

Jul/Aug 2010

Voluntary Action
Calderdale
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www.cvac.org.uk

Registered Charity
No. 1087518
Company Ltd by
Guarantee Reg. In
England
No 4115234



Welcome to Voluntary Action Calderdale's July and August Newsletter. This issue is packed full of information to help you.

Congratulations to The Ground Floor Project

We would like to offer our hearty congratulations to The Ground Floor Project for achieving The Queens Award For Voluntary Service. This is the voluntary equivalent of an MBE. The full letter is reprinted on page 6.

Vetting and Barring Update

The vetting and Barring scheme which was due to become law in November 2010 has now been postponed. Please find more details on page 23.


Battle of the Bands

The V-involved team are looking for young bands to who would like the opportunity to play in the Piece Hall. You need to be quick—the finally entry date is Monday 5th July. Find out how to get involved on page 17.

The Community Foundation have Moved

The community foundation have changed location. They now live closer to the train station in town. Pages 3—4 have their new address as well as information about the latest Community Foundation events and programmes.

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE VAC WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST UPDATES ON:
VACANCIES, EVENTS, TRAINING, & INFORMATION

 Please consider the environment before printing this document

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Volunteer Drop-Ins :

Sowerby Bridge (Library)

Wednesdays – 11.00 – 1.00

Todmorden (Community Car Service Office)

Thursdays – 10.00 – 1.00

Halifax (VAC)

Thursdays – 1.00 – 3.00

Brighouse (Wellhome Children's Centre)

Tuesdays – 15.00 – 17.00

Elland, Hebden Bridge or Ripponden.

Appointments can be made on request.

WHO'S WHO AT VA-C

Soo Nevison	Chief Officer
Steve Blackman	Volunteer Centre Manager
Joanne Bolland	Organisational Development Manager
Matt Blackmore	Operations Manager
Gillian Seed	Finance Officer
Tracy McWhire	Safeguarding Support Worker
Audrey Smith	Volunteer Development Worker
Sarah Ward	Youth Volunteer Dev Manager
Steve Element	VAC Administrative Support Worker
Olivia Swingler	Organisational Development Worker
Kate Howorth	Supported Volunteer Dev Worker
Mary Vadaie	Outreach Organisational Dev Worker
Laura Able	Organisational Development Worker
Bee Jasko	Outreach Volunteer Development Worker
Arshad Khan	BME Network Development Worker
Sue Fisher	VCS Commissioning Support Worker
Maggie Opacic	Funding Advice Worker
Andy Goff	RISS Co-ordinator
Christopher Garside	Marketing and Events Assistant
Wayne Illingworth	Information Worker
Sarah-Jane Kitchen	Trainee Information Worker
Claire Sullivan	Training Administrator

VOLUNTEERS:

Kath Hodgson, Ed Penny, Ruth, Paul Eaton, Claire Sullivan, Samina, Debbie , Christine.

If you have any interesting pieces of news or events that need publicising, please send them to Matt Blackmore at VA-C:- e-mail: mattblackmore@cvac.org.uk

OPENING HOURS

Resource Centre, Halifax:
Mon - Thurs 9.45 - 4.00
& Fri 9.45 -12.30

OUTREACH SUPPORT

VA-C are committed to ensuring that our services are accessible to all parts of Calderdale. If requested, we will endeavour to come out and see you at your own venue or one most convenient to you.

Voluntary Action Calderdale supports charities, voluntary organisations and community groups in Calderdale.

We provide direct advice to all voluntary and community groups, enabling them to carry out their work across Calderdale.

We exist to encourage effectiveness, innovation and co-operation in the voluntary and community sector in Calderdale and to work with other networks to ensure that the voices of the sector are heard.

We seek to identify and respond to new and emerging community needs by assisting the creation and development of innovative projects.

We are committed to prioritising services and targeting resources to communities and interest groups in greater need.

We are fully committed to Equal Opportunities and the elimination of all forms of discrimination.

Voluntary Action Calderdale newsletter is produced 6 times a year and is full of information to help organisations work effectively. It keeps readers informed about legislative and financial issues, guides them towards funding opportunities and provides news about events, activities and new services, recruitment and resources.

For further information please contact :

Voluntary Action Calderdale on 0845 4500272.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

9th August

Community Foundation News Cont ...

New from Calderdale NHS

Reducing the Harm of Alcohol

Watch out for our small grants programme from Calderdale NHS being launched in September. A programme worth £9,000 is in the pipeline and awards of up to £3,000 will be awarded to projects working to reduce the damage of alcohol to children and young people, both directly and indirectly.

Current Funding Programmes

Healthy Halifax: 4Health 4Fun 4Life

for people in Illingworth & Mixenden, Ovenden, Park and Town Wards.

Could you run a project to encourage people to take more exercise and eat more fruit and vegetables?

There is still time to submit an application for up to £10,000 for projects to be completed by July 2011.

ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) Access Fund

If your organisation needs help in applying to ERDF, you can apply for up to £10,000 to cover the costs of overcoming the obstacles. For example, you could apply for an award to cover the costs of a feasibility study.

Drop-in for Advice

We will be running a monthly Drop-in from September for people to receive face to face advice about applying for one of our grants. Colleagues from Voluntary Action Calderdale may also be on hand to give advice on organisational development and other sources of support.

The first one will be on Thursday 16 September at 5.00 pm at our new offices at Discovery Road.

