntary Services

Supporting Voluntary and Community Sector Groups

Support for the voluntary and community sector in Staffordshire comes from a range of providers across the county.

Much of this support is free of charge and provides voluntary and community organisations with the reassurance that comes with the knowledge that their organisation has been set up with expert advice.

There is a huge amount of support available. Practical help such as the design and production of newsletters, photocopying and room hire through to more comprehensive support including advice on setting up a new organisation, sources of funding and help with recruiting volunteers.

In addition to this, providers offer a range of specialist services including payroll and accounts, graphic design

and the production of marketing materials plus a comprehensive programme of training.

Some of these providers are locally based – such as the CVS's (Community Voluntary Services) who are located in each of the 8 districts of Staffordshire and provide services to a wide range of voluntary and community groups. Other providers are theme based, supporting groups working with specific parts of the community such as faith groups, black minority ethnic groups, youth groups and those in rural communities.

Some providers also run voluntary sector networks. These networks enable you to meet with other voluntary organisations similar to your own, promote your own organisation and where you can share information and best practice.

To find out more information on the services available to support your organisation please contact your local provider. Contact details are on pages 18 & 19 of this newsletter.

here to support our communities



*support
services*

advice

*funding
opps*

Summer of a Lifetime 2012

2012 has for many been an amazing, if rather wet, summer including the London Olympics, Paralympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. For 27 young people from Cannock and South Staffordshire, it has been a "Summer of a Lifetime" for a whole different reason.

They responded to the invitation from Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) to be part of a team of up to fifteen young people as part of the much publicised National Citizenship Service funded via the national charity, v.

SCVYS, who support around 100 voluntary youth groups across the County, ran two teams in Cannock and South Staffs, whilst other partners including Staffordshire Young People's Service, Red Cross and North Staffs YMCA delivered other teams across the County. The required commitment of 6 weeks, including 2 residential experiences and the identification and delivery of a suitable social action project in their local community certainly tested the resolve and desire for both young people and youth workers, yet almost every young person stayed involved throughout.

The difference made by the project has seen the young people make massive leaps both in terms of their personal confidence levels and accompanying self

esteem. New friendships were established across social boundaries and new experiences were undertaken resulting in new skills and knowledge acquired. There was also a significant change in their sense of role and responsibility to the communities around them.

Beth (16) said... *"We didn't know everyone before this project but we all got on really well and had fun both when working hard on the community project and during the activity weeks"*. Whilst Sophie (16) reflected *"I have learnt that everyone's skills and abilities are important when working as part of a team..."*.

Secondly, the social action projects have made a big difference to two local community organisations and the people who use them. Selected by the young people themselves via a Dragon's Den approach, the teams chose similar work projects but with very different community groups.

Naden House in Huntington is a supported housing project and the young people were tasked with transforming an overgrown garden as well as giving the small sun room a new lease of life. Manager Di Wallace commented "They were hard working, lovely young people and made a wonderful team! We are all very pleased and very grateful". Marion summed up the residents opinions of the difference made with the simple statement "the garden is truly a garden now!", borne out by the before and after pictures.



before



after

teamwork



community



SCVYS Summer of a Lifetime team

“These excellent projects demonstrate what is possible when young people are supported to play their part in local communities. The young people and staff should be rightly proud of all they have achieved”.

A similar challenge to refresh 2 outside spaces, including a children’s play area, decorating the interior and working with local families to create a large mosaic was accepted by the Cannock team. Heather Preece, Manager of West Chadsmoor Family Centre said “We are delighted with the work the young people produced. The results exceeded our expectations, and the young people were a pleasure to work with”. Around 100 people attended the official opening of the new garden areas in September, and the play area was immediately put to good use.

The third tangible benefit is legacy. Each team was linked to an athlete through the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust to promote and encourage Olympic values to participating young people. Tom Davis, British Judo Champion, told the young people “What a great job you have done. It’s been the best project I have worked on this year!”. Tom also confessed that the young people had reminded him of life’s priorities after he narrowly missed out on being part of the London games.

Some of the young people from both teams are giving their time to ensure the transformed spaces are kept in pristine condition, whilst others are helping in local community projects which interest them, as well as attending a graduate programme that SCVYS is running.

Phil Pusey, Chief Executive of SCVYS said “These excellent projects demonstrate what is possible when young people are supported to play their part in local communities. The young people and staff should be rightly proud of all they have achieved”.

