



# shropshire infrastructure partnership

strengthening the voluntary sector together

4<sup>th</sup> August 2010 (Issue2)

## Welcome back!

Thank you for all your fantastic comments on the first edition of our newsletter. Keep your comments coming as we shape the format and contents still further. We welcome your feedback on what you would like to see covered. We will be referring you to our web site [www.ShropshireVCS.org.uk](http://www.ShropshireVCS.org.uk) throughout as it has a lot of useful information on it and hopefully this newsletter will guide you around. 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.



## Funding news



Funding is, as always, a crucial issue for many voluntary and community organisations. We are running a course '**Making a case for funding**' on Thursday 23rd September 2010 from 10am-4pm at the Community Council of Shropshire in Shrewsbury. This course provides you with a guide and tools to help your organisation get in the best position to apply for funding. The course will cover how to get a project ready for funding, what funders are looking for, and how to present your case. The course would suit anyone new to funding or looking to update their knowledge.

To book or for more information email: [Lorraine.smart@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:Lorraine.smart@shropshire-rcc.org.uk) or phone 01743 237880.

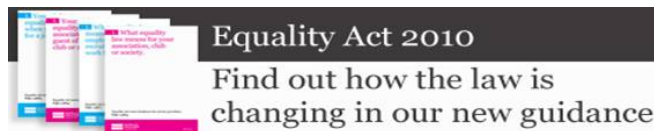
You can find lots of information about funding on our website at <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/our-services/funding-advice/> including the monthly funding update from the [Shropshire Partnership](#) by kind permission of Gary Spence, Shropshire Council's External Funding Officer. The most recent one from **4th August 2010** is [nr 63](#) and can be found at <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/files/2010/05/EFU63-Aug-10.pdf>

Brian Carr, Chief Executive of BVSC, The Centre for Voluntary Action, has asked us to share a [digest of guidance](#) - for voluntary groups and public sector agencies - in **dealing effectively with funding cuts**. (<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/blog/south-area/coping-with-funding-cuts/>)

## NCVO Funding help

NCVO's [Sustainable Funding Project](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/funding-finance) (<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/funding-finance>) supports voluntary and community sector organisations to explore different income streams, including fundraising, grants, contracts, trading and enterprise and loan finance. They offer a range of free, practical tools and resources, as well as action-focused training and bespoke consultancy support.

## Equalities Act 2010.



The Equality and Human Rights Commission has written a series of guides to explain people's rights and responsibilities under the new Equality Act 2010 which comes into effect in **October this year**. The act brings together lots of different legislation to make equality law simpler and easier to understand.

The guides cover two key areas of the new act:

- Employment
- Services, Public Functions and Associations

There are two versions of each set of guidance, one aimed at people relying on the law to protect their rights and the other at those who have responsibilities under the law.

The guidance can be accessed via <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/equality-bill/equality-act-2010-guidance/>

## Radio opportunity for Voluntary/Community Groups

A fantastic 36 voluntary and community groups took up the opportunity to record sound bites and short interviews to be broadcast on BuzzFM the local radio station supporting the 123<sup>rd</sup> Shrewsbury Flower Show.



*Being interviewed: Judy Ellis from Girlguiding Shropshire*



*Catherine Pybus from Craven Arts CIC talking to Andy Cooke*



Broadcasts start from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August on 87.7FM. For further details and to listen via i-player go to [www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk/BuzzFm](http://www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk/BuzzFm) You can call 01743 289717 or text the show on 07576 752347 or email [buzzfm@shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk](mailto:buzzfm@shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk)

## Insurance scheme for small local charities

Zurich Financial Services has teamed up with NAVCA to offer affordable insurance for local charities and community groups. The policy will provide comprehensive liability cover for a wide range of activities with a limit of up to £10m, and will be available for less than £10 a month or as little as £75 a year. In order to qualify organisations must have less than £5,000 annual turnover and have no paid employees. If this is of interest have a look at <http://www.tennysoninsurance.co.uk/>

## Promote your paid job vacancies on our website

We have added a dedicated vacancies section on our web site at

<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/home/vacancies-in-the-voluntarycommunity-sector-in-shropshire/>

