

Dates for your Diary 2011



Modernising Volunteering – A Way to a Bigger Society Conference ..

.. will be held in Exeter on Wednesday 9 February 2011 from 10am - 4.15pm at Exeter City Football Club, Stadium Way, Exeter.

The conference will look at volunteering developments in the South West and help pave the way to the 'Big Society.' It is brought to you by Exeter CVS and the Modernising Volunteering National Support Services – to help organisations that may be rethinking their strategies for the months and years ahead.

The programme is informed by four key areas: faith-based volunteering, new forms of volunteering and volunteer management, overcoming barriers to volunteering and skills-based employer supported volunteering.

Cost: £60

Offer: If you are from a Devon organisation with an annual turnover of £40,000 or less, the Devon Consortium through its Total Support Programme (funded by the Big Lottery) is kindly providing a subsidy of £25 per person. If you are eligible for the subsidy instead of booking online please contact Nigel Thomas directly (NSS Administrator) – nigel.thomas@volunteeringengland.org; or 0207 520 8924.

South Devon Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Health Event

Are you involved with Health & Social Care? If so, 9 February 2011 will be a date for your diary.

Teignbridge, West Devon and South Hams CVS are putting together an event bringing together Commissioners from Devon County Council, the NHS, and the new emerging GP consortia to provide opportunity to network, inform and lay the foundations for future involvement of the VCS in the new health and care arrangements. Further details will be available in the New Year

South Hams Voluntary Sector forum

Tuesday 1 February 2011 10am-12.30pm
Townstal Community Hall Dartmouth.

Presentations from Jobcentre plus and Devon's Voluntary Voice Project.

The voice of voluntary & community groups in the South Hams

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Please send articles for inclusion in April –July 2011

DEADLINE: March 18 2011

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 (VE)

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Voluntary Vine

SOUTH
HAMS
CVS

The newsletter of South Hams Community and Voluntary Services

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope that 2011 will be a successful year for you and your organization. Don't forget we are here to help and have ideas for you around funding, recruiting volunteers, evaluating your work and a host of other information and resources for you to use; or we can just be a listening ear.

We would love to hear from you about your successes and achievements.

Best wishes from South Hams CVS team

A Birthday with a Difference



On Wednesday 24 November over 80 people from all over the district came together at the Watermark in Ivybridge to celebrate the 15th anniversary of South Hams CVS's launch as a charity serving local voluntary and community organisations. The day started on a social note as people shared a full cooked 'Big Breakfast' and an opportunity to catch up on each other's news. Cheryl Loverock, the first chairperson of the charity, entertained the participants with stories of South Hams CVS's first tentative steps and David Lingard, the current chairperson, talked of the prospects for the future. Our CVS President and Chairman of South Hams District Council, John Baverstock, then announced the birthday cake and the camera flashes lit up. A short video about South Hams CVS and the valuable work we have helped you develop across the South Hams, was then shown.

The celebration moved on to 'Big Society – Local Focus, a short conference shared with West Devon & Teignbridge CVS's which included three presentations about current hot topics. The first speaker, Georgie Constable from South West Forum, talked about the Government's proposals for a 'Big Society' and what it means in practice. She encouraged members to respond to the government consultation on infrastructure organisations. The second presentation by Beverley Jones of the Devon Consortium summarised the results of the Consortium's survey of 503 voluntary & community organisations carried out earlier this year. One finding that stood out is that the 30% of the voluntary organisations surveyed had an income of less than £5000. Small remains beautiful in Devon and not surprisingly, the main concern voiced in the survey was issues around funding.

Supporting local voluntary and community action in the South Hams

The last presentation, from the Big Lottery, ended the day on an optimistic note. Catherine Stevens revealed that the Lottery Fund has £600 million to distribute each year and described the different types of funds and how to apply for them. She reminded participants that it is essential for a successful application to be able to describe the outcomes that the project will achieve, something South Hams CVS can help you clarify. In a short time much was said and a lot of ideas produced, participants had time to discuss current changes affecting them, how they can respond and shared successes and concerns. We got lots of feedback as detailed below, thank you, and we aim to follow up on some of your ideas.

“Very useful for me to get up to date with thinking around the Big Society and current and planned Lottery Funding. Also to hear some of the views of other participants”

“Very good/useful information. Thank you”.

“Yes, very interesting and informative presentations. A good mix of organisations”.



South Hams Lifestyles Celebrates!

