

Voluntary and Community Sector News

Issue 02 June 2009

“Welcome to the second edition of our Voluntary & Community Sector News.

In this issue you can read about some of the activities that have taken place across organisations funded from the first round of the Worcestershire County Council Grants and take a look at some of the work within the council throughout Volunteers Week. As well as this we include all the latest news and information of work going on across the County Council as well as other topics of interest too.

Round three of the County Council grants are now closed and there has been an excellent response with a high standard of applications. Results will be announced in July and you can find full details then on the VCS Unit web pages.

Finally please don't forget we want to hear from you so don't hesitate to drop us a line or give us a call to suggest any news or reports that you'd like to see included. If you have information to share with your colleagues and peers in the VCS, why not get in touch and see if we can help?

“We're looking forward to hearing from you!”

Suzy James
VCS Unit Coordinator

Get in touch:

Contact us by calling **01905 766885** or by emailing **sjones12@worcestershire.gov.uk**

County Council grants help celebrate art in the community

Organisations across Worcestershire have been using the funding they have received from the First Base Arts grants in round 1 to put on a range of events within their local community and some have been kind enough to share details of their day....

Talking Drums used the money awarded to provide a themed day raising knowledge and understanding of African Culture. Beth Haining said “We served Afro/Caribbean food, discussed black history and black inventors. There was African Drumming and a DJ workshop for people attending the day to learn new skills”.

Creative Malvern used their First Base Arts funding to contribute towards The Lantern Parade Project which resulted in a Lantern Parade in Malvern as part of the Christmas celebrations in Malvern with over 700 people taking part! Dena Falk from Creative Malvern explained that “the project was a huge success for Creative Malvern and also the children and young people of Malvern”.

Funding also helped the New Horizons Youth Arts Group for young adults with learning disabilities put on their production of ‘Out of the Woods’ at the Rose Theatre in Kidderminster.

Finally the Honeybourne Youth Club in Bewdley used funding to contribute toward a series of summer samba and dance workshops for children in the community. Through their

hard work and efforts they were able to put on a production of ‘Glamba’ which was very successful. They are hoping to take this forward with a possible performance at the local party in the park.

Suzy James said “I am thrilled by the way that Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in Worcestershire have delivered such a wide range of activities in their communities with the help of funding from the County Council First Base Arts community grants”.



The Honeybourne Youth Club in Bewdley



Talking Drums in Redditch



New Horizons Youth Arts Club

WIC news

WIC Supports the Expansion of Volunteering in Worcestershire

WIC Partners have been supporting the increasing numbers of people volunteering as a result of the Credit Crunch. For example; BARN (Bromsgrove and Redditch Network) have been using funding from the Worcestershire County Council's grant to respond to the men and women in Bromsgrove and Redditch who want to volunteer. WIC's Volunteering Hub and WIC other members have been addressing the issues of increased volunteering enquires across Worcestershire by connecting with Job Centre Plus.

Key speaker announced for WIC's Annual Conference

Worcester Rugby Football Club, Pitch View Suite, Tuesday 24th November 2009 10am – 3pm



NAVCA's (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) Chief Executive, Kevin Curley, will be discussing how the delivery of front line services in Worcestershire is supported by infrastructure organisations' at WIC's annual conference. The second theme for the day is 'The Importance of the VCS to the Economy of Worcestershire'.

For a booking form and to sign-up for the day please visit: www.winc.org.uk/events or for further details please contact Jim Smith at wavocc@btconnect.com. Attendance is free, lunch and refreshments are included.

Choice and Control

Adult Social Care is changing!

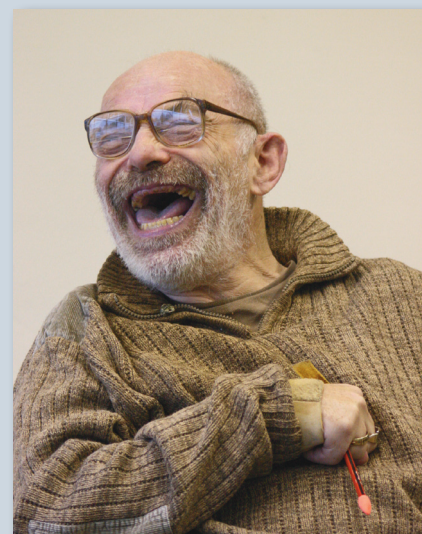
As part of recent Government legislation, Adult Social Care services throughout the country are undergoing a major transformation that will affect the delivery of adult social care for years to come.

The Government wants to ensure that everyone who needs adult social care, whether provided by statutory services or funded by themselves, receives support in a way that is personal to, and controlled by them – known as personalisation.

In a radical change to how services are currently delivered, individuals in the future, requiring support will have more control over how, when and where they purchase the services they require. In order to be able to do this effectively, individuals will also be given the opportunity to take control of the money allocated to support their needs.