Community spirit - Bringing people together through play

29 September 2010 - Sheffield

Play England and Yorkshire Play are hosting a joint event focussing on the notion of community and the need to create a sense of pride, ownership and community spirit in order to create safer, more child friendly and inclusive environments for children to play. Delegates will choose from a variety of strategic and practical workshops, and will be involved in consultation taster sessions with local school children. Police Community Support Officers and Neighbourhood teams are invited to discuss community safety and take further action in support of local play opportunities. Sensory Trust will be discussing inclusion while KIDS introduce practical activities to include all children in play; we also have a range of workshops focused on playful ideas for 'credit crunch' games and nature activities.

This fun-packed day will help delegates understand their role in developing playable communities and broaden communication between organisations that have a responsibility in improving children and young people's opportunities to play, and increase partnership working, whilst providing practical skills and knowledge to use in their community and profession.

For more information please visit www.playengland.org.uk/yorkshirehumber

Partnerships and Consortia

Why now?

There is increasing emphasis on the need to develop closer working relationships between voluntary and community organizations. This comes about for a variety of reasons:

- ✱ Tenders are getting larger and the sector needs to be able to respond
- ✱ Public Sector Organisations are moving towards contracts which are aggregated
- ✱ Smaller organizations do not have the competitive edge when contracts go out to tender
- ✱ Organisations are more likely to be successful if they collaborate rather than compete
- ✱ Better services can be provided both geographically and in specialist provision when working in a consortia
- ✱ A larger size can raise the profile
- ✱ Opportunities for influence and voice can increase

To respond to changes in funding opportunities, organisations need to explore ways to work together as partners/consortia.

In June VAC have offered training sessions about Commissioning and Partnerships/Consortia.

On Tuesday 13 July, 9.30 – 12.30 a session on Contracts and Legal issues will be delivered to raise awareness and understanding.

For more information and bookings please contact: Sue.Fisher@cvac.org.uk



Safeguarding Message from Bernadette Johansen

I am very aware of the valuable contribution that many voluntary groups make to the lives of children and young people.

It's therefore important that you know what to do if you are concerned about a child. You also need to have a policy in place so that everyone in your organisation also knows what to do.

For this reason, several events will be running over the next 12 months at VAC in the evening and on Saturdays.

A training session will be held first and this will then be followed by a workshop on Safeguarding policies and procedures.

Access to safeguarding e-learning is also available free of charge to charitable organisations. For details, please contact Helen.flemming-scott@calderdale.gov.uk



Ground Floor Project and its subsidiary projects including DOT-COMmuniCaTions and 3R-iT, based at the Salem Community Resource Centre in Hebden Bridge has been announced as a winner of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the MBE for volunteer groups.

This prestigious National Honour recognises outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups voluntarily devoting their time for the benefit of others. It sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, with the work of those awarded being judged of the highest standard.

Ground Floor Project, already a double winner of the Duke Of York Award (in 2007 and again in 2010), has received their latest honour for the work it does in providing premises for 54 different groups covering all ages, for creating new and exiting ventures such as the first rural car share scheme in the country and the first kerbside recycling collection, for providing IT help and repair facilities to the voluntary sector through DOT-COMmuniCaTions, for refurbishing and recycling of IT equipment through the 3R-iT scheme and for operating using mainly New Deal Trainees and Volunteers and providing work skill training for them.

Winners of this year's Award were nominated by members of the public who have been helped personally or witnessed the benefits of a group's work in their community.

Ground Floor Project will receive a certificate signed by the Queen and an exclusive commemorative crystal, presented by Her Majesty's representative in Yorkshire, Lord-Lieutenant Dr. Ingrid Roscoe, at a special ceremony. Members of the group will also attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in the summer.

Speaking of their success, Ground Floor Chairman Les Siddall said: "This is an outstanding and Prestigious National Honour and I am proud to be Chairman of an organisation that has received this the ultimate Royal recognition. I believe the award is a tribute to Ground Floors 30 years of community work and to all our volunteers and new deal workers who contribute so much. I also see it has recognition for the many years that our manager Jae Campbell and I have devoted to the Ground Floor Project and to the community at large."

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Main Award Committee Chair and former broadcast journalist Martyn Lewis CBE said, "Outstanding volunteer groups across the UK all too often go without recognition for the truly amazing work they do, despite the vital part they play in helping bind our communities together. It's a great pleasure to celebrate the efforts of Ground Floor Project with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and help raise awareness of all they do for the benefit of others."

In Trustees we trust

Board member, director, governor or just someone on the management committee, whatever the label, helping to manage a charity means that the buck may well stop with you if anything goes wrong

There is a need for charity trustees to have a clear picture of what is going on in the organisation they are in charge of and particularly how charitable monies are being handled and spent. It can be difficult; everyone's short of time and everything looks as it should, so why rock the boat by asking awkward questions?

The sobering answer is that as a trustee you are potentially personally liable for what the organisation does, or does not do.

We carry out PAT testing once a year on our electrical appliances, but how often do we do a health check to see how safe our organisation is or how credible and accountable?

The keys to avoiding personal liability are to always:

- Act reasonably and work as a team, if there are disagreements, deal with them promptly and record decisions.

- Comply with your governing document

- Take appropriate guidance where you don't know enough to make a decision

- Take appropriate professional advice where you are required to by law

First things first, ask are we running according to our own constitution and charitable purpose. "Is our constitution up to date?"