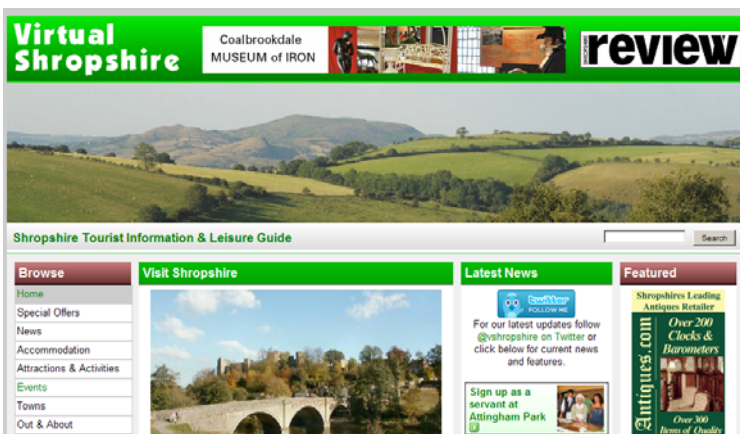
Email details of any VCS job vacancies to [info@ShropshireVCS.org.uk](mailto:info@ShropshireVCS.org.uk)

## Need to spread the word?

Have you tried [www.ShropshireLive.co.uk](http://www.ShropshireLive.co.uk)? Shropshirelive.com is a local interactive news and magazine website for the county of Shropshire, featuring news, sport, theatre, films, restaurant reviews, a lifestyle section, Shropshire page and lots more.

It actively encourages you to get involved by reporting on local issues, writing features and articles, reviewing events, restaurants and more. In fact you can contribute practically anything.

Contact details are Monday - Friday between 10am - 5pm on 01743 818095 or email [info@shropshirelive.com](mailto:info@shropshirelive.com). Send press releases to [news@shropshirelive.com](mailto:news@shropshirelive.com)



Have you got events which can be shared with <http://www.virtual-shropshire.co.uk>? **Virtual Shropshire** is an independent tourist & leisure web site which not only promotes Shropshire as a great place to visit and explore but will happily promote your events, festivals, walks and such like.

They use a simple form to submit your events information (<http://www.virtual-shropshire.co.uk/cgi-bin/ezdb/ezdb.cgi?events+add+display>).

Press releases can be sent in Word format to [info@virtual-shropshire.co.uk](mailto:info@virtual-shropshire.co.uk)

## Marketing training courses

**Introduction to Marketing your Organisation** September 29<sup>th</sup> 2010 10am- 3pm

An introduction to the concepts of marketing and how to apply these to develop and promote your organisation.

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

Practical session to help you develop your marketing strategy, some introductory 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/>





## Social Media

The first Shropshire Social Media Surgery was held at the café/bar at the Old Market Hall in Shrewsbury. What was so great about this relaxed and social get together was that all of the 'surgeons' were recruited via Twitter; all people with lots of experience to share who we had no knowledge of or contact with, had it not been for the local Twitter community.

### Just 2 quotes from 'patients' who came along:

*'Having the benefit of an informal demonstration of, and discussion on a range of social media within small groups was the clearest indication I have had yet of the potential offered by these vehicles to expand and better target my efforts to encourage individuals and communities around Shropshire to provide stories of their own experiences with local health and care services and thus contribute to improving those services in collaboration with service providers.'*

*'Thanks for the interesting and informative yet flexible session on Facebook etc. It boosted my confidence, gave me new skills and expertise and took away some of my confusion and fear. I watched a real pro who used social media to boost and support her business in a new and innovative way. I'm so glad I made the effort to come and learn. You might one day find me on Twitter!'*

Ben Proctor, one of the surgeons 'blogged' about the event and you can read this at [www.benproctor.co.uk/2010/06/social-media-surgeries-come-to-shropshire/](http://www.benproctor.co.uk/2010/06/social-media-surgeries-come-to-shropshire/)



Follow us ([@VolunteerShrops](https://twitter.com/VolunteerShrops))

**The next Shropshire Social Media Surgery will be held on  
Monday September 20<sup>th</sup> 5:30-8.00 - Old Market Hall Shrewsbury**

## The chance to have your say!

**Skills Third Sector** is running a consultation exercise on the skills needs of the voluntary and community sector. A regional consultation event was held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, but you can also submit an online form via [http://www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk/research\\_policy/skills\\_strategy\\_consultation/](http://www.skills-thirdsector.org.uk/research_policy/skills_strategy_consultation/)

**Discussion Forums:** We facilitate a number of discussion forums; meetings where groups can exchange views and share knowledge with peers and raise awareness throughout the sector. Meetings last about 2 hours and start or finish with an informal lunch. Details can be found at <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/networking/>

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](#) and [Mid West Rural Enterprise](#)

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).