The Choice and Control Programme is Worcestershire County Council's response to the Government's reforms and went 'live' on April 6th 2009 for new users of service. The programme is being implemented gradually and is currently in its learning phase as it begins to support people through the new approach.

As part of the new way of working a number of new teams and services have already been put in place and these include the Promoting Independence service, the Care



Navigation team and the Brokerage team. Further information about these and the programme generally can be found:

By Telephone: 01905 768000

By Post: Choice and Control, Worcestershire County Council, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP

By E-mail: choiceandcontrol@worcestershire.gov.uk

Online: <http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wccindex/wcc-social-choiceandcontrol.htm>

choice and control
choosing your support, your way

County Council backs volunteers drive

This year is the 25th anniversary of national Volunteers' Week, which took place this year between June 1 and 7. The council's Voluntary & Community Sector team is encouraging staff to spare some time for the community and sign up to be a volunteer.

Through the week long campaign willing helpers were sought for activities as wide-ranging as social care, education, countryside management, sports, transport, heritage and more, in all parts of the county.

If you have any opportunities you would like to advertise through this newsletter and/or to staff at County Hall please email: sjones12@worcestershire.gov.uk



Sally Ellison and Suzy James promote volunteers week at County Hall

WIC news

New initiative: The Short Term Representatives Bank

We are still looking for further VCS nominations for the short term representatives' bank. For details of how you can be involved in this valuable initiative please contact the VCS Voices Hub c/o WAVOCC, The Training Station, Gt. Malvern Station, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 3AU or email:

wavocc@btconnect.com

Alternatively ring the Chair of the VCS Voices Hub, Sally Ellison, at Worcester Volunteer Centre on **01905 24741**.

We want to meet you!

In her role as VCS Unit Coordinator Suzy James is keen to visit as many VCS organisations in Worcestershire as possible to gain a better understanding of the sector and the fantastic work that is done within the county.

If you would like to let us know more about your organisation we would love to come and visit to gain an understanding of your group or organisation and the services you provide.

Just drop us an email to sjones12@worcestershire.gov.uk or call us on **01905 766885**



Trading Standards Response Team protect against doorstep crime

The Trading Standards service receives many complaints each year relating to rogue traders who have conned or misinformed consumers, some of whom have lost thousands of pounds.

The County Council's Trading Standards joined forces with West Mercia Police on Wednesday, May 20 as part of a nationwide initiative to tackle unscrupulous traders, billed as Rogue Trader Action Day 2009.

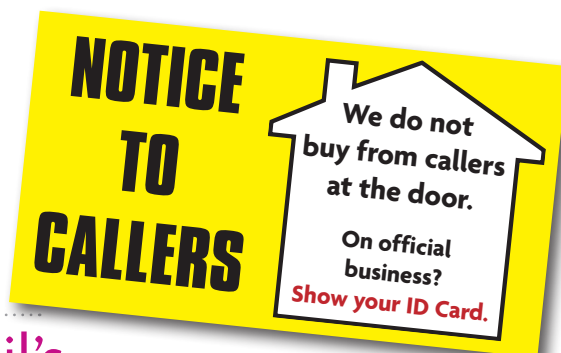
The day reaffirmed Worcestershire Trading Standard's commitment to protecting consumers from potential bogus traders. The Rogue Trader Response Team work in partnership with West Mercia Police to enforce a number of consumer protection laws, including legal requirements for cancellation rights when a contract is signed in the home.

If anyone suspects a rogue trader is targeting their area, report any known details to Trading Standards on 0845 404 0506 or

West Mercia Police on 0845 744 888. To discourage rogue traders knocking "No cold callers" or "Nominated Neighbour" cards can be displayed on your door and are available free of charge from Trading Standards.

Worcestershire County Council also operates a Trader Register of local tradesmen which lists traders who have given their commitment to provide good workmanship, carry public liability insurance and have been vetted by Trading Standards.

This register is available on 01905 765394 or at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/traderregister



County Council's compost road show proves big hit

Worcestershire County Council has hailed its recent compost awareness events a great success.

The County Council's Waste Prevention Team set up compost displays in Worcester and Hereford city centres on Wednesday, May 6 and Friday, May 8.

Cathy Hines, Worcestershire County Council's Waste Prevention Officer, said: "Composting is a great way of reducing bio-degradable household waste from going to landfill. The road shows were a great success and residents were surprised just how many ingredients can be added to a bin to make compost, including toilet rolls, tea bags, wool and shredded paper."

Expert volunteers known as Master Composters and staff were inundated with questions from over 300 inquisitive passers-by keen to find out more about composting, while they

were also on hand to offer useful tips for producing compost.

The Master Composters scheme has been a great success since it was introduced in April 2006 and earlier this year a further 19 enthusiastic members of the public were trained to promote home composting to other members of the local community, taking the total number of active volunteers up to 55.

Last month the County Council announced that they were freezing the price of compost bins to encourage more residents across the county to get composting. Compost bins are still available from as little as £12 (including delivery)

To order compost bins call **0845 076 0223** or visit www.recyclenow.com/compost.