



Membership of South Hams CVS

Are you a member?

Members receive all sorts of benefits, while supporting us in our work for the local voluntary and community sector.

Everyone is welcome to use our **meeting room** and **resource library**, but members can borrow books and toolkits and can use the meeting room for half price. All our **equipment, photocopying and printing** is available at a lower rate to members and concessions are available to members on our **training and workshops**.

Members can also sign up for **regular email bulletins**

- ◆ Snippets
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Funding

and take advantage of low cost **tailored sessions** for their staff, volunteers and committees in subjects such as trustee responsibilities, monitoring & evaluation, personal safety.

Membership is between £5 - £30 depending on your group's annual income. All organisations active in the South Hams and individuals who support our work are welcome to apply.

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Please send your articles for inclusion in
 October— December 2011
DEADLINE:
 September 18th 2011

We reserve the right to edit submissions.

Voluntary Vine

July—September 2011



The newsletter of South Hams Community and Voluntary Services

Stop Press – Personal Safety for your staff & volunteers

Jill Davies, our Chief Officer has recently attended the Train the Trainer course in Personal Safety from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. She is now providing information sessions to organisations across the district. You are welcome to come along to the introductory workshop in September (see below) or book a session for your whole team. For further information and costs please contact our office.

Coming up around the South Hams

South Hams Voluntary Sector Forum

Tuesday 12 July 10am -12.30pm
 Follaton Residents Hall, Totnes
 Everyone welcome.



South Hams CVS AGM

Tuesday 12 July 1pm -2pm
 Follaton Residents Hall, Totnes.

Yealmpton Show

Wednesday 27 July all day
 South Hams CVS will be attending with South Hams Connect. Visit us in their gazebo.

South Hams Voluntary Voice

Thursday 28 July, Kingsbridge 10am -12 noon
 South Hams Voluntary and Community organisations are invited to send a representative to this meeting with South Hams District Council. Contact us to reserve your space

Devon Consortium Assembly

Wednesday 7 September Exeter.
 Lifts to be arranged from South Hams CVS

Personal Safety work shop

Tuesday 13 September Yealmpton Community Centre 1.30pm - 4pm. £10 members £20 non-members
 Bookings through South Hams CVS office.

Inside this edition of Voluntary Vine

- ◆ Funding Extra
- ◆ Legal Extra
- ◆ Training Extra
- ◆ Volunteer Extra
- ◆ Sector News
- ◆ Resources
- ◆ Big Society one year on

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 (VE)

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**65 %
chunk
of CAB
funding will
be taken
away
by cuts to
Legal
Aid**



Report from 'The future of our agencies' Event held on 3rd June 2011



South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau held an event to promote awareness amongst community organisations over the impact which government cutbacks will have on the delivery of their services. The meeting was well attended by a number of agencies including Rethink, Disability Information Service, Totnes Caring, Totnes Children's Centre, South Hams District Council, Hooper & Wollen solicitors, Lameys Insolvency, Francis Clarke accountants, Devon Family solutions, Cool Recovery, Age Concern, West Country Housing, Community Voluntary Service and Community Links. Councillors and the town Mayor also came along to the event.

A presentation was given by the bureau's specialist debt and welfare benefit casework supervisor Nick Dilworth who explained South Hams CAB had the largest legal aid benefits contract in the county and worked in a consortium with other CAB and Shelter to provide debt, benefits and housing work across Devon. Legal Aid has funded specialist advice at South Hams for 11 years and they are a very well regarded source of advice for people battling with increasingly complicated problems, Nick explained that benefit appeals have swelled in numbers at the moment as a result of welfare reforms, the area also has one of the highest rates of insolvencies in the country. Removal of legal aid would seriously jeopardise the service and mean that volunteers would be unable to deal with many enquiries without any recourse to specialist advice, he called the reforms 'illogical'. Legal aid in the South Hams costs **38p per person** per year for debt advice and **36p for benefit** advice; - it's good value and a much in demand service is at risk. It was emphasised how specialist advice saves the state money, research shows that for every **£1 spent up to £8.80 could be saved** by avoiding costly mistakes and unnecessary appeals.

The event was organised as part of a national 'Justice for All' 'Day of Action'. Local Totnes MP Dr Sarah Wollaston attended the event and spoke well of the links she had forged with the Bureau, she took questions from the audience over the concerns everyone had; the meeting ended with an overwhelming show of hands; - all raised in agreement that government should rethink its plans on legal aid reform. South Hams CAB urges community organisations to contact them about future events and to voice their concerns by speaking to their local MP. A commonly held view was that reductions in funding for community organisations were not in line with government's 'Big Society' objectives.

Join the "Justice for All" Campaign

News from Local Groups

Totnes Caring Queen's award for Voluntary Service

Congratulations to Totnes Caring for receiving The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which is the highest award any Charity can achieve and the equivalent in status to the MBE.

The Charity was originally established in 1987 and now helps in excess of 1250 local people and has 200 plus volunteers who give more than 9000 hours of volunteering per annum.

Given the growing challenges of an ageing population, and the increasing need for voluntary sector support, it is timely that Totnes Caring has been recognised for the support their volunteers give and the unique service they provide in the community.



Africa Actually

As part of their Community Awareness Exhibition, Kingsbridge District Churches Together (KDCT) dedicated Wednesday 11 May 'Africa Actually Day' to the work of local community organisations working to alleviate poverty and hardship in Africa.

The event, which was well attended by both the public and organisations was filled with the colour and the vibrant creativity of African culture with many of the stands presenting arts and crafts as well as photos and videos of their work - even the English sunshine was inspired to make an appearance.

This was a welcome opportunity, not only for organisations to promote their activities to the public, but also to share their work and experiences with each other. With many thanks to Lawrence Townsend of KDCT whose dedication and hard work made the exhibition possible

