



Calendar 2009

Welcome to our calendar – a month-by-month report of our key activities during 2008 and a plan of 2009 activities.

We hope that you find the calendar an enjoyable read and that the information we've included is of use to you and/or your group in helping you use the services VAC offers. Some key dates throughout the calendar should help achieve this:

Newsletter – we've listed the deadlines for submission of articles. Please contact Amanda Kent (om@cvac.org.uk) if you would like to use our newsletter to promote your own events or have an article published.

Staff meetings – we've put in the dates of our staff meetings for the next year, so you are aware that staff are likely to be unavailable during this time. If you would like to attend one of our meetings to make a presentation about your own group, you are very welcome. Please contact Amanda Kent (om@cvac.org.uk) to arrange this.

We hope that 2009 is a busy, productive and enjoyable year for all our groups.

Remember we are here to support you with all your organisational development and volunteering needs:

Funding	Governance	Volunteer Recruitment	Training Courses	Resource Library
Constitutions	CRB checks	Policies and Procedures	Good Practice Guides	
Management Committees		Volunteer Supervisors' Network	Supported Volunteering	
BME Network		Sub-regional links	Website	
Infrastructure Partnership	Room Hire	Newsletter	Equipment Hire	Outreach Services

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has used a service of VAC over the past year, whether it has been on an outreach basis or at the Resource Centre, involved organisational development or use of the Volunteer Centre. Perhaps you have only received our newsletter or been involved in more structured, intensive support. Whichever service you have used or received, I hope that you have found it beneficial, practical and helpful and that our staff have been knowledgeable and supportive.

2009 will see big changes for our sector with the furtherance of commissioning and procurement procedures and a the beginning of delivery of sub-regionally funded contracts. Here at VAC we have been working hard at making strong working relationships across all sectors within Calderdale, forging partnerships with the CVS's in the other districts of West Yorkshire and building on the good relations with our sub-regional partners to ensure that Calderdale is well placed to benefit from these processes. VAC hopes that the efforts it has been putting into these relationships and partnerships over the past year will bear fruit throughout 2009, enabling us to bring funds into the District to support front-line groups with service delivery.

Finally, my thanks are extended to those who enable everything to happen for VAC: the staff team who work really hard at providing an up-to-date, supportive and relevant service; our volunteers, who week-in week-out come into the Resource Centre to support our staff team with administrative and reception duties; the Board of Trustees, who guide and steer the ship that is Voluntary Action Calderdale and finally; our various funders for their financial support.

Happy reading and I hope to see you all in 2009.

Soo Nevison

Soo Nevison
Chief Officer – Voluntary Action Calderdale

How to contact us: Main telephone number: 01422 348777 Fax: 01422 348779 email: info@cvac.org.uk

Address: Resource Centre, Hall Street, Halifax, HX1 5AY web: www.cvac.org.uk

Staff can also be contacted on direct dial numbers and personal email addresses. A full list is supplied on our website

January 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Years Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 VAC Staff meeting	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Yuan Tan	27	28	29 VAC's Annual Funding Fair	30	31

It all started with a lot of excitement. We found out we had been successful in securing funding from the Big Lottery to run a project for four years that would support the groups, organizations and communities in the Upper and Lower Valley areas of Calderdale AND that we had secured 'v'-involved funding to lead not one but two projects, in partnership with schools, Calderdale College and VCS partners (see later for more details of both projects).

However as you will all know VAC is renowned for its Annual Funding Fair each January, to help you, our customers, achieve exactly the same as us.

This year we decided to expand the Fair to include workshops alongside the usual stands from funders. Over 145 people came through the doors, with the workshops on Fundraising (delivered by Fit 4 Funding) and Commissioning and Procurement (Debbie Gaunt, CMBC) proving popular in both the morning and afternoon. Stalls included the Big Lottery, Comic Relief and Joseph Rowntree, alongside our own local funders CMBC and Community Foundation for Calderdale.



All-in-all the day was enjoyed by everyone. For VAC it was great to see so many of you, new and old, come into Halifax to join us. Your feedback also showed us that all the work behind the scenes is well worth it.

'Good range of facilities' **'Talk on Fundraising good'**

'Good information to take away' **'Good lively event'**

'All facilitators very friendly and willing to help'

'Good variety of people there' **'Venue excellent'**

Want to join in the fun this year? Come along on Tuesday 27th January 2009 at Elim Church – the day starts at 10 am and further details can be found on our website www.cvac.org.uk/events

L to R: Olivia, Ian and Salma who all organized the 2007 Funding Fair.