Further food for thought:

What is the state of your organisation's finances?

What is the financial planning process? Have you been part of it?

How is information communicated and shared between trustees?

Are things open and transparent?

How are tasks agreed, monitored and recorded.

Are differing opinions registered?

How well does the board delegate and oversee the functions of sub-committees, the chief officer and other staff and monitor their performance?

How often do you step back and review progress to date and measure your effectiveness?

Continues on next Page

Good news: the wheel is already invented

There are lots of established practical ideas and solutions for any area that you might be having difficulty with.

Simple steps such as making key dates and deadlines visible on a wall chart, or sharing information about tasks, responsibilities and progress via a spreadsheet that everyone can update, can easily be put into action.

A good starting point is to carry out a review of your board's health and procedural performance by going through the Code of Governance for the Voluntary and Community Sector (available from NCVO). It's a practical and easy-to use guide to help charities, large or small, to develop good practice (see below for where to get copies).

Organisational health screening makes sense and like other forms of screening if you have the chance to do it, but choose not to and then develop a serious problem, there's really no-one else to blame.

The important thing to remember is that when it comes to trustee responsibility, ignorance is no defence.

Voluntary Action Calderdale can carry out a Health Check for organisations to assess their current operating situation and look at areas of improvement and development.

We have other resources you can access such as our Planning Toolkit.

Who is a charity trustee?

Trustees are defined by what they do, not how they are labelled. They can be:

- Management committee members
- Council members
- Board members
- Governors
- Executive committee members
- Directors

Trustees have and must accept ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and delivering the charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public for which it has been set up.

Charity Trustee Network: www.trusteenet.org.uk

A wide range of online resources including a forum for swapping ideas and tips on how to 'cut the red tape'. Includes a newsletter for Chairs or Trustees.

The Charity Commission:

All publications can be downloaded for free or ordered from 0845 300 0218

See www.charitycommission.gov.uk

Publications include: The Essential Trustee: what you need to know

NCVO – The National Council of Voluntary Organisations

Most publications are available to download for FREE or you can buy by calling 0800 2 798 798.

see www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/governanceandleadership/

Sign up for a regular Governance and Leadership email newsletter

NCVO Leadership Services – tailored online support Publications include:

Reducing the Risks – A guide to Trustee Liabilities (£5)

The Good Trustee Guide (£25)

Code of Governance Toolkit (£15)

The A-Z of Good Governance. A pack of 26 lighthearted cards to explore key issues in good governance (£5)

Another chance to ...

Join a local EcoTeam!



- Meet new people in your community
- Reduce your carbon footprint
- Save money on your household bills

To find out more, contact:

Come and find out more on 7th July in Hebden Bridge and Halifax.

To book your free place, contact the ATC on 01422 842121 or email info@alternativetechnology.org.uk

www.ecoteams.org.uk



Voluntary Action Calderdale's RESOURCE LIBRARY

Currently at VAC, we are updating our Resource Library. We will be making the Library accessible, relevant and more inviting for visitors from the voluntary and community sector.

You will find:

- * Up-to-date publications and magazines from Calderdale Council, Compact, Third Sector, Directory of Social Change and Business Link materials to name a few.
- * A wide range of information on Volunteering and Organisational Development
- * Internet access
- * Two seating areas with tables, ideal for discussions and meetings.
- * Display boards promoting charitable causes and diverse issues (at present there is a REFUGEE WEEK showcase)

...AND MUCH MORE!

Before visiting our Resource Library, make sure you book an appointment to do so by speaking to a member of staff here at VAC on:
01422 348777



Calderdale MBC News

Calderdale Council's Small Grants team received 55 applications for the first round of 2010/11. The meeting took place on 27 May 2010 and the Panel awarded a total of £27,673 to voluntary and community groups in Calderdale. Awards included £1,200 to Loved Ones Unite for the construction of a new website to help families affected by drug and alcohol abuse, and £930 for an outdoor screening licence for the Halifax Festival.

The Big Debate

we want you to discuss:

- COALITION GOVERNMENT
- BUDGET CHANGES
- FUTURE WAYS OF WORKING

July 14th 2010

1pm-4.30PM

THE SHAY STADIUM

TO BOOK A FREE PLACE and MORE INFORMATION

EMAIL:

EMMA@CALDERDALECOMMUNITYFORUM.ORG.UK



Calderdale Community Forum

Voice of the 3rd Sector in Calderdale

'Dine to make a Difference'



In this tough economy, it's so important to look after those who are less privileged.

This July we are seeking people to invite friends in their home and host a 'Dine to make a difference' evening, to help raise funds for the St Augustine's Centre.

It's simple...Each guest you invite pays £10 in return for some fun, food and good will!

All money raised will go towards the St Augustine's Centre's summer activities, which are aimed at alleviating isolation, poverty and raising the health and well being of centre participants.

If you'd like to host an evening please contact kate.fawcett@staugustinescentrehalifax.org.uk or call 01422 342719.

Please state when you plan to 'Dine to make a Difference' and how many guests will be invited. Once you've signed up you will then be sent an information pack to help you prepare for the evening.

The St. Augustine's centre will be having it's very own International Scarecrow Festival on August 31st 2010. Throughout July & August we will be running workshops every Tuesday 11.30am - 2.30pm to design and build the scarecrows. However we are in need of some materials...

