



# shropshire infrastructure partnership

strengthening the voluntary sector together

30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 (Issue 3)

## Hello again!

After a small break, here we are with the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of our newsletter. As we are settling into Autumn and awaiting details the further spending review, we have lots of events, support, training and guidance on offer on a range of topics.

We will be referring you to our web site [www.ShropshireVCS.org.uk](http://www.ShropshireVCS.org.uk) throughout this newsletter as it has a lot of useful information on it and please feel free to share this document with your own contacts. Signing up is simple, just email [info@shropshirevcs.org.uk](mailto:info@shropshirevcs.org.uk) and we will include you in the next mail shot. Unfortunately we can only distribute this newsletter by email.



## Change of Date - Funding your Future

We previously asked you to mark your diaries with a 'Save the Date' for our Funding Fair '**Funding your Future**' but as we were finalising speakers and exhibitors it became apparent that it would be much better to postpone the event to

**19<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

till after the governments announcements as this gives opportunities to offer a far wider programme of speakers and the latest information.

**The event will be held at  
Shrewsbury Town Football Stadium  
from 9:30 – 14:00**

We are extremely pleased that we have speakers from **Shropshire Council, the Local Strategic Partnership, Big Lottery, NCVO, ACEVO** and **Whittingham Riddell** lined up for you.

Further details of the workshops and sessions and information on how to register will be available on [www.shropshirevcs.org.uk](http://www.shropshirevcs.org.uk) from the 15th October.



**Don't miss it !**

## Are you on Twitter?

If so follow us! Be the first to know about new developments and website posts.



We are [@VolunteerShrops](https://twitter.com/VolunteerShrops)

Many of the partners are on too: @qubeoca, @comtrans, @furniturescheme, @S\_Enterprise, @ccsruralteam, @ccscarersupport, @ccsvillagehalls, @PSTCCS to name some....

## Another partner joins our partnership...

The Roy Fletcher Centre, established by [the Roy Fletcher Charitable Trust](#) occupies the former Livesey Printing Works in Shrewsbury. Additional accommodation is located in the nearby 'Fletcher House'. It offers charities and voluntary organisations office and meeting space as well as administrative/reception support. The centre boasts the cheapest photo copying rates around and centre staff can help with document formatting and design. The centre has a Community Information Point for the general public to use and a fantastic café which can provide catering for the meeting rooms.



The centre is open 9am-5pm Mon-Fri call in or phone 01743 341300

## Marketing training courses

**Developing your Marketing Plan** October 21<sup>st</sup> 2010 10am – 3pm

Practical session to help you develop your marketing strategy, some prior knowledge such as the introductory course an advantage. To book or for more information email:

[Lorraine.smart@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:Lorraine.smart@shropshire-rcc.org.uk) or phone 01743 237880.

Details of all our training events can be found on our web site <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/our-services/training/>



## Are you a member of the VCS Assembly?

The Shropshire Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Assembly is a group of VCS organisations that come together to voice shared issues, tackle common problems and pool energy, ideas and resources. By working together Assembly members feel they are better able to work in partnership with others and meet the needs of local groups and communities. There are now over 300 members and new groups and organisations are joining every day.

Any VCS organisation can become a member and can choose to participate in the Assembly as much or as little as suits their organisation.

### Why join?

Members benefit from receiving information and notifications on local and national research, consultations, and other opportunities to influence local decision makers.

Members are encouraged to raise issues that they consider may affect other voluntary and community sector groups and common issues benefit from the strength of the assembly 'voice' in trying to resolve them.

Joining the Assembly is completely free of charge. If your organisation would like to become a member please contact Sarah Dodds, VCS Assembly Coordinator.  
Email: [sarah.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk) or phone 01743 252740.

Further information can be found at [www.2shrop.net/shropvcsassembly](http://www.2shrop.net/shropvcsassembly)

## Volunteer England's Value Volunteer Management Endorsement



Whether your organisation is a charity, a public sector body or a private corporation, the level of benefit you stand to gain from volunteering is directly correlated to the amount of investment you make in it. The greater the investment in volunteer support and management, the more thought that has gone into it and the more robust the business case that backs it up, the greater the benefit will be.