February 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Imbolc	2	3	4	5	6 VAC Newsletter submissions deadline	7
8	9 Tengh Chieh	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16	17	18 VAC Staff meeting	19	20	21 Overgate Hospice Ball
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

February saw the start of our Volunteer Support Assistant Training Programme, through the CHOICE project within the Volunteer Centre. CHOICE aims to support individuals with additional needs to get the most out of volunteering, either by finding a suitable placement in Calderdale and/or by providing a Support Assistant to help with the placement. The Assistants are also volunteers and can be with you either on a long or short term basis.



Obviously the VSA role is very important and, because of that, we offer a training programme to anyone interested in becoming a VSA. This covers all kinds of subjects and includes: role and responsibilities; diversity; confidentiality; team building; boundaries; disability awareness; policies and procedures. During the course, you also get 'matched' to the volunteer you will be supporting, as well as undergoing a CRB check. When it's all over, those who complete the course get to go out and celebrate their success.

The project will also work with organisations who wish to support volunteers with additional needs by working with them to identify a suitable placement and then a volunteer to fill it. If a VSA is required to make the placement a success, this service will be provided.

The successful VSAs 2008 – L to R: Rick, Kate, Lauren, Tayba, Steve

For any individuals or organisations interested in CHOICE – give us a call on 01422 348777 ext 204.

March 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 St David's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St Patrick's day	18 VAC Staff meeting	19	20	21 Naw Ruz
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

March – the end of the financial year and time to get those books in order. We would like to thank the following this month for their support over the year, without whom we would be unable to provide the services we do:



improving health, improving lives



April 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 April Fool's Day	2	3 VAC Newsletter submissions deadline	4
5	6 Mental Health Awareness Week	7	8	9	10 Good Friday VAC Office closed	11
12 Easter Sunday	13 Easter Monday VAC Office closed	14 Easter Tuesday VAC Office closed	15 VAC Staff meeting	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 St George's Day	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

In March we sent out the last hard copy of our newsletter and from April went electronic. At VAC we had been worried that our readers would not like this change but, thankfully, you proved us wrong. Lots of you have emailed or phoned us to say how much you like the newsletter now you receive it in full colour and we are pleased, not only be meeting your needs, but doing our own part to save the planet. Don't worry if you haven't got access to the net – we still send a hard copy to every library in the district, so there's one nearby. Not receiving the newsletter by email? Send your details to Amanda (om@cvac.org.uk) and she will add you to the list!



April also saw the start of a new short term project called 'Sporting Equals'. Specifically aimed at people aged 16-25 from minority, refugee or migrant communities, it was designed to get more young people involved in volunteering for sports groups. The project was able to support individuals to gain coaching qualifications, provide travel expenses and cover equipment costs, to make it easier to volunteer in sport. The project only ran until the end of June, culminating in a successful five-a-side football tournament.

Picture: The first Sporting Equals 5-a-side Tournament was a fantastic success. Eight teams joined in including the REMA team from Rotherham! Calderdale College, Voluntary Action Calderdale and Himmat came together for this exciting challenge.

Despite some real competition, the European 11 from Halifax won the day.

May 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Beltaine Day	2
3	4 May Day Bank Holiday – VAC office closed	5	6	7	8	9 Buddha Day
10	11	12	13 VAC Staff meeting	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Midsummer Solstice	21 Midsummer Solstice	22	23
24	25 Spring Bank Holiday – VAC office closed.	26 VAC office closed	27	28	29 Calderdale Neighbours Day	30

Inspiring a million more young volunteers

May saw the beginning of 'v'-involved at VAC when Sarah Ward, the Youth Volunteering Development Manager joined the team.

'v' involved is for young people aged 16-25, aiming to increase the numbers of young people in volunteering and to also improve the opportunities available to them We are involved in two projects – Strand 1: brokerage and increasing the opportunities available (working in partnership with Calderdale College and Ryburn Valley High School) and Strand 2: Providing new opportunities for young people (working in partnership with Pitstop, Youth Forward at St George's Lee Mount, Gay and Lesbian Youth in Calderdale (GALYIC) and Project Challenge). Replacing the old Millennium Volunteers scheme, it has new elements to it that are really keeping us busy! One of the new parts is the formation of a Youth Action Team, the YAT, who have the task of guiding the project as it develops, keeping Sarah focused, ensuring that young people are represented and heard in the project – oh, and to make sure things are fun! The YAT meet regularly with Sarah and also enjoyed a fun team building day at Bradley Woods this year.