- * Sequins/Sparkly things
- * Wool/Sting (Hair colours)
- * Old Clothing (hats, gloves, shoes/boots)
- * Any accessories / old jewellery that would make it more realistic, handbags scarves.
- * Newspapers
- * Scrap (recycled paper)
- * Card board
- * Shredded Paper

If you have any of the above please could you let me know or drop them off at the centre Mon - Thursday 9am - 4pm. Volunteers are welcome to come along and help.

Launch of NHS Calderdale Sign Posting Project & CommunityLunch

Wednesday 14th July

St. Augustine's Centre, Hanson Lane

12 – 2pm

We would like to invite you to the launch of the
NHS Calderdale Sign Posting Project.

The aim of this project is to give people who are new to the UK, and organisations that support them, a clearer understanding of how to find appropriate medical facilities in Calderdale.

The project was developed by a group of migrants from different countries with English as their second language.

They worked with the NHS to improve access to medical services through designing and creating a simple, user friendly website www.healthsignposting.co.uk and an accompanying booklet. They are in several different languages and are available now.

The launch event will provide you with the opportunity to view the website and get a copy of the booklet to share with your colleagues and service users.

For more information or to let us know you are coming please contact Elizabeth Haworth [Eliza-
beth.Haworth@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:Elizab-eth.Haworth@calderdale.gov.uk) or

Kate Fawcett kate.fawcett@staugustinescentrehalifax.org.uk

Look forward to seeing you there!

FUTURE JOBS FUND

Voluntary Action Calderdale are pleased to be able to employ 3 people using the Future Jobs Fund scheme. All 3 Future Jobs Funds folks have really helped us in a number of areas. Please find a bit of information about them below.

Sarah-Jane Kitchen- Volunteer Development Assistant

After leaving University I was searching for something to do with my time that I would enjoy and could get something out of, after getting a job at VAC, I feel as if I've really landed on my feet!

I've been at VAC for over a month now and am still really enjoying my work as a Volunteer Support Assistant in the Volunteer Centre. My role involves spending a lot of time checking the volunteering database to add new volunteering opportunities and organisations, something essential. In addition, my role also includes answering enquiries from volunteers made through the national volunteering website do-it.org.uk about opportunities that they are interested in.

The part of my job I enjoy the most is getting to talk to people about what they would really like to volunteer in. It's always great to hear the variety of areas volunteers would like to become involved with, from admin to sports coaching; driving to conservation work. The list of volunteering opportunities are endless and it's very rewarding for me knowing that we can help volunteers with great skills make a difference and do something they really enjoy!

Chris Garside—Marketing and Events Assistant

I have been working at Voluntary Action Calderdale for four months now out of a six month contract. I discovered the job vacancy through the Future Jobs Fund scheme as part of the Job Centre's new deal programme. In my time here I have adopted many relevant transferrable skills and met some great people. An artist by education, VAC has taught me to apply my practical skills in professional practice, working in the position of Marketing and Events Assistant. I was nervous before starting but have found my experience here to be very positive, inuring myself into the working environment and out of the benefits system, on which I had been stranded for six months after graduating from University. Although my employment here is reaching an end, I feel that the scheme has helped me move forward in a big way with my experience here opening many doors and opportunities for my next career steps. I think that the future jobs fund is very effective at helping young adults to get on their feet and am very grateful for the help I have received.

Wayne Illingworth— Information Worker

Wayne has been working on VAC's new database of groups. The database is very near completion and more information will be available soon. In addition, Wayne has been having a really good sort out of our resource room at VAC. More information about this is available in this newsletter.

Wayne also volunteers for other organisations including Phoenix FM and Square Chapel Centre for the Arts.

TRAINING



TRAINING May/June 10



UPDATE ON VOLUNTARY ACTION CALDERDALE'S TRAINING PROGRAMME

VAC produced in April a new training programme to cover April 2010 – March 2011, which was sent out to groups via mail and email (if you did not receive a copy can you please contact Sarah-Jane Kitchen on 01422 438726 or e-mail training@cvac.org.uk to request a copy).

As part of the new processes we have put in place for our training programme we have introduced a charging system – see below

	Under £5k	Over £5k – Under £20k	Over £20k	Statutory & Outside of Calderdale
Half day	£5.00	£10.00	£15.00	£30.00
Full day	£5.00	£15.00	£25.00	£60.00

The training covers a variety of areas from funding to safe guarding. If you are interested in any of the courses, please book early to ensure you get a place on the course.

Up and coming sessions include:

SESSION	OUTLINE	DATE & VENUE	TIME	RUN BY
STAFF, TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS EXPENSES	This session looks at practical issues around paying individuals – whether paid staff, trustees or volunteer expenses. It will look at legal implications, and best practice. The session will also look at what are the acceptable expenses that can be paid to trustees and how to write an expenses policy.	6th July 2010 Ground Floor Project, Salem Community Centre, Central Street, Hebden Bridge,	10.00am – 1.00pm	Helen Galvin - WYCAS
APPLYING FOR LARGE GRANTS	Aimed at groups who are considering applications to larger funders such as the Big Lottery Fund, larger trusts, European sources and Government funding streams. The session will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding funders' criteria Understanding how forms are assessed Sustainability 	7th July 2010 VAC, Hall Street, Halifax	10.00am – 12.30pm	Sally Deith-Fit4Fund ing

EVENTS



PERS EMPLOYMENT ADVICE SURGERY AT VAC 15 SEPTEMBER 2010

Does your organisation need advice on an employment issue?

