



shropshire infrastructure partnership

strengthening the voluntary sector together

1st December 2010 (Issue 5)

Hello

Welcome to the fifth edition of our newsletter, again full of news, advice and events for voluntary and community groups in Shropshire. Do let us know what you want us to cover in future editions. Share something you feel other organisations may benefit from too.

Remember to check out our web site www.ShropshireVCS.org.uk, it has a lot of useful information on it and if you are on Twitter, please follow us @VolunteerShrops. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your contacts. Signing up is also simple, just email info@shropshirevcs.org.uk and we will include you in the next mailing. Unfortunately we can only distribute this newsletter by email.

For this edition we had contributions from: the Charity Technology Exchange, Nicky Kent (CCS), Capacitybuilders, the Shropshire Partnership, Mediatrust and the wide pool of information that is Twitter.



CCS concert - 15 December at Shrewsbury School - 7.30pm

As you may know, the Grassroots Grants that CCS has been distributing has come to an end with £363,000 of small grants distributed to almost 200 community groups and voluntary sector organisations in Shropshire.

By way of celebration, they are holding a concert at the Maidment Building (the music school) at Shrewsbury School on Wednesday 15 December starting at 7.30pm. Lots of grants have been given to performance groups and four of them will be performing on the night to say "thank you" for the grants they've received and to demonstrate the difference the money has made. There will also be the opportunity for audience participation in a few carols to round the evening off and get everyone in the Christmas spirit!!

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Performers in the concert will be:

- The Reid Warblers – from Cleobury Mortimer
- The More Singers – from Church Stretton
- Children from the Wem Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society
- Salopian Brass

Please come along, tickets are just £5 and include seasonal refreshments (mulled wine and mince pies)., any proceeds from the event will be donated into the Grassroots Endowment Fund to help other groups in the future. Please phone 011743 360641 or email enquiries@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

Governance Pages

Governance Pages is a project of Arvac - the Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector. ARVAC was established in 1978 as a membership organisation and acts as a resource for people interested in research in or on community organisations. The Arvac Information Service produces a quarterly Bulletin of research news and maintains a database of community research, runs seminars and conferences and produces occasional publications. ARVAC membership is free.

Governance Pages has just launched their new website which contains "Information on governance and management committees for community groups and small voluntary organisations". The site is aimed at those who govern (control) small organisations - whether they are charities, companies, both or neither.

For more information see <http://www.governancepages.org.uk/>

Consultation: Stronger civil society support



CabinetOffice

Office for Civil Society

The Office for Civil Society has launched a consultation and is looking for your thoughts and ideas on the role it can play in ensuring that civil society in England has the advice, support and influence that will help it to modernise and respond to change.

The consultation runs until 6 January 2011 and you can feed into it in a number of ways. To find out more about the consultation and how to have your say see

<http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk./consultation/aboutconsultation>

Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund

The Department of Health has launched its new Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund for National Volunteering Organisations in Health and Social Care.

This is the Department's first national grant scheme for health and social care volunteering and will make around £3 million available from April 2011. The programme is driven by clear strategic priorities that support the Big Society agenda in the health and adult social care field, as well as key health service priorities. Read more via

<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/our-services/funding-advice/health-and-social-care-volunteering-fund/>

Community Newswire from Mediatrust

[Community Newswire](#) is Mediatrust's partnership with the Press Association where charities and community groups submit press releases to professional Press Association journalists. The most newsworthy are turned into news articles and distributed via the Press Association's news feed into the newsrooms of regional and national newspapers and radio and television journalists. And it's FREE. See www.mediatrust.org/newswire for more information.

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charity technology exchange



Get technology donations from Microsoft, Cisco and Symantec

Did you know that some of the world's leading technology companies will donate their products to eligible UK charities? To see the full range of donors, available products and how to apply for a donation, visit the Charity Technology Exchange website at www.ctxchange.org.

Briefing Sessions re applications to the Transition Fund

The Cabinet Office has launched a new £100million Transition Fund to help the charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises that are affected by public spending cuts to make necessary adjustments so that they can continue to play an important part in public service reform and the Big Society Agenda.