June 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 Volunteers' Week starts	2	3	4	5 VAC Newsletter submissions deadline	6
7 Volunteers' Week ends	8	9	10 VAC Staff meeting	11	12	13
14	15 Refugee Week starts	16	17	18	19 Dragon Boat Festival	20
21 Refugee Week ends.	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

June – starting with Volunteers Week and ending with Refugee Week – it certainly means a busy time for the Volunteer Centre Team and the other VAC staff who muck in to help out.



Volunteers' Week

So what did Volunteers' Week bring in 2008? It all began with a launch at Sunday Care. Steve gathered together an energetic bunch, including The Worshipful The Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Calderdale, Cllr and Mrs Winterburn and Soo Nevison the Chief Officer at VAC, in order to give those who volunteer at Sunday Care a day off. The 'new'

volunteers served lunch, chatted to the guests and cleaned up before helping serve afternoon tea. It was great fun for all involved.

Other activities included the now famous Volunteers' Week Oscars Awards. In its third year we were forced to allocate tickets due to its popularity. Awards were presented by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr and Mrs O'Neill, with Harvey's of Halifax and Royal Sun Alliance providing some financial backing. Again, hugely popular, immensely enjoyable and great entertainment. In 2009 we may need to move venue to make sure everyone can attend....

The popular 'Speed Matching', introduced in 2007, this year went to Todmorden, resulting in a few new partnerships being formed between volunteer and agency, the Volunteer Supervisors' Network members went on their annual 'stroll' and a Volunteer Fair was held in the Woolshops – oh and we managed to squeeze in taking over the Mayor's Charity Stall outside the library.

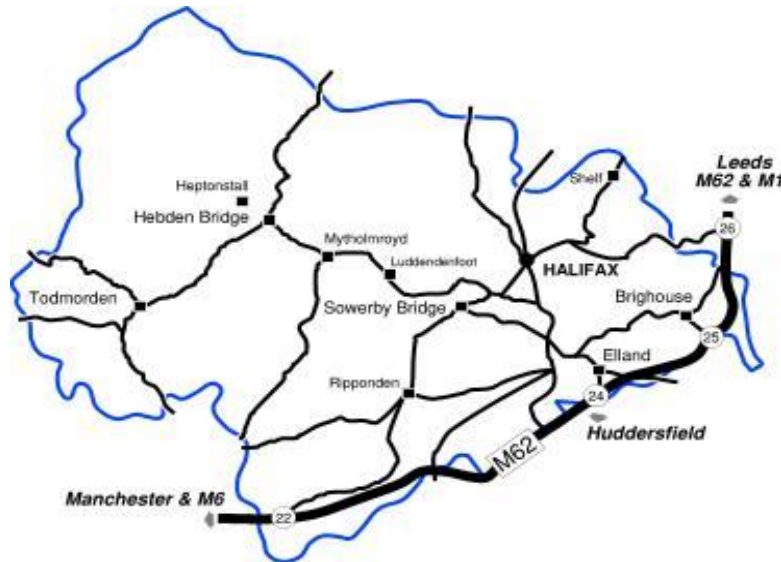
Picture – VAC volunteers receive their Oscars



July 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Asalha Puja	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 VAC Staff meeting	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30Tisha B'av	31	

It seems like a long time ago now but, following the award of a grant from the Big Lottery under their BASIS (Building and Sustaining Infrastructure Services) programme, the staff were finally in post.



But what did this mean in real terms? This project is led by VAC in partnership with the Community Forum. The project means that the co-ordinator post of the Forum is sustained until 2012 and VAC has workers dedicated to the Upper and Lower Valley areas until then too! There are two specialists in the BASIS programme – Bee who covers volunteering and Mary who covers organisational development. This means we are able to ensure that the volunteer drop-in services right across the Borough are manned weekly, training is available for volunteer involving organizations and we hope to introduce Action Learning Sets for Volunteers Supervisors. Alongside this Mary can come and provide one-to-one support for groups and organizations in Upper and Lower Valley areas, provide advice at an outreach clinic, provide needs-led training programmes and support the Community Development Workers Network. If you require further details about the drop-ins across