Would you prefer to speak to someone face to face?

PERS (Pay & Employment Rights Service) is joining forces with VAC to offer a day of free advice on employment to voluntary organisations in Calderdale.

This will take place on Wednesday 15 September 2010 at VAC in Halifax. As well as the PERS employment adviser, a VAC development worker will also be present to help and advise your organisation.

Worried about tackling an employment problem? PERS can advise on issues including: disputes and grievances, disciplinary matters, sickness, holidays, redundancy, recruitment, discrimination.

Concerned that your employment contract may not comply with the law? PERS can check that your employment contract is up to date and meets legal requirements.

Are your employment policies adequate and up to date? We can also offer an employment policies healthcheck – just come along with a list of your policies, and any that urgently need reviewing.

Interested? Please ring VAC on 01422 348777 to book an appointment. The appointment will last up to half an hour. For more information about what PERS can help with ring Irene on 01924 428030 or email admin@pers.org.uk. **There will also be a drop in session from 1 pm to 2 pm.**

PERS is funded by the Big Lottery to provide free employment advice to the West Yorkshire voluntary sector.

vinvolvedcalderdale

Call for bands!

Battle of the Bands 2010

Open to ages 16 – 25, bands and solo artists, all music genres considered.

Halifax Festival Battle of the Bands live Final: Thursday 19th August 2010, The Piece Hall

HALIFAX 14-22
festival AUGUST
2010



To enter: Please email BOTB@halifaxfestival.co.uk with the name of your band, a short bio and a link to your myspace or facebook page so we that can hear your sound! You can also email us if you have any questions.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES – Monday 5th July 2010

The small-print: All band members should be aged between 16 and 25. Entries will be assessed by the BOTB panel and a shortlist will be compiled from the entries. We will endeavour to inform shortlisted bands before 1st August and this shortlist will play in the Battle of the Bands final at the Piece Hall during Halifax Festival on Thursday 19th August and the overall winner will be chosen on the night by the BOTB judging panel. Shortlisted bands will need to be available all day on Thursday 19th August for sound checking.

vinvolvedcalderdale



CALDERDALE NEIGHBOUR'S DAY 2010

VAC hosted this year Neighbour's Day with The Piece Hall. 6,000 attended the free event and the weather conditions did not dampen the performer's spirits.

The official opening and address was made by the Mayor of Calderdale Cllr. Ann McAllister. Phoenix FM broadcast live on the day and there were performances from Helen O'Hara, The Loconics, State of Error and Web Idol winner Catherine Matthew, Annapurna Indian Dance Company, Sambalifax, Cheervision, Resonation – Reggae Band. It also included a celebrity guest, Jane Danson who is Leanna Battersby from Coronation Street. Free Workshops ran throughout the day and included Latin and ballroom dance, Indian Dance, Samba music and rock and roll.

A volunteer recruitment marquee showcased organisations who wanted to recruit volunteers. Over 20 volunteers helped out stewarding people. A big thank you to all those who were involved. The event was funded by Calderdale Council and Community Foundation for Calderdale.





Refugee Week 2010

This year saw a wide range of fantastic opportunities for people to come together and celebrate the diverse community of Calderdale.

All the week's events were well attended.

At the Mayor's Gala over fifty people pledged their support for Refugees the photos will be on the website later this month.

'Grow Your Own' provided library goers the chance to see the British Comedy on a 'biggish screen'. The event raised £17 for the Homeless Asylum Project.

The Zimbabwean 'Grassroots Theatre Company' thrilled everyone with their energizing and thought provoking dance. The weather stayed with us all week and we able to watch some 'real' footfall at the 'Refugee Week World Cup' at Park Lane High School. The trophy winners were Crossleys and they have already been challenged to a re match next year.

Perhaps the highlight of the week was the film and fashion show at the St Augustine's Centre. This celebrated the completion of the 'Making Project' which drew on the experiences of the varied community that live in the Park Ward area of Halifax and put them into a contemporary context among Bankfield museum's fantastic collections of textiles and costumes.

As well as these events we also toured local schools sharing the message of 'WELCOME' and trying to dispel the myths that surround the people and their reasons for seeking sanctuary.

If you want to get involved with volunteering with Refugees please contact Audrey Smith on 01422348777.

Scare the Crows!

Come and make a scarecrow at St Augustine's every Tuesday over July and August. Workshops start at 11.30am and are FREE. Contact Kate for more details: 01422 342719

Clear COMmuniCaTions

From those friendly people at **DOT-COMmuniCaTions**



Clear COMmuniCaTions is a regular column offering I.T. advice & support. If you have an IT-related problem that would also benefit others, please send an email to the address shown below, & we'll do our best to answer your questions.

Q. I wanted to do a UK local search on the Google search engine but when I opened up google.co.uk the "UK Only" search button was no longer there. What's happened and how do I do a UK only search now?

A. In the last couple years Google has diversified into many new things including mail, calendars, maps, cars with cameras and the whole earth as seen from space. For many people however it's still viewed principally as a search tool to find things on the internet.