SCVYS would like to thank all those people and organisations who assisted in so many tangible ways both large and small to make these two projects an outstanding success.

For more information please contact SCVYS on 01785 240378 or email office@staffscvys.org.uk



First Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent

On 15 November 37 police and crime commissioners were elected in England along with four in Wales.

Photography - redroocreatives.co.uk

The Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Police and Crime Commissioner will be responsible for a police force that covers an area of 1,047sq miles (2,713 sq km) which is made up of nine local policing sections. Its headquarters are based on the Weston Road in Stafford.

Police and Crime Commissioners will have responsibility for:

Appointing the Chief Constable and holding them to account for the running of their force.

Setting out a 5 year Police and Crime Plan based on local priorities (developed in consultation with the Chief Constable, communities and others).

Setting the annual local precept and annual force budget.

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Matthew Ellis on being elected the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. In spite of the low turnout of 11.6% the voluntary and community sector in Staffordshire is keen to work with the new commissioner not only in terms of delivery of services to help reduce the levels of crime in our communities and in mitigating the impact on victims, but also in terms of supporting the commissioner to understand the needs and concerns of local communities.

Matthew Ellis Police and Crime Commissioner Responses

What will you bring to the position of Police & Crime Commissioner?

My background in business could improve value for money and bring new ideas, while my strong ethos for Public Service and experience over the last 3 years building coalitions across major public services in Staffordshire are critical for better policing. The track record I have of utilising 'sensible and proportionate' technology to improve processes and cut out wasted time lends itself well to the core principle of releasing 3000 more hours each week to frontline policing and away from back office bureaucracy.

The expertise I gained during 17 years building a successful consumer orientated retail business means I can ensure the police deliver a more service user focused approach to the public and particularly the victims of crime and those suffering social issues and incidents.

What would you like to achieve in your first 100 days in office?

The hundred days question is a political tradition which is often misplaced.

I'm all for pace but crucial to successfully bringing people and organisations on board during the next 4 years is listening, learning and getting an accurate picture and feel... for real. It's those at the front end, be it in the police service or in the voluntary sector, who know what things are really like and offer the most useful insight. My track record clearly shows I work from the ground up to achieve the right answers and best results

Much of my first hundred days will be listening and learning. But I will have instigated reviews into police station closures and use of assets to see if we can improve public access and opening times, better use of the Special Constabulary and PCSOs (incl clarity on their roles), and a refresh on technology.

I will have held public forums in every district/borough and across Stoke on Trent on 'the state of policing in Staffordshire' and also established advisory groups on 'supporting victims more collaboratively', 'a young persons' senate', 'rural proofing policing policies' and 're-establishing a young persons police cadet service for Staffordshire' supported by corporate business. And an internal 'bureaucracy busting' front line officer group similar to the one I established in Social Care.



Matthew Ellis

How will you work with the communities of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent to develop your plans for policing and community safety?

Vital is expectation management! I am absolutely certain we can significantly improve policing and shape it better towards what the public expect but I will not promise what is not possible or practical. So it's about being honest and straightforward and explaining why some things are possible and some things aren't.

A big issue, I believe, is the public discontent with feeling like a crime number rather than a person when they suffer a low level incident of crime and I want to utilise the extra policing hours we achieve to ensure more visits by officers where possible. But is that anecdotal or a widely held view? Good communication and openness is important for public confidence and I want to widen the places that people can inform and shape the way the police service operates on a continual basis... not simply at particular points in time. The voluntary sector can play a key part in doing that.



Office of the Police and
Crime Commissioner
STAFFORDSHIRE

Staffordshire Moorlands Voluntary Transport Scheme

In operation for over twenty years, the Staffordshire Moorlands Voluntary Transport Scheme is today an integral transport service for the rural Moorlands area, with a team of over 60 Volunteer Drivers at its core.

The project is run by Staffordshire Moorlands Community and Voluntary Services and draws its core funding from Staffordshire County Council and NHS North Staffordshire. The scheme employs one part-time member of staff who runs the booking line and provides volunteer management support for the team of volunteers essential to its success.

Call Centre Booking Volunteers work with the Co-ordinator to help take daily telephone bookings from Staffordshire Moorlands residents who are unable to use public transport and with no private transport available to them. Bookings are matched, via geography and availability, to any one of the Volunteer Drivers. Of the 9574 individual journeys made by the scheme during 2011-2012, health related visits were the top reason for booking, these included journeys to essential health related appointments and day care facilities, as well as enabling passengers to make visits to close relatives in hospital.