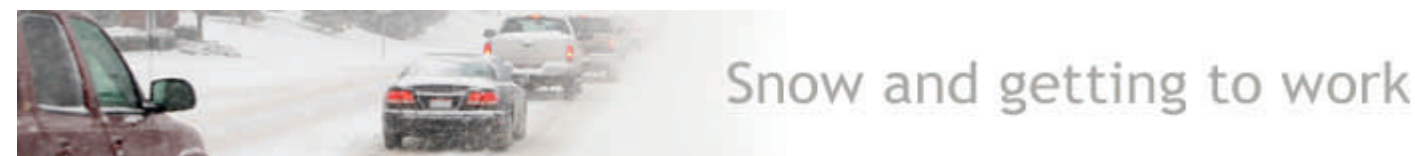


Congratulations to South Hams Lifestyles who have recently been successful with their bid to the BIG Lottery. The organisation supports people with a wide range of disabilities to live independently within the small rural communities of the South Hams. They offer weekly drop-in facilities in the main towns, home-visits to help with any aspect of independent living, training (e.g. in IT,) and recently, dog-training and social events! They have been running since 1998 and had already received funding from the lottery on two occasions. Their most recent funding ran out in March 2009 and they resubmitted a 5-year application which was turned down. In the meantime, they barely managed to survive, with money from Charitable Trusts, Lloyd’s TSB and Devon Community Foundation as well as a small grant from the Clare Milne Trust. Fundraising last year only managed to generate half of their running costs and they were close to closing down or at least streamlining their services. When they rewrote the BIG Lottery application in March 2010, they approached Graham Macey at South Hams CVS. Gail Tucker, the coordinator writes: “Graham reviewed the application and gave me some invaluable suggestions about how I could improve it; things like being chronological in my outlines of activities, making sure my outcomes were ‘smarter’ and generally giving me a fresh eye on the whole application. I duly edited and he was then kind enough to review for a second time and send me the edited version. I submitted the application and have just learned that it was successful. We have received a 5-year grant of £126,409. I am very grateful and indebted to Graham for his help. Not only did he give me some good suggestions for the application, but also raised my flagging spirits about the whole bidding process. It is very easy to become negative when trying to keep a charity going!!!”

Demonstrating the Value of What You Do



The importance of the work you do or the value of the service you provide may seem completely obvious to you - of course it's necessary and important or you wouldn't be doing it! If you rely on other people or organisations to support you or provide the funds to do this work, you will, however, need to be able to demonstrate the difference you are making as a result of your activities – your ‘impact’. South Hams CVS can provide support and advice on monitoring, measuring and demonstrating your outcomes and impact. Members can receive one to one advice or we can run workshops for organisations. Contact us for further information.



Transport and adverse weather

It's that time of year again! As the weather makes it increasingly difficult to travel, employers and employees should consider how this could impact on the workplace. The key is to plan ahead. You may have experienced this situation last year and so now would be a good time to review your policy and think about how you handle future scenarios. It would be best to put an "adverse weather" or 'journey into work' policy into place that deals with the steps employees are required to take to try to get into work on time and how the business will continue if they cannot. You need to decide how to deal with lateness and what will happen with regard to pay. Having such a policy should mean that there is much less scope for confusion and disagreement. Further information is on the acas website, www.acas.org.uk, or contact CVS for advice



Charities and not for profit or organisations need a wide range of goods to deliver their essential services to people in need. Goods they could use are often put to waste by companies simply because they are surplus to requirement or have small defects in the packaging or branding. In Kind Direct provides a single contact point for companies with goods to donate. They have the infrastructure to accept large quantities of goods and then store, sort and deliver them directly to charities' doors in response to their needs and demands. They address brand protection concerns by thoroughly vetting all organisations and monitoring distribution carefully to ensure products are used for good. The result is an efficient solution which diverts usable goods from being wasted and releases huge additional resource where it is needed most. Contact: In Kind Direct, 62-64 Cornhill, London EC3V 3PL; www.inkinddirect.org; 020 7398 5510

Guide on open spaces transfer to community groups



New guidance on the transfer of parks and green spaces 'Community-led spaces: a guide for local authorities and community groups' has been produced by Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment with the Asset Transfer Unit. Eight case studies from across England show a variety of approaches. Contact: Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, 1 Kemble Street, London WC2B 4AN; www.cabe.org.uk; 020 7070 6700