Accordingly there has been quite an uproar in this country recently as the facility to limit internet searches to only UK sites by ticking a check box under the main search entry box seems to have disappeared.

Take heart however, the facility has not been scrapped after all, it's just moved to a new left hand side bar which appears once the first set of search results is displayed.

This has the slight disadvantage that it has become necessary to wait for a second set of results to display UK based sites only, but this is unlikely to be seriously annoying to anyone except those with the slowest PCs or dial up connections.

Once selected the feature is clearly confirmed by a note on a blue background at the top of the results list, and can be easily turned off again by clicking a cross at the right hand end of this bar.

The aforementioned left hand side bar is worth exploring as well as it provides a number of ready made "filters" which can instantly limit search results to specific areas of interest such as Images, News items, Videos, Books, Maps, and more.

Admittedly most of this filtering was already available on the previous version as a top selection bar but somehow it's more accessible now it's down the left hand side, and now for each main selection chosen, context sensitive sub-options appear, allowing further single click filtering – simples!

All together, whilst it's not the most exciting change introduced by a computing company this decade, it's at least worth having a play with and at least the original functionality is still there, just slightly different!

Q. When I run my laptop on battery, it quickly runs down. Is there any way to extend battery time?

A. Batteries do get less powerful with age, especially if not used for a long time. However, before you go out and purchase a replacement battery, try these ideas first.

1. Unplug unnecessary external devices such as USB drives, mouse or external keyboards etc. even when not in use, as anything plugged into a USB port uses energy just by being attached and it soon adds up.
2. Shut down any applications or programs you do not need for the task you are doing. This means anything running in the background, from toolbar search engines to music pages and web pages. Even having an unused CD in the drive uses energy.
3. Keep your laptop cool as this helps it to run more efficiently which extends battery life. Check to make sure the air vents underneath are not obstructed and consider buying a laptop stand to allow air to circulate.
4. Change standby to hibernate. While using standby is convenient it is much more power-intensive than the hibernate function.
5. Consider turning down the screen brightness as this will further reduce the energy required.

Funding for ICT — Children In Need Small Grants Fund

A reminder that up to £10,000 funding per year for up to three years is available from the BBC's fund. ICT equipment must generally be for the direct use of young people. The next closing date is 15 July with further deadline on 15 October. [More information from the BBC.](#)

MS Office Find & Replace trick

Did you know that you can use the find and replace in Office Word to automatically insert text and phrases before and/or after any phrase in your document?

To add say Mr or Ms before all occurrences of your name in a document and your new OBE honour after, use find: your name, then in replace: Ms ^& O.B.E. To change all occurrences of your name to Ms your name O.B.E. The uses for this trick are endless.

FREE Calderdale.COMmuniCaTions Newsletter

Sign up to DOT-COMm's irregular Newsletter filled with I.T. related advice, links and special offers on refurbished equipment. Only available to staff and volunteers of not-for-profit organisations in Calderdale.

To register go to: <http://tinyurl.com/yczm3m6>

DOT-COMmuniCaTions' is Calderdale's **ONLY** dedicated not-for-profit provider of computer support services & solutions to local community, voluntary & faith sector organisations & not-for-profit social enterprises.

For more information & a free consultation,

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering England launches two volunteer management initiatives

New Support Resource for People Managing Volunteers

Volunteering England's new Volunteer Management Portal, launched this today, acts as a gateway to the world of volunteer management with links to over a thousand resources across England.

This means that - for the first time - information on support, training and development opportunities for people managing volunteers is available to view in one single place.

If you work with volunteers, or know someone who does, this invaluable new resource will help you locate a wide variety of training providers and consultants, support and development opportunities.

Visit the portal at <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/vmportal>

A different kind of investment – what does your organisation stand to gain?

Volunteering England today launched the Value Volunteer Management Campaign to increase awareness of the value and importance of investing in volunteer management. Many key organisations have already shown support, including the BBC, Microsoft, Barnardo's, RSPB, National Trust and PDSA.

These organisations know that investing in professional and strategic volunteer management really boosts the value they gain from volunteering, leading to increased budgets, raised organisational profile, strengthened service provision, improved community relations and much, much more.

Visit the campaign site at <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/valuevolunteermanagement> and find out what your organisation stands to gain. You can show your commitment to volunteer management by signing the online endorsement, or by providing a quote or case study.

Both these initiatives are funded by the Office for Civil Society as part of Capacity builders' Volunteer Management Programme.

For portal related enquiries please contact VMportal@volunteeringengland.org

To find out more about the campaign contact valueVM@volunteeringengland.org

Want to be a Volunteer? Looking for volunteers?

Calderdale Volunteer Centre drop-in sessions offer

- * information for individuals about becoming a volunteer and details of over 400 opportunities
- * support for organisations wanting to recruit and include volunteers in their work.



Brighouse drop-in

Every Tues 3pm - 5pm

@ Wellholme Children's Centre.
(Bradford Road)

Sowerby Bridge drop-in

Every Weds 10.30am - 12

@ Sowerby Bridge Library
(Hollins Mill Lane)

Halifax drop-in

Every Thurs 12noon - 3pm

@ Voluntary Action Calderdale
(Hall Street)

Todmorden drop-in

Thurs 2pm - 4pm

@ Community Car Service
(9 Burnley Road)

Elland, Hebden Bridge

or **Ripponden**

Appointments can be made on
request.

