



VANL NEWS

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire
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V O L U N T E E R E E K

Friday 1st June 2007 marks the first day in which we celebrate the week of the volunteer.

To mark this week Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire's Volunteer Bureau has teamed up with BBC Radio Humberside to form a working partnership to celebrate this week and all it stands for in terms of recognising the work achieved by the many hundreds of volunteers that freely give up their time and energy for no financial reward, other than their own volition to help others, society or the environment.

Volunteering has become a huge 'industry' in itself and a recent national survey dedicated to collecting volunteering statistics indicated that 48% of the adult population in the UK take part in some sort of formal volunteering. In real terms this equates to 21.8 million volunteers, with the average hours given per person measured at 4 hours per week, this means that the UK benefits from 88 million hours of volunteer time each week.

If you would like to know about volunteering either contact the North Lincolnshire Volunteer Centre on 01724 845155 at VANL's registered offices on 41 Frances Street, Scunthorpe, or come along to Scunthorpe High Street on Monday 4th June and Tuesday 5th June and speak to the staff at the BBC bus or indeed we can be found in Brigg on Wednesday 6th June and Thursday 7th June on Bridge Street, where we will be happy to give you further information.

For those of you who have renewed your membership of VANL—Thank you. For those who haven't, please find enclosed membership renewal form for your use, please return as soon as you can. The subscription remains the same as last year—£10. Check out page 7—we have new equipment/games to lend out.

Date for your diary -

Our Annual Conference will be held on Thursday 4th

October 2007 venue to be confirmed (watch this space)

The topic will be issues around trusteeship and will be delivered by a representative from the Charity Commission



Extended Schools

Hello, my name is Mandy Brookes and I have recently been appointed Extended Schools Cluster Coordinator for the Brigg area. I am based at St. Mary's Primary School in Wrawby, but cover schools in Brigg, Kirton, Scawby, Broughton, Barnetby, Worlaby, Kirmington and Hibaldstow. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you what Extended Schools is all about.

Extended Schools aims to provide communities with a range of services including childcare, study support and activities for students, parenting support and referral and community access for things like adult learning. I hope to be able to work in partnership with local community and voluntary groups and statutory agencies in delivering these services. In addition to talking to parents, children and young people, I need to ask communities what services might be helpful and find out about the kinds of activities people would like to take part in locally. This is where I need your help.

If you belong to a community or voluntary group, or as an individual community member and think you might benefit from extra services delivered locally, why not get in touch and find out how Extended Schools could help. Services and activities can be take place at a range of venues such as schools, village halls and community centres and through newly established and existing providers. I am very willing to visit groups to explain more and talk about how I could help with things like funding, publicity or organising access to provision such as health services, information, learning and a wide range of other activities. With a background in community development, I am also keen to promote volunteering and can help with training and information to support community activity. If you feel you would like to get involved, find out more or would like information or help to access services that are not available locally then please contact me on 01652 655579 or mobile 07717587138. I can also be emailed on mandyjbrookes.extendedschools@gmail.com

Community Buildings - Free Consultations

Following the success of last years event, community architects RIG are again offering free half day consultations to all community groups considering projects involving buildings. During 2006 diverse organisations were assisted with advice and initial assessments of their ideas. About a third of those visited went on to commission design studies and building cost information and are now well advanced with their project proposals. One group is now moving forward with £1.2m community centre and community gardens scheme. Other projects are at various stages in the design and procurement process.

Very often, communities have excellent ideas for buildings projects but sometimes feel uncertain about the best way to move their proposals forward. Getting the right kind of advice at the early stages of a project can really influence the outcome in respect of speedy progress, and successful funding, especially so with regard to the often complex issues surrounding buildings.

RIG architects is a specialist practice which since 1988 has worked exclusively on voluntary sector projects across Yorkshire. During that time they have helped numerous groups to realise their ideas, and turn their proposals into finished buildings. Throughout the Spring they will visit any community organisation contemplating a building project, either new build or refurbishment and enlargement, in order to give whatever initial advice and guidance may be required to progress their plans.

Groups wishing to arrange a free consultation with a qualified and registered architect should contact Ray Garner on 01977 661671

Greeson Hall Community Association (Crosby)

2007 is Greeson Hall Community Centre's 10th year and to celebrate this, it will hold an Open Day on Friday 13th July from 11 am to 4 pm. Paul Kirk, who performed the Official Opening of the building in 1997 when he was then the Mayor of North Lincolnshire, will open it.