The Volunteer Drivers are all local residents with a good geographical knowledge, and they transport passengers across the three main towns of the Moorlands and out as far as the rural villages on the edge of the Peak District. Volunteers come from all

walks of life; they use their own cars and are reimbursed petrol expenses for the distance they travel. More importantly they provide the scheme's passengers with a transport lifeline, an affordable, friendly and supportive door-to-door service to some of the most vulnerable and frail members of the local community. The scheme enables individuals to remain independent in their homes for longer, providing essential access to everyday facilities and services.

During its recent annual review the service talked to 103 of its passengers to find out what they thought of the scheme, its operation and its volunteers. Comments such as,

"If the scheme was not there, I would almost never leave the house"

"A very good service and a very kind and pleasant driver" and "Couldn't wish for a better service, very grateful for having the volunteers"

highlight a voluntary sector scheme that provides safe, trusted access to an essential transport service, through the support, good humour and goodwill of kind hearted Staffordshire Moorlands volunteers.

If you are interested in finding out more about the scheme either as a passenger or volunteer please contact Sally Bentley on 01538 386888 or e-mail directservices@smcvs.co.uk



Margaret Wood - Volunteer driver

Volunteering

Volunteering provides opportunities for everyone; young, old, in paid work, unemployed or retired, there are a wealth of organisations across Staffordshire that would value your time and your skills...

What will I get out of volunteering?

This will be different for everyone! The 2011 Volunteer Centre Survey indicated that the top 5 benefits that volunteers in Staffordshire gained from their experience were – satisfaction of helping others, enjoyment, making friends, gaining experience and increased confidence.

It is known that volunteering can help improve physical and mental health and wellbeing, enhance personal development skills and employability and create stronger local communities.

Volunteering can help if you are looking to move up or onto the career ladder by providing an opportunity to develop skills and gain experience sought by many employers. For those at the end of their career it offers opportunities to continue making a contribution to the local community.

How do I volunteer?

There are 9 Volunteer Centres across the county, so wherever you are you'll be within easy reach of expert help and advice. Staff at the Volunteer Centres provide a free 1-1 confidential service, either face-to-face or by telephone, for people wishing to find out more and they will support you to find the right volunteering opportunity.

There are over 1800 opportunities registered across Staffordshire with over 1500 different organisations so, whatever your interests and time available, there is sure to be a volunteering opportunity that will suit your needs. Staff can help you contact organisations and will support you throughout your volunteering journey.

My organisation needs volunteers. Can you help?

Yes! Besides working with individuals, the Volunteer Centres work with organisations helping them to develop quality volunteering opportunities, source volunteers and advise on best practice in volunteer management. All the centres are quality accredited through the national volunteering body, Volunteering England, so you can be sure of a high quality service.

Where do I go to find out more?

For contact details of a Volunteer Centre near you, see pages 18-19, see www.communitiestogether.org.uk or pop into your local Community Voluntary Service (CVS) who will be able to point you in the right direction.

*develop
share
help*



Working together



Volunteers

Volunteer Centre for University Students

The North Staffordshire Volunteer Centres have launched a fourth branch dedicated to the students studying at the University of Keele.

In a unique partnership the Volunteer Centres in North Staffordshire together with the students Union at Keele University have come together to form the KeeleSU Volunteer Centre, which opened for business on the 10th October 2012. The launch of KeeleSU Volunteer Centre is the first Volunteering England branded Volunteer Centre on a university campus – and both sides of the partnership are delighted with the possibilities it will open up.

Jo Phillips, the manager with responsibility for the North Staffordshire Volunteer Centre branches in the Staffordshire Moorlands, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent, comments:

“This was really one of those “light bulb” moments. We’ve been working with colleagues at Keele University for the last year to develop a robust and future-looking volunteer strategy that will encourage students, staff and alumni to get involved in volunteering activity on campus and across the local community. The University has had a great volunteering service for the last ten years, but was keen to take it to the next level. We want to encourage the huge people resource that they have on campus to support the wider local community”.

KeeleSU Volunteer Centre, based in the newly developed Students Union building, will be delivering under the same branding and quality guidelines as the North Staffordshire Volunteer Centres and will be offering a wide range of volunteering opportunities for students to engage in the local community.