**If there is not a location or time that suits you, please
phone 01422 348777 to make an alternative appointment.**

News about the Vetting and Barring Scheme

Hi all, as most of you will be aware the planned introduction of the Vetting and Barring scheme has been halted whilst it is reviewed, please see the attached statement from the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

In its recent document '*The Coalition: Our programme for government*', the Government set out its aim to 'review the criminal records and vetting and barring regime and scale it back to common sense levels'. In order to deliver this promise and carry out the remodeling, the Vetting and Barring Scheme will be halted. The first phase of registration was due to commence on 26 July 2010. Although the Scheme is halted whilst the Government undertakes its review, new safeguarding regulations introduced in October 2009 continue to apply.

These include: A person who is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer, or try to work or volunteer with those groups.

An organisation which knowingly employs someone who is barred to work with those groups will also be breaking the law.

If your organisation works with children or vulnerable adults and you dismiss a member of staff or a volunteer because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult, or you would have done so if they had not left, you must tell the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

In October 2009, the right to ask for an enhanced CRB disclosure was extended to all those who employ or use volunteers in types of activity called 'Regulated Activity'. This right remains, and you should continue to carry out appropriate pre-recruitment checks, including CRB checks where appropriate or required by law. The Independent Safeguarding Authority will continue to carry out its work as an independent decision making body as well as continuing to maintain the barred lists.

If you have any questions please contact Tracy McWhire, Safeguarding Support Worker on 01422 438729.

FUNDING

Anchor Foundation

The Anchor Foundation supports Christian charities concerned with social inclusion particularly through ministries of healing and the arts.

They will consider applications for either capital or revenue funding.

Only in exceptional circumstances will grants be given for building work.

They will consider applications for projects abroad.

In any one year the grant range to a project is between £500 and £10,000.

It is our normal practice not to give grants to the same project for more than three years.

Applications are considered at twice yearly trustees meetings in April and November and **need to be received by 31st January and 31st July each year.**

If submitting electronically please send the completed form to:

secretary@theanchorfoundation.org.uk Alternatively please post applications to : The Anchor Foundation, P.O. Box 21107, Alloa, FK12 5WA

Website: <http://www.theanchorfoundation.org.uk>

Action for Blind People - SEED

Work experience opportunities for blind and partially sighted people (SEED project)

Action for Blind People has developed a Social Enterprise and Employment Development (SEED) Project, funded by the National Lottery through Big Lottery Fund, to provide work experience opportunities for blind and partially sighted people within safe and supportive environments.

The work experience placements will take place in social enterprises and will initially be piloted in the West Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber, and the North East with the intention of rolling it out across England. The placements will be in the form of:

Work Taster Sessions - these sessions will last for one day and allow you to try out a job or vocational area that you are interested in. And if you don't like this job, you can always try another one!

Work Experience Placements - these sessions will last for up to two weeks and will give you a more in-depth experience of a particular job and working environment. You can also try as many of these placements as you would like.

Trainee Placements - there are a limited number of 6 month, paid trainee placements available to provide a fully supported experience of work and access to work based training whilst engaging in a 'real' job.

Social enterprises are organisations that trade for social and environmental purposes. Just like any other business, a social enterprise aims to generate an income but instead of using this for personal gain, their profits are reinvested back into the business or the local community in order to further their social aims.

By nature, social enterprises are very supportive environments and are therefore the ideal place for you to develop important skills, build confidence and move one step closer to gaining employment.

If you are interested in taking part in the work experience placements or if you would like some more information please contact the SEED team Tel: 0113 386 2800.

Website: <http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/help-advice/employment/seed-project,887,SA.html>

Peter Cruddas Foundation

The Peter Cruddas Foundation aim to benefit disadvantaged and disengaged young people in our society here in the UK by ensuring our funding reaches those most in need.

They achieve their aims and objectives through making grants for charitable work. They wish to build relationships with their supported organisations and foster collaboration wherever they can. Those they cannot help financially through their criteria they hope to help in other ways, through consultancy, business planning and networking.

Charity meets the unmet need and our funding is always driven towards meeting that need in our area of interest.

The Foundation gives priority to programmes designed to help disadvantaged young people to pursue their education (including vocational) and more generally develop their potential whether through sport or recreation, voluntary programmes or otherwise. Preference will be given to the support of projects undertaken by charitable organisations for the benefit of such people, but consideration will also be given in appropriate circumstances to applications for individual support.

Current funding streams

- Pathways/support for young disadvantaged or disaffected people into education, training or employment
- Crime diversion schemes
- Work experience/skills projects for young people
- Mentoring of young people in London
- General youth work in London

The Peter Cruddas Foundation can only donate to UK registered charities.

To qualify you **must** be:

- A UK charity registered with the charity commission benefitting people living in the UK.
- An organisation supported by a UK charity (supporting charity to apply).

An individual supported by a UK charity (supporting charity to apply).

If in any doubt about your eligibility or project, please contact the Foundation Administrator for advice. It is strongly recommended that you read the notes on website below to help you complete the application form. Please contact the Stephen Cox, Foundation Administrator regarding your application before you apply, or anytime during the application process. Peter Cruddas Foundation, 66 Prescott Street, London E1 8HG Email: s.cox@petercruddasfoundation.org.uk Tel: 0203 003 8360 Fax: 0203 003 8580

Download Guidelines and Application form from Website: <http://www.thepetercruddasfoundation.org>

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- An organisation supported by a UK charity (supporting charity to apply).

