

Voluntary News

Issue 101 April 2011



vInvolved Knowsley awards event

Young Superheroes rewarded

The heroic efforts and achievements of local young people to support the work of Knowsley charities and organisations was celebrated at a superheroes themed night, complete with live music and dancing from local groups.

The event was organised by vInvolved Knowsley, a project hosted by Knowsley CVS, to encourage and develop youth volunteering in the borough. It was supported by their Youth Action Team, a group of young people who volunteer to assist the project with its work, and who compared the evening.

Awards were presented by Colin McKeown, TV/film maker and producer from Independent Production Company LA Productions, who said "the most valuable thing any one of us can give one another is time and what was most impressive about all of the volunteers at the vInvolved awards ceremony is that they gave their time unstintingly to help others. They should all be very proud of that fact."

The themed event was presented by young volunteers dressed up as their favourite



• Young super-heroes - members of Knowsley's Youth Action Team at the Awards ceremony

KPAIS gains prestigious quality mark

Knowsley Pensioners Advocacy and Information Service (KPAIS) has won an

Investors in People Award. Investors in People is a flexible and easy to use standard which helps organisations transform their business performance.

The Manager of KPAIS, Patricia McCarthy, stated "we



are a small, local charity, but it is important to us to show we have

a framework for continuous improvement. Organisations recognised by the Investors in People standard are more likely to have higher levels of service innovation."

KPAIS is one of only 16 independent advocacy services for older people in the UK – and the only one in the Knowsley

area. They are also joint lead, with Knowsley Disability Concern, in forming the Knowsley Advocacy Hub within the new Centre for Independent Living in Huyton.

KPAIS also operates TASK (Trader Approved Scheme for Knowsley). Contact details are: KPAIS 0151-449 3706 TASK 0151-546 6680

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Knowsley CVS Voluntary News

Produced & published by:
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Nutgrove Villa, 1 Griffiths Road,
Huyton, Knowsley, L36 6NA
Registered Charity No. 701955

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Voluntary News is published bi-monthly and circulated to voluntary and community groups, local councillors and key personnel in statutory organisations across Knowsley.

If you would like to receive a regular copy please contact Knowsley CVS.

Large print or audio versions of *Voluntary News* are available on request.

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Children, Young People, Families and Faith Forum

Knowsley Children, Young People, Families and Faith Forum held their first Community Consultation Event in Centre 63, Kirkby on the 8th March.

The Forum is made up of representatives from the Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors working with children, young people and families, with the aim of keeping members informed, involved and participating the decision making process which can positively influence Knowsley Children's

Services. The event was a great success with many organisations from Knowsley attending.

One of the highlights of the event was a warmly received presentation from Jean Taylor, representing Families Fighting For Justice. Jean was invited to share her knowledge and experience of "Joint Enterprise" to ensure the sector, particularly those organisations working with the most hard to reach young men e.g. Lybro could include this topic for

discussion within their Informal Education programmes.

Young people were invited to raise their awareness and begin the Educational process of understanding the law of Joint Enterprise and also gain the victim's perspective.

- For more information about the Forum please see the feature on page 7.

World Book Night

As part of the National World Book Night Knowsley CVS recently gave away free copies of John le Carre's classic, *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold*.

World Book Night represents the most ambitious and far-reaching celebration of adult books and reading ever attempted in the UK and Ireland.

On 5th March 2011, two days after World Book Day, with the full support of the Publishers Association, the Booksellers Association, the Independent Publishers Guild,



• Knowsley CVS staff, Michelle James and Jannine Antigha distributing copies of the free book



the Reading Agency with libraries, World Book Day, the BBC and RTE, **one million books** were given away by an army of passionate readers to members of the public across the UK and Ireland.

The book give-away comprised 40,000 copies of each of the 25 carefully selected titles, given away by 20,000 'givers', who each distributed 48 copies of their chosen title. The remaining books will be distributed by World Book Night itself in places that might otherwise be difficult to reach, such as prisons and hospitals.

YWCA becomes Platform 51

The YWCA has changed its name to Platform 51 so that it more accurately represents who they are and what they do. Over the years, they've evolved to reflect changes in society and the needs and expectations of women.

Their original name no longer stood for who they are or what they do. So after 155 years, they decided to change it.

The name - Platform 51 - stems from 51% of people being female. Girls and women use the service as a platform so that they can move into the next stage of their lives.

Platform 51 supports girls and women as they take control of their lives. Girls and women today face problems that are often subtle or misunderstood.

Despite shifts in attitude and changes in the law, women are often unheard, isolated and face discrimination. This is costly both to women and to society.

Girls and women are at the heart of what Platform 51 does. They work with girls and women of any age or background in England and Wales who need their services. Their activities, services and campaigns are about things women need and want. They give them a platform to have their say and challenge discrimination.