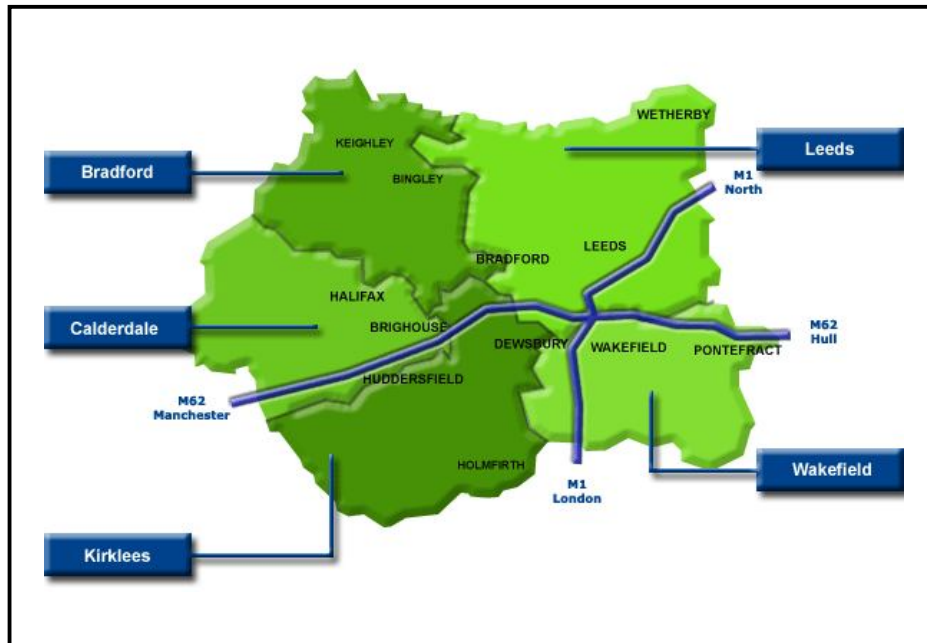
Calderdale please contact Bee, bee.jasko@cvac.org.uk or ring 01422 431098 and, to book an appointment/find out about support with Mary, email mary.vadaie@cvac.org.uk or ring 01422 431097

July also saw the arrival of a new Finance Officer, as we bid a fond farewell to Margaret, who had moved on to Ovenden and Mixenden Initiative. Gillian joined us; working 18 hours a week, to make sure the financial wheels keep turning! She has over 20 years' experience as a finance officer in local government and with a utility company. More recently, she worked at a welfare benefits service for people living with cancer.

August 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 VAC Newsletter submissions deadline	8 Mazda Triathlon London
9	10	11	12 VAC Staff meeting	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Ramadan starts
23	24 Late Summer Bank Holiday – VAC office closed	25 VAC office closed	26	27	28	29

August 2008 brought us the theme of 'partnership working across West Yorkshire'. Soo Nevison was asked by our sub-regional colleagues to lead on the development of a Big Lottery Rural bid for the whole of West Yorkshire. It's an exciting venture for VAC as it means working with other agencies across West Yorkshire and being able to address the needs of one of our most isolated areas in Calderdale. There are lots of partners for us to work with and, with a bit of luck, we will secure the funding and start our new adventure in 2009.



In August we also found out that further funding had been secured to support the BME Network until 2011, with the lead agency being CoEMO of Bradford. This funding is also part of a West Yorkshire wide project and therefore we will also be working closely with BME Networks in Leeds, Kirklees and Wakefield as well as Bradford. The length of the funding also provides security for the BME Network in the longer term. VAC has also been supported by the PCT and Park Community Initiative in this venture, so it is not only a partnership across West Yorkshire, but also a partnership within Calderdale!!!

The three-year funding has also meant that we can employ a dedicated BME Network Development Worker, Arshad Khan. Arshad used to work for VAC on the URBAN II programme, so he will be familiar to many of you. It also means he has an existing relationship with many of the groups based in Central Halifax and he now hopes to build similar relationships further afield in Calderdale. If you are interested in finding out more about the BME Network, please get in touch: Arshad.khan@cvac.org.uk or 01422 348777 to leave a message.

September 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 VAC Staff meeting	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 EID-UL-FITR Ramadan ends	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

September witnessed the Inaugural Evening Courier 'Community and Environment' Awards and our very own Soo Nevison was part of the judging panel. After much discussion and hard decisions, the panel (which also included Roger Wilson - HBOs, Pam Warhurst - Todmorden, Nick Johnston - Community Foundation and John Furbisher - Courier Editor) chose the following groups for the following community awards:



- Best New Charity: Weekend Care
- Charity/Business Partnership: Project Challenge Employability Project
- Trustee Board of the Year: Halifax Opportunities Trust
- Outstanding Individual Achievement: Holly Bottomley – Brighouse
- Charity of the Year: HomeStart Calderdale

Kerbside were successful in the Environment Categories, walking away with Best Recycling Initiative and Green Champion (for Robert Elliott).