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Please contact the Stephen Cox, Foundation Administrator regarding your application before you apply, or anytime during the application process.

Peter Cruddas Foundation, 66 Prescott Street, London E1 8HG Email: s.cox@petercruddasfoundation.org.uk Tel: 0203 003 8360 Fax: 0203 003 8580

UIA Charitable Foundation

The UIA Charitable Foundation is a small-grant-making trust, established to provide financial support to organisations that help people in need.

They are funded entirely by donations from UIA (Insurance) Limited, a mutual insurance company with an 'Insurance with Principles' ethic. The company provides household insurance to trade union and charity members.

Committee meetings are usually held twice a year, in March and September. The trustees will only consider applications submitted on the Foundation's application form and operate on a first come first served basis. In order to keep costs down and avoid postage, they ask applicants to download the form from their website below and post eight copies and their annual accounts to: The UIA Charitable Foundation, Kings Court, London Road, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2TP

Applications should reach the company no later than the beginning of February or August, but please note that receipt of an application does not guarantee that it will be considered at the next meeting. The Committee may ask for more information and may take up references. This helps the Committee to learn more about your work, but such a request does not guarantee that a grant will be made. It is unlikely that the Committee will want to meet with you directly.

They are a small charity and are rarely able to support requests over £1,000. You will be informed of the decision in writing as soon as possible after the meeting.

They support small organisations or groups where our modest grants will make a real difference and which deal with:

- Victims of domestic abuse
- Victims of drug and alcohol addiction
- Rehabilitation of offenders
- Third World poverty

Third World human rights

Website: <http://www.uia.co.uk/Home/About/Charitable-foundation/>

ACT Foundation

ACT provides grants to individuals and other charities, principally in the UK, with the aim of enhancing the quality of life for people in need, (specifically the mentally and physically disabled).

Grants generally fall into the following areas:

- Building - funding modifications to homes, schools, hospices etc.
- Equipment - provision of specialised wheelchairs, other mobility aids and equipment including medical equipment to assist independent living.
- Financial assistance - towards the cost of short-term respite breaks at a registered respite centre.

Projects that intend to be a platform for continuing services will be expected to demonstrate sustainability.

ACT would be concerned to be a sole funder of projects that require ongoing support.

Check website below for exclusions.

Applications are welcomed for grants from all sections of the community and decisions on prioritisation are made having regard to funding levels and never on grounds of gender, age or race.

Applications are accepted at any time.

ACT will send an acknowledgement letter within one week of receiving an application. If the proposal is either in an unacceptable form, or ineligible, or a low priority, you will be told in this letter.

They will assess all acceptable applications and they may contact you for further information and/or make a personal visit. In the case of charitable bodies we may also ask for a presentation.

Decisions on grants of up to £50,000 are normally made within one month of receiving your application. Decisions on grants over £50,000 can take up to three months.

If the application is for an emergency a faster timescale can be requested and ACT will do their best to assist. Full details are on Website: www.theactfoundation.co.uk

Nick Hurd appointed Minister for Civil Society

Nick Hurd will be the minister responsible for charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations in the Cabinet Office, following an announcement today by the Prime Minister's office. He will be known as the Minister for Civil Society.

Government policy will focus on three fundamental issues:

- Making it easier to run a charity, social enterprise or voluntary organisation
- Getting more resources into the sector: strengthening its independence and resilience

Making it easier for sector organisations to work with the State

Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society, said:

"This Government values the economic and social contribution of Britain's charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations, and the extraordinary work individual people do to improve the lives of others and of the most disadvantaged.

"It is the sector's commitment and ability to support and mobilise people across the country that puts it at the very centre of our mission to deliver better public services and build the Big Society.

"We are committed to bringing a clear vision to the sector that will mean charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations are easier to run and not overwhelmed by interference and bureaucracy."

This replaces the Office for the Third Sector (OTS) and it remains in the Cabinet Office.

Website: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/voluntary-sector.aspx>

The Department for Education was formed on 12 May 2010 and takes over responsibilities from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and is responsible for education and children's services. Sarah Teather has been appointed as children and families minister.

Website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/>

UnLtd - Level 2 Awards

Level 2 Awards are unique! UnLtd are looking for inspiring people who have innovative and entrepreneurial solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing communities, wider society and the world.

They encourage applications from inspiring individuals who can clearly articulate a compelling vision to bring about social change. We are seeking those entrepreneurs with the ambition, determination and drive to really deliver their exciting project! UnLtd expects to be able to add value to every project they fund, so they need to be convinced that their investment of time and money is necessary.

Level 2 Awards can be up to £15,000. There are two Award competitions per year and we expect to make approximately 16 Awards in England and Northern Ireland every 6 months*. The Award can be used for your living expenses and project costs and they will be as flexible as they can in matching the Award to your projects financial needs. UnLtd will support you in evolving your project idea through a dedicated Development Manager, who will design a support package tailored to your needs and enabling you to drive forward your vision of long lasting social change.

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The Autumn 2010 round - ***Expression of Interest live on website:***

Friday 6th August 2010 10.00am

Expression of Interest deadline: Monday 6th September 2010 12.00 noon

Website: <http://www.unltd.org.uk/template.php?ID=128&PageName=level2awardsv2>