The Day will consist of a rolling programme of demonstrations and talks showing things are available at different times within the Centre.

- Adult Education will offer taster sessions in digital imaging and a craftbased activity.
- Crosby Bridge Healthy Living Project will have taster sessions making up a healthy lunch-box.
- Crosby Bridge will also offer demonstrations of belly dancing
- Greeson Hall's Line Dancing group will demonstrate some dances.
- The Therapy group that meets there will offer talks and demonstrations that will include crop circles, tai chi, crystal balancing of charkas, tarot and angel cards and kinesiology (muscle testing)
- Crosby Textile Group will provide a quilting and arts activity

The Child Centre will provide a drop-in play session for under 4's and their parents that will include face painting, table activities and outside play.

There will also be information stalls:

- Greeson Hall Community Association - membership
- Adult Education - courses available
- Neighbourhood Watch (with Billy the Burglar)
- Therapy Group
- Fair Trade
- Crosby Textile Group
- Crosby Bridge Healthy Living Project
- Royal British Legion Women's Section
- North Lincolnshire Credit Union
- Crosby Employment Bureau
- Apna Sahara
- Kids Lincs

NLC Active Ageing Development Officer

Other groups invited to provide information, etc but not yet confirmed are:

- Various cultural groups
- Children's Centres/Extended Schools Collaborative
- Fresh Start

Refreshments will be available

Local people are invited to attend to see what goes on in the Centre and also to suggest what they would like to see happening there. The Community Association is eager to attract new groups and activities to the Centre.

Madani Youth Organisation has received funding for ESOL and IT classes from Awards for All for the sum of £9,800 from April 07 to Jan 08. The sessions will be held at the MYO 126 Frodingham Road every Monday and Thursday noon - 2 pm.

We would like to thank Awards 4 All wholeheartedly. Also we have received funding for Tie Boe from LNF for £3,800. The session will run at the ex Lynton Prep School, 150 Frodingham Road, every Saturday at 10 am to noon from April to November.



LEGAL EYE— Redundancy

This is a first in a series of regular features intended to help you run your organisation more

effectively. The author is Alan Robinson, who is a VANL trustee and can be reached on 01724 710910 or by email to alan@robinsons-solicitors.com.

The word 'redundancy' is often used inaccurately. People talk about "taking voluntary redundancy" when they mean something like being paid a sum of money to leave their job. In fact redundancy has a precise legal definition.

Legally, redundancy happens when the need for someone to do a particular job has ceased or diminished, or is expected to do so. For practical purposes this means that your job has disappeared. In other words, where someone receives a sum of money to leave but they are replaced by someone else, there is no proper redundancy situation.

Redundancy will commonly arise when the funding for a particular project runs out. If that happens, staff may have to leave as a result. This means there is a redundancy, and a potential entitlement to a redundancy payment.

A person qualifies for a redundancy payment once they have worked for the employer for at least two years. The fact that the contract is a fixed term contract makes no difference to this. There is a statutory formula for calculating redundancy payments, although it is open to an employer to provide better redundancy terms for their employees if they wish.

To dismiss someone because of redundancy is to dismiss them fairly, so there can be no complaint of unfair dismissal. However, it will be unfair dismissal if the employee is

able to show that he or she was 'unfairly selected' for redundancy. In order to prevent this, the employer should be sure to follow a careful procedure throughout the redundancy process, and should also follow the statutory dismissal procedure.

A policy of 'last in first out' used to be acceptable as grounds for selection for redundancy. However, this has been overtaken by recent case law. A tribunal will expect an employer to have consulted with employees throughout, to have identified a pool of people who might become redundant, and to have made some sort of objective choice between them. This is normally done by determining the required skills for any job that remains, and marking the individual employee out of five for each of those skills. The employer with the lowest score is then the one who is made redundant.

This is a very simple way of expressing a very complicated situation, and if you are in this position then advice should be sought.

The dismissal procedure requires the employer to set out in writing to the employee what is proposed. This assumes that the consultation process has already gone through. The written statement must include an invitation to a meeting, at which the matter can be discussed with the employee. The results of that meeting are then confirmed to the employee in writing. The employee must have a right of appeal.