Sarah Amphlett, KeeleSU Volunteer Project Officer, is looking forward to the next few months: “We’ve spent the summer bringing the two current services together and looking at ways that we can work with local organisations to offer unique opportunities for our students. Students are here on campus for only short periods of time, but whilst they are at Keele, they are learning skills which they can transfer to the local community to make a difference. Teaming up with the North Staffordshire Volunteer Centres will open up many more opportunities to them”.

KeeleSU Volunteer Centre officially opened at the University’s annual Volunteering Fair on the 10th October.

If your group or organisation would like to work with the North Staffordshire Volunteer Centres team to develop opportunities specifically for Keele students to engage with, please contact the Moorlands and Newcastle Volunteering Co-ordinator Tracy Ellis on 01538 398240 or email tracyellis@smcvs.co.uk.



Get involved!



Volunteer Staffordshire Awards 2013



Chance to say thank you to Staffordshire's amazing volunteers.

Volunteers make a big difference to people's lives, and the Volunteer Staffordshire awards give local residents and organisations that work with volunteers a chance to say thank you. Volunteer Staffordshire is a partnership initiative between Staffordshire County Council and Volunteer Centres Staffordshire.

Now in their third year, the Volunteer Staffordshire awards celebrate volunteering, in all its forms, across the county. They recognise the massive contribution of local people giving their time and energy to help others. You could nominate someone who volunteers on a regular basis, or someone who volunteers occasionally but has real impact. In 2012 over 700 nominations were received in 9 award categories.

London 2012 has raised the profile of volunteering and sport as never before, and in recognition of this a new 'Sporting Volunteer of the Year' category has been added to the 2013 awards.

Nominations for the Volunteer Staffordshire Awards 2013 are now open. There are ten categories:

- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Young Volunteer of the Year Award
- Volunteer Team of the Year Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Sporting Volunteer of the Year
- Cultural Volunteer of the Year
- Outstanding Leadership Award
- Environmental Volunteer of the Year Award
- Unsung Hero Award
- Business Contribution to the Community Award

You can make as many nominations as they wish and they can be for either individuals or groups of volunteers. You can nominate either by completing the online form at www.volunteerstaffordshire.org.uk or by telephoning 0300 111 8000. Nominations close on 4th January 2013.

Thank you



Who will you nominate?





Kathy Coe

The Pathway Project

Profile Kathy Coe

Kathy's background to working in the voluntary sector started in 1988 following the breakdown of her marriage. In order to try and get back into the workplace, in order to support her family, Kathy accessed a women's returner course in order to become Computer Literate. As part of this course she went on a placement to Burntwood CVS Volunteer bureau where she was appointed a co-ordinator and stayed until she left to establish the Pathway Project in 1994.

The Pathway Project was seven years in development and started in December 1993 as a telephone helpline. In 1994, funded by Comic Relief, the project found a suitable property to set up as a refuge. A very steep learning curve for Kathy she effectively learnt on the job as she went along. Kathy freely admits that in the current climate of monitoring, evidencing etc, it is unlikely that she would have secured the funding to start the project. Today the Pathway Project employs 32 staff working from 5 different sites. The service provides a range of services including Legal and Emotional Support, Life Skills and basic skills training. Earlier this year the Pathway Project opened up a Family Justice Centre, only the second Centre of its type in the UK. As Kathy explained families suffering domestic abuse are supported by a large number of agencies all of whom will request the abused to repeat

their story over and over again. Ten years ago women in the refuge said that this was the one thing that they would like to change, however the time was not right to contemplate such a way of working. A couple of years ago Kathy attended a conference in Wolverhampton where a key speaker was from the Family Justice Centre Alliance based in the USA. Their model of working echoed the words of her service users. She joined the Alliance on line and set about bringing this vision to reality. This vision took on a momentum of its own and earlier this year the Family Justice Centre South East Staffs was finally opened. Over 40 different agencies are linked to the centre. By authorising the sharing of information service users are spared having to repeat what are often harrowing stories every time they are seen by a different agency.

2012 has been a year of recognition for Kathy. She was nominated for the Inspirational Women of the Year Award and as a result was invited to meet Samantha Cameron at 10 Downing Street together with a host of celebrities. However what struck Kathy was the history of the place and who had trodden the same steps as her in the past. Kathy was also listed in The Independent on Sunday 100 Happy List whilst Pathway was awarded the FaithAction Community in Focus Award. In June Pathway were awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service (MBE equivalent for organisations). Of all the awards that she has received this year this is the one that Kathy is most proud of because it recognises the work of everyone within the organisation. Coming right up to date Kathy won the regional heat for the local hero section of the Pride of Britain Awards although she was unsuccessful in the national awards.

