



VANL News

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Office

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www.vanl.org.uk

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VANL Services

Development

Funding

Volunteering

Brokerage

Training

Financial Services

Equipment Hire

Office Services

Room Hire

I.T Support

PAT Testing

New Free Legal Advice Service

Mason Baggott and Garton is offering Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire member organisations a brand new free legal advice service.

Eve Carlile, Solicitor, says "Mason Baggott and Garton staff are thrilled to be able to offer support to the local voluntary and community sector on a range of legal issues such as employment law, commercial property issues, contract disputes, company registration, charity law and general legal advice."

Voluntary and community sector organisations wishing to access this service must be VANL members and will be required to book appointments through VANL. Sessions will take place at VANL office, 4-6

Robert Street, Scunthorpe on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 10am to 12noon.

Ring 01724 845155 or email enquiries@vanl.org.uk to make your appointment for the first Mason Baggott and Garton Legal Advice Session which takes place on Wednesday 7th December 2011.

To register as a VANL member organisation, contact the number above to request an application pack. For more information about the benefits of VANL membership and eligibility criteria, **check out** www.vanl.org.uk

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Christmas Opening Hours

The VANL Offices will close at 5 pm on Thursday 22nd December 2011 and re-open at 9 am on Tuesday 3rd January 2012.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of all the staff and Board members of VANL to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mason Baggott
 **& Garton**

We Need Your Help



CHRISTMAS CHEER: The appreciative diners enjoy Christmas dinner at The Forge in Scunthorpe. Pictures: David Haber

Christmas is fast approaching and is often seen to be a time that families and friends enjoy time together. For some people this is nothing further from the truth. Despite the jollities and partying and the family get-togethers, many people dread this time of year when agencies and shops are closed, when everyone they see are enjoying time with relatives when they have nowhere to go; seasonal enjoyment is not an option for many people who can become very socially isolated for the 2 weeks between Christmas and New Year.

WE NEED YOUR

HELP so we can provide a little chink of light for those people who are not so fortunate at this festive time of year. If you know of any older people who will be alone at Christmas, if you know of anyone who is homeless or having accommodation difficulties, if you know of absolutely anyone who will be struggling or alone at Christmas, please let them know of our opening times and, on our behalf, invite them to the Forge Project for Christmas dinner.

Will all agencies please note the following so that no one has to be left on their own at Christmas. If any agency is aware of anyone who would benefit from attending the Forge Project, please let them know where we are and the times that we are open.

On all of the dates below we will be providing a cooked lunch. The Forge Project will again be opening its doors

over the Christmas period on the following dates and times: Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd, Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th, Friday 30th December 9-30am – 1pm, Breakfast will be served 9-30am – 11am: lunch will be served 12pm – 12-45pm.

On Wednesday 21st we will provide a morning of fun and party snacks.

Christmas Day: we will open at 9-30am and close at 1-30pm. A 3 course traditional Christmas dinner will be served 12pm – 12-45pm.

A short church service will take place on Christmas Day before lunch at 11-30am for anyone who may wish to attend it.

If anyone wishes to seek further information, please do not hesitate to contact Maria Franks at the Forge Project on 01724 276742.

Government Consultation on what the Community Infrastructure Levy should be spent on

The Yorkshire and Humber Rural Network is seeking to gain your views on the consultation by the Government Department, Communities and Local Government on the Community Infrastructure Levy, which is proposing to allow local communities a greater say on what the levy is spent on.

Please see [http://www.vanl.org.uk/resources/publications-consultations-and-](http://www.vanl.org.uk/resources/publications-consultations-and-research/135-cig)

[research/135-cig](http://www.vanl.org.uk/resources/publications-consultations-and-research/135-cig) for more information about the consultation for which the Yorkshire and Humber Rural Network is seeking responses. We will use your responses to input in a co-ordinated way into the consultation exercise. It is important that we gain the views of front-line groups and feed this into the national policy making process.

The deadline for responses is 12 December, 2011. Responses can either be emailed to ed.poulter@involveyorkshirehumber.org.uk This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it or sent in writing to Ed Poulter, Rural Policy Officer, Involve Yorkshire & Humber, 131 The Headrow, Leeds, LS1 5R

NEW COUNTY CHOIR DIRECTOR: Richard Mabbott
presents

A Concert for Christmas

with CAROLS, SONGS and READINGS
at TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, BARTON-UPON-HUMBER
Sunday 18th December 2011 7.30pm

Refreshments and Raffle Tickets: £5 (£4 concessions) available from choir members or tel: 01652 632583, or pay at the door.

Training News

We have our usual varied programme of topics for the winter quarter's diary, which will be available in the next few weeks. These include:

- WRAP training (Wellness recovery action plan)
- First Aid
- Food Hygiene
- Drugs Awareness
- Introduction to volunteering
- Volunteer Management
- Confidence building etc.