The Transition Fund will help civil society organisations which deliver high quality public services to be more resilient, agile and able to take opportunities presented by a changing funding environment.

The Office for Civil Society has appointed BIG Fund (non-Lottery funding operation of the Big Lottery Fund) to administer the fund. Two briefing events will be held on December 10 for civil society organisations which meet the criteria below and are interested in applying to the Transition Fund.



The briefing events are open to charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises which meet **the following criteria:**

1. Civil society organisations with an income of between £50,000 and £10 million
2. At least 60% of your income is from taxpayer funded sources
3. You must spend at least 50% of your taxpayer funded income on service provision in at least one of the following areas – health and social care; homelessness; education and training; offender rehabilitation; welfare to work/ employment services; children and families; debt counselling and legal advice
4. Your free reserves must not be more than six months
5. You face significant cuts; you will experience cuts of least 30% of your taxpayer funded income in 2011/12, as compared to your most recent set of signed annual accounts
6. The minimum grant size is £12.5k and grants will meet no more than half your taxpayer funded income. This means that you will have lost at least £25k
7. The majority of the grant expenditure will be on change activities
8. You are delivering the majority of your services in England.

Further eligibility information is available from www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/transitionfund

To register for the event, please email transitionwm@bigfund.org.uk by **Monday 6th December, 5.pm** with your name, phone number, organisation, address and any access requirements. Please also choose which two hour session you are able to attend. We expect demand to be high for these events and there are a limited number of places in each session, so please indicate all of the dates and times you are available.

10 December at 10am until 12.pm - Birmingham
10 December at 1.30pm until 3.30pm - Birmingham

Due to space constraints, registration is limited to one person per organisation. Spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

If you are unable to attend a briefing session, all of the information you need on eligibility and applying is available on: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/transitionfund After the regional briefing sessions all of the information from the events including the presentation will be available from that website.

Oh come all ye Volunteers & friends.....



Come and celebrate the fantastic contribution that volunteers make in South Shropshire:

St Lawrence Church, Ludlow on 13th December 7pm -8pm

The event is open to all volunteers, there will be coffee and mince pies. It is FREE but booking of places is essential.

For enquiries please contact Steve Jones (01743 237877)

We hope to see volunteers of many organisations there.

Big Society Debate

This event planned for **26th November** has been POSTPONED until February 2011. Watch this space for the new date and venue.

Fraudulent email - be aware

The Gatsby Charitable Foundation are aware that a fraudulent letter is in circulation advising the recipient that they have been awarded a grant of £1,500,000.

Apparently the letter has NO connection with the Foundation. They do not offer grants or donations unless an application has been received and accepted by their Trustees and any letter sent by the Foundation would be on official letterhead. Therefore, they advise that you ignore any letters of this nature and under no circumstances provide any personal information.

We have just received one of these in our office via email and checked the Gatsby Charitable Foundation online and they have the above message on their site as a warning..... so be aware!!!

<http://www.gatsby.org.uk/>

Marches LEP Business Event

How is the LEP looking to engage with social enterprise

What's in the Mix for the RGF

What measures will the LEP have to protect itself from accusations of favouritism?

Just 3 of the questions asked at the recent Business Event in Ludlow. If you missed it catch up with some of the answers and the presentation slides via

<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/blog/area-central/news-central/marches-lep-business-event-event-update/>

'Funding your Future' – Funding Fair Event update



All papers, presentations and also some photographs of this event held on the 19th November in Shrewsbury are now available from:

<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/funding-your-future-event-update/>

The **Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership** consists of: [Community Council of Shropshire](#), [Marches Community Enterprise](#), [Oswestry Community Action](#), [Pre-school Learning Alliance Shropshire Sub-committee](#), [Shropshire Youth Association](#), [South Shropshire Furniture Scheme](#), [Mid West Rural Enterprise](#) and [The Roy Fletcher Centre](#)

Please feel free to pass this e-bulletin on to others. If you do not wish to receive further updates from us please email 'Unsubscribe' to info@ShropshireVCS.org.uk.