The future holds many challenges to the organisation with no-one able to sit back on past successes. There is a need to be more creative in the way the organisation works to help compensate for the reduction in budgets. However Kathy still has a real appetite to keep moving the organisation forward and based on her past record who would bet against her.



Bilbrook AT* Home Shop & Box Of Trix Project

Report by Emily Simmonds

Bilbrook House Outreach Officer

In November 2011 South Staffordshire Community Voluntary Action (SSCVA) submitted an application to Staffordshire County Council's Community Wellbeing Fund (CWF) to open a unique one-stop shop for anybody needing help with daily challenges. The project focuses on older people and people of all ages experiencing mental, mobility, learning, sensory or physical difficulties, recovering from hospital admission, suffering from illness or long term conditions. The main aim is to supply low cost handy gadgets to make their daily life simpler and safer, from making sure drinks don't slip when carrying them on a tray to reducing slips in the bath or shower.

*AT translates as 'Assistive Technology' and refers to "any device or system that allows an individual to perform a task that they would otherwise be unable to do, or increases the ease and safety with which the task can be performed" (Royal Commission on Long Term Care, 1999).

Having already supported the launch of two successful projects in Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Cannock where project officers took a Box of Trix out to community and voluntary organisations, the partner organisations were keen to expand the service into the South Staffordshire District.

In these initial two projects, the Box Of Trix was used to educate people about simple items that could have a big impact on their life for very little outlay. As both Cannock & Newcastle-under-Lyme are urban areas, residents have easy access to a range of shops, so the Box Of Trix was used to inform people where they could purchase the items themselves.

South Staffordshire, however, posed a different set of circumstances. With its wide ranging rural landscape, 27 village based parishes spread far and wide and no discernable main commercial shopping centre, the partnership had to shape the project around the District. It was clear that informing people of where to purchase items would not be of help if they had to travel great distances to the nearest towns located outside of the district. As a result the existing Box Of Trix

model was adapted to suit the area.

The Box Of Trix concept became a mobile Shop-In-A-Box, which would involve taking a selection of items to community and voluntary groups, selling on the day and taking orders when necessary.

Staffordshire County Council also provided a room at Bilbrook House in Codsall to provide a shop base which will initially open one day a week. The shop will complement existing services at Bilbrook House and is already becoming a valuable resource for visitors to the building, Social Care staff and Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Podiatrists, and other health specialists. Emily Simmonds (having returned from maternity leave) took on the role of Outreach Officer for the Bilbrook Project for 8 hours per week.

In 2013 Emily will be opening the shop for 4 hours per week and taking items out in the Box Of Trix on group visits throughout South Staffordshire with the support of volunteers. The funding also supports work with multi-sensory groups in South Staffordshire, with the aim of helping them to become user-led over time.

As a completely new venture for SSCVA, it will be exciting to see how the Shop and Box Of Trix will grow over the next 12 months. We believe it will come to provide an essential support for people living in South Staffordshire.

Particular thanks are due to Barbara Pointon, Service Delivery Lead and Jim Ellam, Assistive Technology Lead - Staffordshire County Council, for their invaluable help and support in getting the project established.



Official Opening

A Child of Mine



Gayle Routledge

Voluntary organisations are started for all sorts of reasons. A Child of Mine is a web based organisation set up by grieving parents following the death of their young son in 2010. The founder Gayle Routledge explains the background to the organisation.

What made you want to start 'A Child of Mine'?

My son was diagnosed with cancer in 2008 and after a 2 year battle died in July 2010. During this period we experienced huge gaps in bereavement services. Services were in place for children that died at birth or shortly after but not for families with young children who passed away. We found real difficulty in finding information and felt that families who lost young children or indeed children of any age were stigmatised.

In response to the death of our son and the issues we had faced we created a web site as an information hub that could be used by other families. We undertook a lot of research and contacted local councils to identify services and support groups available to bereaved families. The Family Information Services at Staffordshire County Council were great and have logged us onto many of their information databases. We wanted to ensure that families had real choices available to them including those from other faiths and cultures.

How did you set up the organisation?