In addition, we are pleased to offer two exciting new topics:

1. Garden Design—3 full day sessions in February looking at different styles of garden and creating a design.
2. Psychology of Behavioural Change—aimed at people working to improve the uptake of healthy lifestyle choices among their service users, eg Voluntary Sector organisations, Health Trainers, Health Promotion specialists, etc.

".....As humans we are imperfect—our decisions are flawed by our behavioural make up. This workshop will discuss the methods involved in helping health care professionals advise their clients. Topics within this high-energy workshop will cover Belief Systems, Motivation, Persuasion, comparisons between 'investment' and 'experience', how to encourage clients to take action and finally an exploration between market and social systems."

Costs for both courses are to be confirmed, but if you are interested in either of these, please contact us.

Charitable Companies have more to file!

Late Filing at Companies House = Penalties!!

If accounts were also late last year the penalties are DOUBLED.

What Do Charities Need to File with the Charity Commission?

What do Charities need to file with the Charity Commission?

Most charities are aware that they need to:

- Prepare some accounts each year
- have them checked (if they have income over £25k)
- hold an AGM to approve the accounts.

Charities also need to file a number of documents with the Charity Commission within **10 months** of the year end. The information required to be sent to the Charity Commission depends on the level of your income each year and is set out in the table below:

Income Level	Annual Return	Annual Accounts	Trustees Annual Report (narrative of the years activities)
£10,000 or less	Yes but only limited information needed	Not required	Not required
£10,001 - £25,000	Yes	Not required	Not required
£25,001 - £500,000	Yes (Part A)	Yes (audited or independently examined)	Yes
£500,001 - £1,000,000	Yes (Parts A&B)	Yes (audited)	Yes
+£1,000,000	Yes (Parts A,B,C)	Yes (audited)	Yes

All of the above can be easily filed online, although paper copies are still accepted. Late returns of any of the above or non-returns will show up in red on your register profile on the Charity Commission website, which is publicly available and can be viewed by potential funders.

Charitable Companies have more to file

In addition to having to file accounts and returns with the Charities Commission, Charitable Companies must ALSO file accounts and annual returns with Companies House, or incur financial penalties.

To check when your **annual return** is due use the Webcheck service at www.companieshouse.gov.uk. Filing an annual return electronically at Companies House currently costs £14. Please note that this is a different annual return from the Charities Commission annual return, and is a snapshot of

general information about the company's directors, secretary and registered office address.

Accounts must be filed at Companies House within **9 months** of the year-end ie a month before the Charity Commission deadline. So March 2011 year ends need to file by 31 December 2011. Please note that delays in the post due to the volume of mail at Christmas and poor weather are NOT classed as valid excuses by Companies House.

Late Filing at Companies House = Penalties

All Companies who file accounts late at Companies House will receive a penalty. There are no blanket exemptions for Charitable Companies. Only in very exceptional circumstances will Companies House waive a penalty.

***If accounts were also late last year the penalties are DOUBLED.**

If you have any queries regarding filing requirements and penalties please contact Claire Mosey at VANL on 01724 845155 or on finance@vanl.org.uk.

Community Spirit Shines Through

Around fifty people attended Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire's Annual General Meeting held in the Westcliffe Community Centre on Thursday 12 October. Last year's searching and challenging question and answer session braved by the three local MPs was always going to be a hard act to follow. All sent their apologies this year and two provided written answers to the questions they would have faced if they hadn't been otherwise occupied in Westminster.

The really inspiring aspects were presentations given by community activists. Mary Hollingsworth from Kirton in Lindsey synthesised six

years worth of action which saw a near derelict Town Hall transformed into a thriving community resource, used and valued by local residents and visiting groups alike. Mary paid tribute to Penny Hoey and Jenny Cripps, both retired teachers who just saw the loss in heritage and resource as a dereliction of duty for future generations. Their dedication and driven determination saw recognition in when they were awarded an MBE for services to the local community. The messages which came across loud and clear

(and remember all this before the dreaded 'Big Society' became part of the trendy terminology so loved by politicians) was team work and carry on regardless even after set backs.

Special thanks have to be given to Brian and Glenda Trueman and all their wonderful volunteers at the Westcliff Community Centre for the use of their lovely centre and also for the sumptuous food they provided—they made us all feel very welcome.

A Tale of Crimson Thunder



"WE MEET FOR DRUMMING PRACTICE EVERY MONDAY, BANK HOLIDAYS EXCEPTED, AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE LINDUM STREET SCUNTHORPE 6 till 8pm."



Crimson Thunder Community drumming group was formed by five friends who all met through the auspices of mainstream mental health services. It was at a therapy group at Sandfield House, that we were introduced to the West African drums and a truly inspirational teacher—Donna Smith, a community musician.

