

# Voluntary Vine



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The newsletter of South Hams Council for Voluntary Service

## Boundary Committee Proposal What will it mean?

Have you had time to think how the proposed ideas for changes to council boundaries may effect your organisation? The Boundary Committee for England are asking for comments on their proposals to be submitted by 26 September. The two patterns proposed are:

1. A unitary status for the whole of Devon (excluding Plymouth & Torbay) or
2. Two unitary authorities, a Devon authority (excluding Plymouth, Torbay, Exeter & Exmouth), and an Exeter and Exmouth authority.

They would like your views on the draft proposals whether or not you agree with it. The report contains key questions which they particularly ask you to address. The draft proposal can be downloaded at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/south-west/devon/devon-structural-review](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/south-west/devon/devon-structural-review).

The main message they are giving is please tell them **WHY** you think as you do. If you object to something or if you suggest the best way of working, please explain **WHY** and evidence it. This will help them give an informed report when they provide advice to the Secretary of State on 31 December.

If you think the current arrangements work well and want to support the 'Status Quo' then it is your politician or the Secretary of State you should write to, before 1 January 2009. South Hams Voluntary Sector Forum will be holding a special meeting on September 19th in Totnes to help give an informed response from the Voluntary and Community sector. Please come along and find out more.

### South Hams Voluntary Sector Forum

*The voice of voluntary  
groups in the  
South Hams*

The next meeting will be:  
**Thursday 25 September**  
10am - 12.30pm  
**Kingsbridge Methodist  
Church, 100 Fore Street  
Kingsbridge**

Also  
**Tuesday 25 November**  
10am - 12.30pm  
**Follaton Village Hall  
Totnes**

Come along to our friendly  
meetings to share your  
experience, meet others and  
catch up on the latest issues.

supporting local voluntary and community action in the South Hams

## TAKING THE HELM

*Jill Davies has been appointed as the new Chief Officer of South Hams CVS from 1 August 2008. Jill writes "since coming to South Hams CVS I have worked with over two hundred local organisations giving advice and information, providing training and supporting groups with their development. I have been involved with numerous projects, involving issues such as governance, monitoring & evaluation, quality assurance, strategic planning, rural volunteering, sustainable funding, social enterprise and many others. I am very pleased that I will be able to extend this work further in my capacity as chief officer, leading the CVS and ensuring the South Hams Voluntary sector gets quality support and its voice is heard at all levels. Brought up in a South Hams farming family, I have a keen interest and knowledge of rural issues and before joining the CVS, I had worked and volunteered in a number of community projects in the South Hams and further afield. With possible changes in local government and more and more government initiatives to strengthen the third sector, this is an exciting time for a new chief officer. I look forward to leading the CVS as an informed and inspired support organisation and voice for South Hams groups, helping them develop and flourish!*

## Diary Date

**Boundary Committee Proposal - VCS Response  
Friday 19th September 10am - 1pm  
in the Carey Room, Follaton House, Totnes**

### **Time For Life Community Mentoring Service**

Time for life is a personally tailored; goal orientated service for people aged 50 years and over (and who are able to consent to the service) aimed at tackling social isolation. People eligible for the service will be experiencing some kind of recent life change, loss or down turn in life. The service is limited to 3 months working alongside / in partnership with the individual following an initial assesment.

Time for life will:

1. Help the individual develop a positive sense of social identity and self esteem
2. Help the individual to access services and activities which match their individual needs, facilitating them to design these where feasible
3. Assist in maintaining life time interests in new things where they cannot decide what they would enjoy doing
4. Agree an action plan and goals with each person. Address the individuals needs identified within an action plan.

The service is available in North, East, Mid and West Devon, South Hams and Teignbridge.

If you would like to make a referral to the service or receive further information please contact the South Hams mentor and co-ordinator:

Anthea Nakorn

Tel: 08452967997

or email

[info@timeforlife.org.uk](mailto:info@timeforlife.org.uk) or go to [www.timeforlife.org.uk](http://www.timeforlife.org.uk)

### **Do you have memories of Reeves Timber Yard?**

The Totnes Heritage Group are eager to talk to people who worked for Reeves or anyone who lived in Totnes and had dealings with the firm, or may have memories and photographs.

The Totnes Heritage Group are looking to produce an illustrated book about Reeves as well as mounting a large photographic exhibition.