I was told about the Stafford District Voluntary Services (SDVS) through colleagues who worked with me at Cannock District Council. I had not been

aware of them before this time or what they did. I found their advice invaluable, firstly in deciding what kind of organisational structure would best suit the organisation we were trying to establish and secondly in making sure that all the right procedures were followed to put the organisation on a sound footing. As well as the advice they gave us in setting up the organisation the SDVS have supported us to become known locally through membership of their community forum. This has provided us with excellent networking opportunities which would have taken as a long time to develop on our own.

How did you fund the organisation?

Our first funding came through the children's hospital where our son had been a patient. Last year we applied for a grant of £1000 from Staffordshire County Council's Community Wellbeing Fund to help pay for publicity materials to promote the service and we were successful in securing the funding. As our service is currently largely web based we have not needed huge amounts of funding to get started.

However looking into the future we are currently fundraising in order that we can apply for Registered Charity Status. We will be looking to the SDVS for help with this process. We find that there is no magic bullet for fundraising, the process is tough and requires a solid amount of both imagination and perseverance.

What would I do differently if I had my time again?

If I had my time again I would have visited the SDVS earlier for advice. I cannot over emphasise the confidence and security you get from knowing that what you are doing is official and above board with the correct paperwork eg policies, trustee forms etc. You know that when you do look to fundraise you can do it with confidence knowing that the donors will have confidence in the legitimacy of the organisation.

For further information please visit <http://www.achildofmine.co.uk/>.



Staffordshire Social Enterprise Cherry Orchard Gardening Service wins Prime Minister's Big Society Award

Staffordshire-based social enterprise Cherry Orchard Gardening Service (COGS), which enables local disabled people to maintain the gardens of elderly residents, is the latest winner of the Prime Minister's Big Society Awards.

COGS provides training, support and employment for local people with learning disabilities to become competent gardeners. They then use their skills to maintain the gardens of vulnerable isolated older residents.

This valuable service both provides jobs for people who find it hard to access employment, whilst also making elderly residents feel positive about their local areas.

COGS has made a valuable contribution to the local community, with:

- 24 people with learning disabilities each year benefiting from its services.
- Reports show an improvement in their health and an increase in their self-esteem.
- 300 older people have been supported over the past 4 years with many saying that the work of COGS has enabled them to continue to live at home.

Congratulating COGS on the award, the Prime Minister said:

"I would like to congratulate all those involved with the Cherry Orchard Gardening Service who have made such a difference to their local area. Their work has enabled both disabled people to find work and also elderly residents to feel more secure in their neighbourhood. This is an innovative way for one part of the local community to help another. Winning this Big Society Awards shows what can be achieved when people come together. It's fantastic for community spirit and social cohesion and I wish this excellent initiative all the best for the future".

Accepting the award, Ian Wells, COGS Project Co-ordinator, said:

"When the Cherry Orchard Gardening Service started out following the wishes of the learning disabled gardeners, nobody could have predicted the welcome they would receive by the community. Nor could we have predicted the level of demand or the benefit our work would have for the well-being of the older people wishing to stay in their own homes".

For further information please contact Ian Wells on 01543 676443 or e-mail: cogsgardening@btconnect.com



Can you dig it?...



...yes they can!

Community Council of Staffordshire



Want to save money on the cost of your heating oil?

So do we!

The Community Council of Staffordshire has set up a county-wide Community Bulk Oil Buying Scheme that makes the most of customers' collective buying power to get the best price on heating oil.

Savings are typically around £40 on 1,000 litres and it only costs £20 (for households to join!)

And you can be confident that it's entirely ethical

Join our new countywide community bulk oil buying scheme and see how easy it is

Tel: 01785 242525 Email: communitycouncil@staffs.org.uk
www.staffs.org.uk



Endorsed and supported by
Staffordshire County Council



East Staffordshire Rights and Equality Council's Project - Burton Mixed Heritage Oral History

East Staffordshire Rights and Equality Council (ESREC) launched the Burton Mixed Heritage Oral History DVD at its Annual General Meeting in July 2012. The 18 month's project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with support from Staffordshire County Council and Moors Coulson Brewery.

The project, which was co-ordinated by Angela Bailey, interviewed and filmed 24 local people of mixed heritage. Their ages ranged from those children born in the 1940s, the majority of whom were the offspring of White women and Black American G.I.s who were stationed in Burton during World War Two, through to those born in the 1980s of mixed heritage.

To illustrate how many ethnicities were involved in the mixed heritage project, they included: Persian/ Indian/Portuguese/Polish/Caribbean/Pakistani/ Egyptian/Swiss/Lebanese/Afghanistan/ Ugandan/ American/African/Scottish/Irish.

