

Coffee and Chat Dates

Monday 19 April 10am-11.30am
Kingsbridge Children's Centre Belle Cross Rd
Kingsbridge

Monday 21 June 10am-11.30am
Kingsbridge Children's Centre Belle Cross Rd
Kingsbridge

Locality Meeting Dates

Monday 17 May 10am-12 noon
Kingsbridge Children's Centre Belle Cross Rd Kingsbridge

Wednesday 16 June 10am-12noon Dartmouth Children's
Centre Dartmouth

Photocopying Service

available during office hours 9am-3pm

Members charges

A4 single sided Black & white 7p; Colour 14p
A4 double sided Black & White 12p; Colour 24p
A3 single sided Black & White 14p; Colour 28p
A3 double sided Black & White 24p; Colour 48p

Information Services

Voluntary vine-our quarterly news letter

E-bulletins - relevant, up-to-date news straight to your desktop

Website - information and resources at
www.southhamscvs.org.uk

Library - well stocked with current titles on everything you need
to know to run a voluntary group

Information sheets - our series of sheets covers all the basics for
small and new groups

Enquiries - on the phone, by email or in person, our staff are
always happy to help.

FUNDERFINDER

Free of charge to members.
Available at South Hams CVS office
Please ring to make an appointment.

Published quarterly by:
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Please send your articles for
inclusion in July-September 2010.
Deadline: 11 June 2010
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 en-
dorse 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
(VE)
Registered Charity no. 1124273
Company no. 6215893

April- June 2010

Voluntary Vine



The newsletter of South Hams Community and Voluntary Services



Help for local food projects

If you have ever thought about setting up a community garden or
some other form of local food initiative, now is the time to do it.
With support available across Devon from the Community Council
of Devon's HogCo project and funding available to parishes in the
South Devon Coastal Local Action Group (SDCLAG) area through
a fund called the Community Facilities Fund, local food production
is set to flourish.

If there is an area of land which you think may be available to your
local community, for example: land adjacent to playing fields or
village halls, or a helpful farmer or landlord, then why not start
considering what may be possible. HogCo will be providing
Community tool kits on legal tenure, planning and access issues
as well as supporting community food growing projects to get
off the ground.

The projects need to show that they are run by the community for
the community; involve people who experience disadvantage or
exclusion due to income, access to land, skills or health barriers;
are innovative and unique in some way and involve partnerships

South Devon Coastal Local Action Group (SDCLAG), Community
Facilities Fund (CFF) is now open to applications for local food
projects. Jill Davies, South Hams CVS Chief Officer, and chairman
of the CFF says "This is a wonderful opportunity for communities
to obtain funding to support their own community led local food
initiatives. Projects could include education and awareness raising;
developments in growing, distributing, procuring local food and
improvements to allotments. The overall aim is to help towards
making communities more self sufficient".

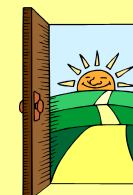
For more details phone HogCo on 01392 383423 or visit
www.hogco-devonrcc.org.uk

South Devon Coastal Action Group (SDCLAG), Community Facilities
Fund details are available from Sophie Price at Devon
Renaissance 01837 658643 or Email: sophie@ruraldevon.org

**Open Morning
at South Hams CVS
Wednesday 12 May
10am-1pm.**

An opportunity to visit our
office and find out about the
resources available
to your group.

We look forward to
meeting you.



**Monday 21 June 2010
South Hams
Voluntary
Sector forum
10am -12.30pm**

followed by

**South Hams
Community & Voluntary
Services
Annual General Meeting
1pm-2pm.**

**At Chapel Place Community
Centre.
Ivybridge PL21 0JS**

*Please join us for a
light lunch in between the
forum and South Hams
CVS Annual General Meeting*

Supporting local voluntary and community action in the South Hams



Outstanding Voluntary Groups in Devon

Do you know any? If so, do you know about The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service?

This honour was introduced in 2002 to mark The Queen's Golden Jubilee and is given annually. The Award provides recognition for the very many voluntary groups whose generosity of time and energy in the service of others is a remarkable tradition in our county communities, and makes such a big difference to the daily lives of so many people.

Those who receive the Award find that it raises public awareness of what they do and provides encouragement to the volunteers involved. Everyone benefits.

So what is involved?

Nominations made by the end of September each year to the Award Administrator in London are sent to The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Panel in Devon to undertake an initial assessment. This includes visits by Panel members to the nominated organisations. These assessments are then considered nationally alongside nominations received from elsewhere in the UK. Winners are announced in June and the Award is presented soon afterwards by the Lord Lieutenant on behalf of The Queen.