The djembe and the bass drums were a revelation to all of us and totally unlike any music we had ever heard before. We felt so energised and buzzing after a session. We had never encountered polyrhythms, a truly mystic and healing experience. Very soon I decided to buy my own djembe and, one by one, so did all the others. In the financial circumstances in which we found ourselves, this was a major investment for all of us.

Our first demonstration at the 2010 open day was well received and so encouraged were we by this that we decided we must keep

going at all costs. We asked if room hire was possible at Sandfield but realising this was not possible and costs of tuition were beyond our means, we went the whole hog and decided to form a community group and apply for funding.

Group secretary Bev Oliver worked tirelessly to achieve this and her bid to VANL's Community Pot was successful. With this money we were able to buy three additional djembes, a set of bass drums and our first block of tuition with Donna Smith. Our next problem was room hire and designation of roles within the group. We now have a formal constitution and regular meetings for business.

WE MEET FOR DRUMMING PRACTICE EVERY MONDAY, BANK HOLIDAYS EXCEPTED, AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE LINDUM STREET SCUNTHORPE 6 till 8pm.

It was very obvious from the start that there was quite a range of abilities within the group,

musical and otherwise. Each member brings a range of skills and expertise and all are great assets to the group. Currently, BEV is our secretary,

CATHY the treasurer, JAN organises the publicity, LINDA acts as chair and poor GARY is lumbered with anything else that is needed. Despite struggling with ill health and personal problems, we gave two brief demos at the 2011 open day at Sandfield House and these were well received by a most appreciative, kind and forgiving audience.

So next year - who knows what? Oh, and the name? because of the night skies over Scunny and the sound of the drums,

We are CRIMSON THUNDER

Here's hoping to see you some Monday evening.....

Janet Teresa McQuade—a founder member of the group.

All wrapped up!!

The top tips are:

Plan early for Christmas

Be realistic and budget accordingly. Work out how much you are going to spend on each person – and stick to it. Manage expectations as to what you or Santa can give!

Don't forget the everyday bills

Remember that rent, the mortgage, utility bills, food bills and other existing debts still have to be paid – and the consequences can be severe if they're not. Even though it's Christmas, get your priorities right.

Don't bank on an overdraft

If you do need more money, don't just run up an overdraft without talking to your bank first – it will work out much more expensive.

Keep things simple

If you can afford to pay for your goods outright by cash, cheque, or debit card, don't be persuaded to takeout extended credit agreements unless they really do workout cheaper.

Shop around

Try as many different

places as possible to find the best price. Buy what you want and not what other people say you need. Be wary of extended warranties; the cost of a repair could be less than the cost of the warranty.

Buy safe to be safe

Whatever the deal, whatever the temptation, don't buy from unauthorised traders and don't borrow from unauthorised lenders. The initial savings and convenience may prove to be a false economy.

Read the small print

Check for hidden extras in any credit agreement. Work out the total amount payable. Ensure that the monthly instalments are within your budget before signing. Interest free credit can seem attractive, but if you don't pay on time, or miss a payment, you could have to pay a lot more.

Do your own credit checks

If you are going to use a credit card, shop around and compare terms. Some cards charge high interest rates, but provide interest free periods or discounts. Budget for

all these costs and put the payment dates in your diary.

Be organised

There's a lot to remember at Christmas. If you've borrowed money don't forget that it won't be long before you have to make a payment.

Make sure you pay on time, even if it is only the minimum, or you will be faced with additional charges.

Start planning and saving for next Christmas

Once Christmas is over, it's worth looking at what you did well and what you didn't. Learn from your mistakes and start planning how you will do things differently next year. This might also be a good time to start saving for next Christmas.

If you want to find out more information about these tips or further money management advice this Christmas, please visit http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/fsfl_projects/toptipschristmas.htm or visit your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

10 Top Tips for Christmas



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Advancing Local Voluntary Action

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire

promote, develop, and support

organisations within the voluntary and
community sector.

Whether you are an established

organisation, you would like to set up your

own voluntary group, or you are interested

in volunteering, Voluntary Action can pro-

vide all the advice and support you require



Howsham Park Project

Cadney cum Howsham Village Hall and Park Committee have been successful in completing the third phase of their Park Project with the help of a grant from Awards for All.

Phase 1 of the Howsham Park Project prepared the land for equipment and a play area, and included access from the road for parking when needed. Phase 2 included the first installation of four pieces of play equipment.

Phase 3 completed the

project with the addition of two further swings, an adventure trail plus a bench and a bin for the park area.

The local parish council has agreed to fund pathways to link the park to

the adjacent village hall, and to fund a patio area at the rear of the hall further linking the use of the hall with the park.

This has been a great example of the whole village coming together to both decided what

was needed to provide a safe place for the children and community to use.

The official opening was certainly a cause for celebration!