Their stories tell of their lives growing up and how many of them felt different and sometimes unsure which identity they should adopt. Many of the participants worked through the early difficulties and have gone on to lead very successful and satisfying live styles. There is no doubt this DVD will be invaluable to places of learning for students in their studies of social history, music, culture and heritage. It addresses cultural issues that mixed heritage people may be experiencing of a sensitive nature and support the development of strong local communities.

The filming was undertaken by Burton and South Derbyshire College with support from ESBC's project Wired. A booklet was compiled by Anne Grantham, Deputy Director of East Staffordshire Rights and Equality Council with support from Angela Bailey, and this accompanied the DVD. The whole resource pack has been distributed to every school in Staffordshire, to all Councillors, Local Authorities and Archive organisations. This excellent DVD is free to anyone who feels they would benefit from it. There is also an ebook which can be downloaded from www.eaststaffsrec.org.uk/info/ebook where you will find a link to the Facebook and YouTube sites.

We welcome feedback, for this and any further information on the DVD or the work of ESREC: please contact: East Staffordshire Rights and Equality Council Tel: 01283 510456. Email: administration@eaststaffsrec.co.uk



The Launch



Andrew Griffiths MP/Mayor of East Staffordshire Len Milner/ ESREC's Chairman, Dennis Fletcher/ Liz Shaw of Heritage Lottery Fund and Angela Bailey the project co-ordinator were amongst the many guests who attended the very successful launch of the DVD.

Community Voluntary Services

Please refer to page 3 for information on the services provided by your CVS

Chase CVS

Arthur Street, Chadsmoor, Cannock,
Staffordshire, WS11 5HD

T: 01543 500404

E: enquiries@chase-cvs.org.uk

www.chase-cvs.org.uk

Opening Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9am-4.30pm, Fri 9am-4pm

East Staffordshire CVS

Union Street, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 1AA

T: 01283 543414

E: staff@escvs.org.uk

www.escvs.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Lichfield & District CVS

Mansell House, 22, Bore Street, Lichfield,
Staffordshire, WS13 6LL

T: 01543 303030

E: info@ldcvs.org.uk

www.ldcvs.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4.30pm

Newcastle under Lyme CVS

12 Andrew Place, Newcastle under Lyme,
Staffordshire, ST5 1DL

T: 01782 629269

E: general@nulcvs.co.uk

www.nulcvs.info

Opening Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm

South Staffs CVA

1 Stafford Street, Brewood, Staffordshire, ST19 9DX

T: 01902 851675

E: info@sscva.org.uk

www.sscva.org.uk

Opening Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-3.30pm

Stafford DVS

131-141 North Walls, Stafford, ST16 3AD

T: 01785 606670

E: devfund@sdvs.org.uk

www.sdvs.org.uk

Opening Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9am-4.30pm, Fri 9am-4pm

Staffordshire Moorlands CVS

Bank House, 20 St Edward Street, Leek,
Staffordshire, ST13 5DS

T: 01538 381356

E: leek@smcvs.co.uk

www.smcvs.co.uk

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

Staffordshire Moorlands CVS Walk in Office (accessible location)

9 High Street, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 5DZ

T: 01538 398240

E: leek@smcvs.co.uk

www.smcvs.co.uk

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

Tamworth CVS

The Carnegie Centre, Corporation Street, Tamworth,
Staffordshire, B79 7DN

T: 01827 709657

E: enquiries@tamworth-cvs.org.uk

www.tamworth-cvs.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30am-3.30pm

Volunteer Centres

Volunteer Centres work closely with members of local communities who wish to volunteer with voluntary and community, public and private sector organisations in need of assistance across Staffordshire. (See pages 9-11)

Volunteer Centre Cannock Chase

Arthur Street, Chadsmoor, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 5HD

T: 01543 500404

E: volunteering@chase-cvs.org.uk

www.chase-cvs.org.uk/volunteering/cannockchase/

Opening Hours: Mon-Wed 10am-4pm

Volunteer Centre East Staffordshire

Union Street, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 1AA

T: 01283 543414

E: staff@escvs.org.uk

www.escvs.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Volunteer Centre Lichfield

Mansell House, 22, Bore Street, Lichfield,
Staffordshire, WS13 6LL

T: 01543 303030

E: info@ldcvs.org.uk

www.ldcvs.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm

North Staffordshire Volunteer Centres

Volunteer Centre Newcastle Under Lyme, 12 Andrew Place,
Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 1DL