A group (two or more people) can be nominated if it has been providing a high quality service to benefit people in the community normally for at least three years. The majority of the group's members must be volunteers. Groups involved in fundraising activities are eligible for the Award if their fundraising activity:

- ◆ involves volunteers
- ◆ focuses on creating or holding an event or local activity, rather than simply asking for donations
- ◆ is to provide something that can be shown to benefit the local community.

Full information about the Award and how to nominate a group that you believe deserves to be recognised can be found at: www.direct.gov.uk/thequeensawardvoluntaryservice.

TOZERS The joy of charity

As this is my first contribution to the Voluntary Vine, I had better introduce myself. I am charity lawyer in Exeter, acting for a wide variety of charities of all shapes and sizes across the country, and I am a trustee of a large national charity.

The joy of working with charities is that each one is different and brings its own problems and concerns. And almost always really nice to deal with! The thing that unites us is the commitment to bringing public benefit to our communities, with no thought of personal reward.

Richard King
Partner

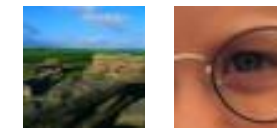
But many people, who are only too willing to give their time as trustees for a deserving cause, are worried that they may get precious little thanks if things go wrong. Will I get sued? Could I lose

my house? We have all heard stories of trustees of unincorporated charities having to pay out of their own pocket to meet bills or redundancy costs or an uninsured negligence claim.

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was meant to put an end to such worries by giving us a new vehicle for charity, tailor-made to our needs and without the cumbersome dual regulation and expense of setting up a guarantee company. OK, it would not protect us from claims for breach of trust if we used the charity's money for purposes that were never intended, but at least it would give us a shield against claims for debts or damages.

Now, with an election looming, the regulations have been kicked into the long grass yet again. One wonders if we will ever see the CIO. Really, if these things worry you, and especially if you have staff or property or a risky activity, you should not wait for the CIO but look at setting up a company. Once that is done, it involves little more administration than any other type of charity and it is not particularly complicated. Have a look at the Charity Commission's guidance 'Incorporating an existing charity as a company' on their website and contact South Hams CVS to give you initial advice and guidance.

Establishing 'Moorvision'



In Sept 2006, I decided to set up a voluntary support group for families of blind and visually impaired children throughout Devon. I wasn't sure where to start so I approached South Hams CVS and they arranged for me to visit them in Totnes. During this initial meeting, they gave me all the information I needed about running a voluntary organisation and sources of start up grants. By the end of 2007 we were helping 23 families and we suddenly found ourselves in need of more money and again the CVS assisted us with finding grants. As time went on, the group grew larger and we were in a position to apply for charitable status. I was very daunted by all the paperwork involved, however, after a morning session with South Hams CVS I felt far more able to tackle this application. Since then we have had further support with registering for Gift Aid and further grant applications. I have also attended various CVS courses and meetings.

We now help over 50 families throughout the county. Blind and visually impaired children, especially those (and they are in the majority) who attend mainstream schools who were previously totally isolated in their situation now get to spend time with other similar children. Their parents get to meet other parents and have access to our website, newsletter and a huge range of useful information. We have just set up the country's first ever tactile toy library. With no other national services offering this kind of support in the South West, our service is both popular and invaluable.

Laura Hughes, Moorvision co-ordinator. www.moorvision.org



Partnership Update

South Hams Strategic Partnership aims to improve the well-being of the people of the South Hams by bringing together key public, private and voluntary organisations that deliver services in the district. Quarterly Steering Group meetings allow Partners to share information and champion the delivery of the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy.

December's meeting focused on the 'Community Vibrancy' theme of the Strategy. The Group received a presentation on the Compact for Devon. They also heard from the Townstal Community Partnership on the formation of the TCP and its current projects.

March's meeting focussed on the theme of 'Affordable Housing'. Further information on the Partnership is available at www.southhams.gov.uk

Fit Notes to replace Sick Notes

From **6 April 2010**, sick notes saying an employee is not fit for work will be replaced with computer-generated fit notes saying the person is either not fit for work, or "may be fit for work taking account of the following advice". The purpose of the fit note is to facilitate a return to work, by listing options such as a phased return to work, changes in duties and/or hours, or workplace adaptations, and by encouraging discussion between the GP and employee and between the employee and employer. Employers will need to carefully consider recommendations made by the GP, especially where the employee is or could be legally disabled under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

For further information go to www.dwp.gov.uk/fitnote