In many cases the right of appeal will be superfluous. This will happen when there is only one person being made redundant because the funding for their job has run out. Nevertheless, the right to appeal has to be given, and if it is not then the dismissal might be unfair.

Making staff redundant is potentially a difficult legal process, and advice should be sought whenever there is any doubt.

Meet the Street Talk Team

Liz Baxter, Mandy Hodgson Emma Freear, Debby Moore, Debbie Thurston and Katie Westfield

Where are we from?

We are based with Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire www.vanl.org

We work in lots of villages and some towns in the area.

We are funded by the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership.

What do we do?

We make contact with young people in their chosen setting to gain an understanding of their lifestyle and to build mutual respect.

We provide information on healthy lifestyle choices, and encourage young people to explore their attitudes towards issues such as alcohol, sex, drugs, self esteem, bullying, community, etc. in a responsible manner.

We work to support young people in making informed decisions about forming and sustaining a range of relationships, with friends, parents, partners, and the wider community.

We aim to reduce the number of early/unplanned pregnancies, S.T.I's and terminations in young people.

We operate the C. Card scheme, and access to condoms as appropriate.

We work to bridge the gaps in understanding between young people and their local communities, to improve the quality of life in the area.

We work with partner agencies to increase local service delivery to young people

Training Opportunities for Voluntary Youth Workers

If you already work with children and young people, or are considering it, the Every Child Matters agenda is something that you will need to know more about. To help to prepare groups for this, we are offering 2 training courses to look at what groups need to do, and what knowledge and skills volunteers need. The first course will run in June and July, consisting of 2 days and 5 evening sessions, a further course is planned for early September.

- Session 1 Saturday June 16th 10.30 - 3.30
Every Child Matters,
Communication, plus an opportunity to try crafts, activities, etc
- Session 2 Wednesday June 20th 6.30 - 8.30 pm
Purpose + Principles of youth work
- Session 3 Wednesday June 27th 6.30 - 8.30 pm
How do we make it "Safe"
- Session 4 Wednesday July 4th 6.30 - 8.30 pm
Identifying young peoples needs
- Session 5 Wednesday July 11th 6.30 - 8.30 pm
Recording, Monitoring + Evaluation
- Session 6 Wednesday July 18th 6.30 - 8.30 pm
How to plan a Programme
- Session 7 Saturday July 21st 10.30 am - 3.30 pm
Participation in Practice. Funding. Partnership working

To book you place call VANL on 01724 845155, or contact us via the website at www.vanl.org or email enquiries@vanl.org.uk

Need Support to Develop TRAINING

We have the answers

Many employers understand the value of training their staff but simply can't spare the time or money to find the right courses or qualifications. Train to Gain could be the answer!

Train to Gain is a new service which is funded by the Department of Education and Skills and managed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Train to Gain provides the following to employers of all sizes (2-5000 employees):

- A free impartial brokerage service to identify your business needs and source training solutions including: a one to one discussion to enable you to diagnose your training needs, expert help to choose the most suitable training solutions including a choice of providers, costs and funding (where applicable)
- Funding to help employees gain their first full level 2 qualification, Skills for Life literacy and numeracy qualification, plus programmes such as Apprenticeships, Advanced Apprenticeships, NVQ level 3 and selected higher qualifications such as leadership and management.
- Training at a time and place to fit in with your working practices
- Training to suit the individual learning styles and commitments of your workforce.
- Contribution to wage costs for companies with less than 50 full time equivalent employees

Ongoing support provided by an independent nationally qualified skills broker

To find out more about Train to Gain and Skills Brokers in your area please contact:

0845 8337000 or info@traintogain.co.uk or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk

Are you looking for space?

The Crosby Bridge Healthy Living Project is due to end in July 2007. The project is based in a central community location on Frodingham Road, Scunthorpe and this is known as the Pop In Place (PIP). The PIP has a purpose built community kitchen area with office space, a good sized meeting area and a large reception area. The building has also recently been rewired and has telephone and broadband access. The Project is keen for the PIP to be continued to be used as a community facility and we are inviting expressions of interest from community organisations.

If you would like some more information then please contact Trevor Parkin or Sajda Shah, North Lincolnshire Council (representing Crosby Bridge Healthy Living Project) on 01724 297616/297612.

Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire

will be carrying out research in 9 areas of North Lincolnshire:

Axholme South
Axholme North
Burringham and Gunness
Barton
Bottesford
Frodingham
Brigg & Wolds
Ridge
Burton and Winterton

If you hear about us coming to a place near you, please come and tell us what you think about your area. We are gathering data for the Neighbourhood Action Teams, to give them some information to work on to improve services in your area, and everything you tell us will be noted.

Look out for posters and press articles to tell you more.

Support Services for Members

VANL provides a range of support services, including photocopying, bulk printing leaflets, newsletters etc, laminating, designing posters and tickets, comb binding (including punching and assembly)

Equipment for Use

We have games to use for fundraising events, currently available are:

Hidden Treasure
Hoop-La
Skittles
Shoot the Beans
Roll a Coin
How many Beans
Parachutes
New Age Kurling

Also available are:

Display Boards
Collection boxes
Flip chart easel
A tombola drum
Cameras (including a digital camera and docking station)
Camcorder
Polaroid Camera
Laminator
Comb Binder
Scanner
Guillotines
Extension Leads
Lap Tops
Smart Board
Digital Projectors

All the above equipment is easy to use and fully portable. A Deposit will be required on all equipment, plus a small hire charge.

A colour photocopier is now available for use at the Scunthorpe Office
Ring Liz or Ann- Marie 01724 845155

Carers Week 11th - 17th June 2007

Are you a carer? Do you look after someone who is ill, frail or disabled? When was the last time you had a few hours to yourself? The 13th Annual Carers Week will highlight the impact being a carer can have. In North Lincolnshire we want to show our support to you by giving you some time off. Various activities are being arranged throughout the week. These will include a local walk and picnic, relaxing time to read and have lunch, a games activity session, water colour painting, a treasure hunt and much more.

Do you feel tempted? We hope to be able to help with transport and /or a care worker (sitter).

For further information please contact:
Carers' Support Centre 01652b 650585 or
Debbie Rudderham 01724 296496

These events are supported by the North Lincolnshire Council, Carers' Support Centre, Rethink, Fresh Start, PCT, Alzheimer's Society.

Winterton Social Club for People with Physical Disabilities

has been short-listed (one of only three) for the Everyday Impact category in the Directory of Social Change awards. This is the first year for the awards and they have been very pleasantly surprised by the quality and range of the applications. To find out more, go to <http://www.charityfair.org.uk/awards/vote.html> and check out the WSC application.

This is where you can help - they need your votes. Obviously it would be nice if you can find the time to vote in all the categories, but if you can particularly vote for the WSC project (which I can vouch for as being well worth your vote - see previous Community Interest Group minutes), it would also raise the profile of North Lincolnshire nationally.

FUNDING NEWS

The deadline for **Local Network Fund** bids is fast approaching. Remember this fund is aimed at improving opportunities for children and young people (0-19 years) with grants of up to £7000. If you are a community group and have a bid in mind (projects not running costs) the key dates you need to be aware of are, the closing date for funding bids is the 10th August 2007 and all projects funded will have to be complete by the end of December 2007. Application forms can be obtained by calling 0845 113 0161.

Save the Children and British Gas have announced the next funding round of the **Here to Help Awards** - up to £1000 for projects by young people that help make their communities healthier, more engaging, safer places to be. The deadline for completed applications is 22nd June 2007. Full details and the application form can be found at www.helpyourselves.org.uk

Awards for All is looking for applications to commemorate the bicentenary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. Between £300 and £10000 is available to grassroots community groups and voluntary organisations for commemorative events. For further information look at www.abolition200.org.uk

The **J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust** aims to fund projects to alleviate poverty and misery in general and unpopular causes in particular within the UK. The emphasis is on self help and enabling people to reach their potential. The Trustees favour small community and local projects which make good use of volunteers. To find out more see www.jpgettytrust.org.uk

Parenting Support Market Place Event!

Are you a parent/carer or do you connect with parents/carers & families.

Then why not drop in!

This will give you the opportunity to find out more about Parenting Support in North Lincolnshire?

**Wednesday 4th July 2007
between 1.00pm - 6.00pm**

Drop in when you like!

Brumby Adult & Community Learning Centre,
Grange Lane North, Scunthorpe
Opposite John Roe Toyota Garage

For more information please contact Vicky Proctor: 01724 297957