September sees the beginning of planning for all sorts of events and, for VAC, it's when we begin to think about Refugee Week. So, what sort of things do we organise? In May 2008 there was a fundraising gig at the Square Chapel with music from Bleeding Hearts, Sex Patels and Tracy Curtis, to name but a few, with the proceeds going to the HASP project. Then, during Refugee Week itself, we ran a number of events to raise the profile of Refugee and Asylum Seekers in Halifax. A highlight of 2008 was a visit from the Banner Theatre, who did their fantastic production 'They give free mobiles, don't they?' – a myth busting play using dance, music and actual footage to highlight the plight of Asylum Seekers in the UK.



Guests included the Worshipful The Mayor and Mayoress (Cllr and Mrs Winterburn) of Halifax and ex-MP Alice Mahon. Other entertainment was provided by Irish Dancers and Sambalifax. The event also included sampling food from Congo, Syria, Ireland, Iran and Algeria with samosas from Halifax thrown in for good measure. A fun event, with a serious theme, enjoyed by all who got involved!

October 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
3	5 VAC Newsletter submissions deadline	6	7 Pavarana	8	9 World Mental Health Day	10
11	12	13	14 VAC Staff meeting	15	16	17 Divali
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Clocks go back one hour!	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

VAC spent quite a lot of time working on a pilot project for Calderdale Primary Care Trust (PCT) in 2008, supporting groups with understanding the commissioning process and also finding out what barriers they were facing.

The overall aim of the project was to increase the knowledge of groups in commissioning and tendering, but also to help the PCT understand the difficulties the VCS face and take these into account in the future when they are setting up their systems and processes for commissioning of services.



The four groups selected to work in this pilot were: Shopmobility, Samaritans, Halifax Table Tennis Centre and Healthy Minds. All the groups worked really hard: going through a mini-tender process at the beginning; undertaking organisational health checks and then working to a development plan. In return, they received £5k each and a bursary to support training needs for the organisation.

Part the project involved a 'Grand Tour' in late October, where all the projects visited each other's premises and found out more about each other. Guests on the tour included Rob Webster (Chief Officer Executive of the PCT) and Martin Pursey, from the PCT's Commissioning Unit. The day was not only fun but educational and everyone also managed to grab a bargain at the Samaritan's charity shop in Elland!

Photos: Rob Webster enjoying a bit of table tennis (above) with Alan Dickinson and grabbing a bargain at the Samaritans shop in Elland, with Hilary, a Trustee from the Samaritans.



November 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Remembrance Sunday	9	10	11 Armistice Day	12	13	14
15 Shichi-Go-San	16	17	18 VAC Staff meeting	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 St Andrew's Day					

November saw VAC staff running up and down to London for all sorts of things. Firstly, the Healthy Towns bid; Soo was part of the team, led by CMBC and Calderdale PCT that netted Halifax £2m, to support initiatives around physical activity and healthy eating, in order to combat obesity.

Soo's second journey, as part of the Calderdale Compact Steering Group, was to attend an awards dinner and reception at 11 Downing Street as part of the Commission for the Compact Annual Awards.

The logo for Calderdale Compact features the words "Calderdale Compact" in a blue, sans-serif font. The text is centered between two horizontal blue bars of equal length.

Changing the way we work together

Calderdale came home with a Compact Excellence Award, especially noted for the work we have done supporting frontline organisations. This was the first time we entered the Awards and, since 2008 was the 10th Anniversary of the Compact, we were very pleased with our success.

POPPs Neighbourhood Schemes who were shortlisted in November, for an LCG Award 2009 - Community Involvement. The team went down to London to do a presentation to the panel of judges and, as this goes to print, we are all crossing our fingers for a successful result in January 2009.



Further success emanated from the

What else in November? Both the Neighbourhood Schemes celebrated their first birthdays, with Todmorden using the occasion to launch OAK as a constituted group. This was celebrated with afternoon tea at the Town Hall and much fun was had by all who attended.



In Halifax, a sadder time, as we lost Kate, our Support Worker, who'd been with us from the start - getting all the fun activities up and running. On a brighter note, the POPPs table tennis team Halifax were still battling on in the local league - we wish them ongoing success. And in November we also found out the Neighbourhood Schemes would 'survive' after March 2009 - firstly staying with VAC until June 2009 and then going Calderdale-wide via the Council, with VAC retaining one worker to support the groups set up during the first phase.

December 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 VAC Newsletter submissions deadline	5
6	7	8 Bodhi Day	9	10	11	12 Hanukah
13	14	15	16 VAC Staff meeting	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Summer 2008



December 2008



December saw the unveiling of the completed works to the Resource Centre, with new pointing and windows. Thanks to funding from the Big Lottery we are now much warmer and have great ventilation. We have also upgraded the training room with a SMART board and projector – why not come and see?

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