Please contact Diana Reeves on 01803 863170 or Totnes Heritage Group on 01803 867461  
or email [thkendall@phonecoop.coop](mailto:thkendall@phonecoop.coop)

## Community Room at new Watermark Centre

South Hams CVS members can now make use of a small room in Ivybridge if they need space to carry out their services. Thanks to Devon County Councillor, Roger Croad, who is using some of his budget to pay the first years rent, Devonlane Credit Union, South Hams Volunteer Centre, South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau and Money wise have already registered their interest in being users. If you would like regular use of the room or just want to use it on a one off basis, then this can be booked through South Hams CVS. There will be a small charge to cover administration. Disabled access will be available during weekdays 9-5 and Saturdays 9-1.30 only

## New CVS Crew Member

We were sorry to see Lyndsey Towne leave us at the end of March 2008. She had been Office Manager here for 2 years and has moved to take up work in her home town of Exeter. To replace her we welcome Rachel Williams, who will be working 9-3, Monday to thursday as Office and Finance Manager. Rachel writes "I came across the CVS when I first started my previous job as General Manager for Embercombe. To quote their website "Embercombe is a charity established to champion a way of living that celebrates the opportunities inherent in this challenging time and that inspires people to energetically contribute towards the emergence of a socially just, environmentally sustainable and spiritually fulfilling human presence on earth. Embercombe runs programmes for schools, families, individuals, businesses and organisations and currently can be hired out as a venue". At the time we were not established as a Charity or Company, did not have a website and needed all sorts of help in matters of fundraising and support for the 150 volunteers involved. I was very grateful for the help of the CVS at that time and hope to be able to offer, in my new position as Office and Finance Manager, support to new and existing members of the South Hams CVS.

Prior to working at Embercombe I was the General Manager of the National Student Drama Festival, working from Foxhole at Dartington. We ran an annual festival for some 2-3000 students in Scarborough. A week of intense fun and drama. Again, this could not have run without the voluntary support of some 50 students.

Before the NSDF I was Pete Goss's PA on the Team Phillips project in Totnes. That is a story in itself! More than anything it taught me what genuinely working in a team meant. I loved every minute of it.

And now I am happy to be here, at the South Hams CVS, and am looking forward to a long and happy working relationship with my colleagues."

## LOCAL INFORMATION

### Could you or someone you know benefit?

If you or someone you know wants to claim help with rent or Council Tax because of a low income there are no paper forms to complete!

To get some help and advice please call the Benefits section at South Hams District Council on 01803 861234. They will ask a few questions about your income and book an appointment at your home at a time convenient for you. They can also meet up with any support worker or advocate at a customer's home.

There is lots of information about Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit and a handy benefits calculator to check how much you could benefit by on the South Hams District Council website - [www.southhams.gov.uk](http://www.southhams.gov.uk). Don't miss out - call them today

### Parent Carers Voice

For families of children with special needs. A friendly group of parents and carers who all have children with some form of special need. The groups meet for support, information, advice and chance to voice your opinions. The next get together is Tuesday 9 Sept. 10am - 12pm Kingsbridge Methodist Church.

## Workshops South Hams CVS Programme 2008

### How to attract Funding

Date: 14th October 9.30am - 12 noon

Location: Totnes

Cost: £10 members / £20 non-members

- collecting evidence and defining aims and outcomes for your project

### You too can be a Volunteer magnet

Date: 29th October 9.30am - 12 noon

Location: Ivybridge

Cost: £10 members / £20 non-members

- how to attract, motivate and retain volunteers in your organisation

### Forming a Charity

Date: 13th November 9.30am - 12 noon

Location: Ivybridge

Cost: £10 members / £20 non-members

- the steps involved in setting up and registering as a Charity

#### How to book:

You'll need to fill in a booking form & return it to us with payment.  
For booking forms and further information contact:

**South Hams CVS**

t: 01803 862266 e: [cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk](mailto:cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk)

[www.southhamscvs.org.uk](http://www.southhamscvs.org.uk)

### Good News to Share?

South Hams CVS provides 3 free email bulletin services for local organisations:  
**Snippets** (*local and national news*)

**Funding  
Training**

To share your news to other groups across Devon or to sign up to receive our popular bulletins, contact: [info@southhamscvs.org.uk](mailto:info@southhamscvs.org.uk)

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#### Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator

Howard Owens

[volunteering@southhamscvs.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@southhamscvs.org.uk)

#### PCV Forum Development Worker

Helen Phillips

[helen@parentcarersvoice.org](mailto:helen@parentcarersvoice.org)

Local groups are encouraged to become members of South Hams CVS. This supports our work and offers a range of benefits. Contact us to find out more about joining.  
*A large print copy of Voluntary Vine is available on request.*

**Please send your articles for inclusion in Dec - Feb 09 issue.  
Deadline: 11th November 2008**

We reserve the right to edit submissions.

**Disclaimer** South Hams CVS cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure details are correct, we cannot endorse events or items mentioned in this newsletter. South Hams CVS is a member of the National Association for Voluntary & Community Action (NAVCA), the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and Volunteering England.

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