This VE campaign helps promote greater **awareness of the value and importance of investing in volunteer management**. The Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership and its Volunteering Team has signed the endorsement. Have you? You can view the current list of organisations that have signed up [here](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Projects+and+initiatives/value+volunteer+management/Who's+signed+the+endorsement+already.htm) (<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Projects+and+initiatives/value+volunteer+management/Who's+signed+the+endorsement+already.htm> )

Further details can be found via <http://www.volunteering.org.uk>

Have a chat with our **Strategic Lead for Volunteering in Shropshire** regarding the support available locally including OCN Level 3 Volunteer Management courses scheduled for next year. Call 01743 237877 or email [steve.jones@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:steve.jones@shropshire-rcc.org.uk)



## Volunteering research evidence bank

The Institute for Volunteering Research has launched a **new evidence bank** for volunteering research. Publications are available on a wide range of topics, from diversity to employer supported volunteering to skills development in volunteering - and much more.

<http://www.ivr.org.uk/evidence-bank>

## The Facebook for volunteering



Red Foundation ([www.redfoundation.org](http://www.redfoundation.org)) has piloted a social network for specifically for volunteers. [i-Volunteer](http://www.redfoundation.org) has been described as "the Facebook of volunteering". It allows volunteers and volunteer managers to network in a Facebook-type environment, for example through groups, blogging and writing on walls. Its worth a look, the new version of the site is now available with additional functionality, such as the ability for users to set up and manage events or to share documents.

i-Volunteer was launched on 5 December 2009 - International Volunteers Day, with a low-key launch on Twitter. It already has over 500 members and attracts nearly 3000 visitors a week.

## Need IT resources?

Have a look at [www.ctxchange.org](http://www.ctxchange.org). This programme from [Charity Technology Trust](http://www.charitytechnologytrust.org) (CTT) in partnership with the not-for-profit technology capacity building organisation [TechSoup](http://www.techsoup.org) allows eligible UK-based charities to request donated technology products from Partners such as Microsoft, Symantec and Cisco. The products include operating system software and server software, security software and hardware products such as switches, routers, wireless equipment and firewalls. Charities are required to pay a small Administrative Fee to cover the costs of the programme and whilst the administrative fees vary, charities will still make savings of between 92-96% on typical retail prices.

## The Big Society in South Shropshire Event

You are invited to join us for a meeting to discuss the Big Society with Key Note Speaker

**Philip Dunne MP** at the Ludlow Assembly Rooms Friday 15th Oct 2010 10:00- 11:30 (registration 9.30am for prompt 10am start)

To book email [Lucy.Cooke@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:Lucy.Cooke@shropshire-rcc.org.uk) by Monday 11th Oct 2010 latest



## Trustees

**Are you a member of the Shropshire Charity Trustee Network?  
Do you need specific resources as a trustee?**

There is a section on our website aimed at trustees:

<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/networking/charity-trustee-network/>. Check back regularly as we add to this in the future and for details of the meetings we organise.

Don't forget the NCVO Trustee Conference **18th October**, London. Hear the latest thinking on governance and leadership practices. Book now at [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteeconf2010](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteeconf2010) or call 020 7520 2442

NCVO offers a lot of resources for trustees on their web site including at their **Good Trustee Guide** (<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/products-services/publications/good-trustee-guide>) which you can use as a 'reader' to find out more about your responsibilities and as a reference guide for individual issues for existing trustees. Have you tried their **Trusteebank**, a free service to advertise or view trustee vacancies? Their site also provides information about becoming a trustee and on best recruitment and induction practices. Visit [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteebank](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteebank) to see how it could help your organisation recruit trustees.

**Our partnership has specialist staff who can advise on trustee matters**, email [info@shropshirevcs.org.uk](mailto:info@shropshirevcs.org.uk) for more details. Don't forget we can also advertise your trustee (and other) vacancies on our website.

## The chance to have your say!

We facilitate a number of very popular local discussion forums throughout Shropshire; meetings where voluntary and community groups can exchange views and share knowledge with peers and get updates on local issues. Meetings last about 2 hours and start or finish with an informal lunch. Details can be found at <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/networking> .

**There are currently forum meetings in:**

-  [Oswestry Voluntary Forum](#)
-  [Wem Voluntary Forum](#)
-  [Ludlow Voluntary Forum](#)
-  [Bridgnorth Voluntary Forum](#)
-  [Cleobury Mortimer Voluntary Forum](#)
-  [Central Area Voluntary Forum](#)- Shrewsbury

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](mailto:info@ShropshireVCS.org.uk).