T: 01538 398240

E: northstaffsvolunteering@smcvs.co.uk

www.nulcvs.info

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

Volunteer Centre South Staffordshire

Arthur Street, Chadsmoor, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 5HD

T: 01543 500404

E: volunteering@chase-cvs.org.uk

www.chase-cvs.org.uk/volunteering/southstaffs

Volunteer Centre Stafford

131-141 North Walls, Stafford, ST16 3AD
 T: 01785 279 934
 E: volunteer.centre@sdivs.org.uk
www.sdivs.org.uk
 Opening Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-4.30pm, Fri 9am-4pm

Volunteer Centre Staffordshire Moorlands (Biddulph Branch)

Biddulph Voluntary Action, 10 Tunstall Road, Biddulph, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, ST8 6HH
 T: 01538 398240
 E: northstaffsvolunteering@smcvs.co.uk
www.smcvs.co.uk
 Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

North Staffordshire Volunteer Centres

Volunteer Centre Staffordshire Moorlands, 9 High Street, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 5DZ
 T: 01538 398240
 E: northstaffsvolunteering@smcvs.co.uk
www.smcvs.co.uk
 Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

North Staffordshire Volunteer Centres

The Dudson Centre, Hope Street, Hanley, Stoke on Trent, ST1 5DD
 T: 01782 683 030
 E: northstaffsvolunteering@smcvs.co.uk
www.smcvs.co.uk
 Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

KeeleSU Volunteer Centre

Keele University Campus, Keele, Staffordshire, ST5 5BJ
 T: 01782 733626
 E: volunteering.su@keele.ac.uk
www.keelesu.com/volunteering

Volunteer Centre Tamworth

8 Aldergate, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7DL
 T: 01827 736090
 E: info@volunteercentretamworth.org.uk
www.tamworth-cvs.org.uk/info/volunteercentre
 Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30am-3.30pm

Specialist Partners

Business Enterprise Support

The Well House, Library Approach, High Street, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 1JE
 T: 01283 537151
 E: info@enterprisesupport.org
www.enterprisesupport.org.uk

Services: Provides high quality business support, advice and training services to new and existing business entrepreneurs in Staffordshire

East Staffs Rights & Equality Council (ESREC)

Voluntary Services Centre, Union Street, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 1AA
 T: 01283 510456
 E: administration@eaststaffsrec.co.uk
www.eaststaffsrec.org.uk

Services: Work towards elimination of discrimination and to promote quality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different backgrounds through policy development, public education case work, support and advice

Staffordshire Community Foundation

The Dudson Centre, Hope Street, Hanley, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, ST1 5DD
 T: 01782 683000
 E: info@staffsfoundation.org.uk
www.staffsfoundation.org.uk

Services: Works to strengthen local communities and tackle issues of disadvantage and exclusion through the building of permanent endowments and the allocation of grants

Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS)

42a Eastgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2LY
 T: 01785 240378
 E: office@staffsscvs.org.uk
www.staffsscvs.org.uk

Services: Work across Staffordshire to inspire and equip Voluntary & Community Youth Organisations. Provide support to volunteers, encourage and empower young people.

Saltbox (faith groups)

Saltbox Christian Centre, Bemersley House, Gitana Street, Hanley, Staffordshire, ST1 1DY
 T: 01782 207200
www.saltbox.org.uk

Services: Provides advice and support for faith groups across Staffordshire.

Staffordshire Rural Hub

The Grandstand, County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0BD
 T: 01785 255305
 E: staffordshire@ruralhubpartnership.co.uk
www.ruralhubpartnership.co.uk/staffordshire

Services: Enable rural businesses to explore alternative business opportunities, so that they can make informed decisions, improve profitability and help to regenerate the rural economy.

This newsletter has been produced through the Transforming Local Infrastructure Project Staffordshire



Feedback

We wish to know what you think of our newsletter and how we can make it even better in the future. We have created a short on-line survey to obtain your views and all responses received by the 1st March 2013 will be included in a draw to **win £50 gift vouchers**. The link to the survey is as follows: www.surveymonkey.com/s/Staffordsharefeedback.

If you would like to know more about any of the content in this edition please contact us at: editor@tli-staffs.org.uk.

Strength in Numbers



24 hour confidential helpline

Stand together against Domestic & Sexual Violence