Platform 51 Knowsley
Platform 51 has been based

in Kirkby since 1990. Services are offered to women and girls across Knowsley and satellited programmes are delivered in St Helens.

Platform 51 in Knowsley offer intensive support and a wide range of programmes, courses and activities to help women and girls make informed choices and achieve their potential.

- For further information on any of their programmes, contact Marie Munn / Joan Edwards Platform 51, 101-105 Cherryfield Drive, Knowsley, L32 8SR.

Telephone 0151 547 7800
or Email:-
marie.munn@platform51.org
or
joan.edwards@platform51.org



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could be
here!

Email:

kcvcs@knowsleycvs.org

Fax:

0151-443 0251

Knotty Ash Community Transport

Following advice and support provided by Knowsley CVS Knotty Ash Community Transport (KACT) were recently successfully registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

Knotty Ash Community Transport moved into Knowsley 6 years ago and are based in St Johns Road, Huyton.

The organisation operates a range of transport services, especially for school groups, people with disabilities and pensioners. Now that they have officially registered as a charity KACT is hoping to be able to expand the range of services they provide.



- Chris McCarron (l) and Brian Greenhalgh (r) pictured with one of Knotty Ash Community Transport's vehicles.

Brian Greenhalgh, Manager of KACT said; "People don't realise that Knotty Ash Community Transport is a well established Knowsley group which provides a valuable local service for residents of the borough."

- For further information about the services provided by KACT ring **0151-289 4329** or Email: info@knottyashct.co.uk

news

Charity Commission to move operations online only

The Charity Commission has said it will use the internet as its main means of operating and has warned that it cannot guarantee it will offer an alternative to those unable to access online services.

An equalities impact assessment, published by the Commission, says the regulator "wishes to make the online route the principal means of doing business, and to move away from traditional alternatives".

It says this would not be a problem for most charities, but concedes that those organisations run by elderly trustees or based in rural areas with limited broadband access would struggle.

"For the small number of charities in this position, the Commission may be able to offer by exception an alternative to online transactions, but we cannot at this stage give absolute assurances," the assessment says.

"We are a small organisation that will need to reduce our headcount by 33% as a result of public sector budget reductions.

The reality is that we may not be able to afford to offer any non-online alternative except in exceptional circumstances where all other online completion opportunities have been exhausted.

"We need to be open about this with our service users in order that we do not raise unrealistic expectations."

Fraud costs the voluntary sector £1.3bn a year

The charity sector loses £1.3bn a year to fraud, according to a report released by the National Fraud Authority.

The figure is equal to about 2.4% of the sector's total income, according to the Annual Fraud Indicator 2011. The indicator says fraud against the voluntary sector makes up about 3% of all fraud in the UK, which costs the country £38bn a year in total.

According to the report, about 11% of charities have been victims of fraud in the past five years. Of these, 47% said the fraud had been by an employee or volunteer.

The figures are based on a survey of 10,000 charities, of which more than 1,000 responded. The NFA, part of the Attorney General's

office, said it was the first time an accurate figure for charity fraud had ever been reported.

The figure includes fraud against charities, such as that by employees and fraudulent applications for grants, as well as some money lost because of the impact fake charities have on real ones.

But it does not include donations collected by organisations that are not registered as charities and do not intend to use those donations for charitable purposes.

The report says charities believe their main internal fraud risks are theft of supplies and equipment, and skimming off collection money.

The unauthorised use of a

charity's name to collect funds is considered to be the most significant external fraud risk, followed by fraud perpetrated by suppliers or contractors.

Sam Younger, Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, said the report confirmed his organisation's belief that fraud against charities was under-reported.

"However, it also shows that instances of charity fraud remain low and the public can be assured that the vast majority of charitable money is going straight to good causes," he said.

"Charity trustees must be more fraud-aware, and I hope that this report is a wake-up call to charities that think it will never happen to them."

Institute of Fundraising consults on revised code on cash donations

The Institute of Fundraising (IoF) has opened a consultation on its revamped code of practice on the handling of cash donations, which includes sections on card and electronic transactions for the first time.

The Institute said there had been a diversification of income sources for charities. The code contains sections on cheque donations, the use of debit cards, tax-effective giving and



electronic transactions and guidance when using tills.

The name of the code has been changed to *Handling of Cash and Other Financial Donations* to highlight the changes.

Sarah Tirrell, Policy and Codes Practice Manager at the IoF, said the draft code

reflected the importance of donation methods such as cheques. "Its update means that our guidance keeps in step with other practicalities of contemporary fundraising, including technological advances that have affected our sector in the past few years," she said.

The public consultation process will close on 3rd May.

www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/

Banks to give £200m to Big Society Bank

High-street banks will contribute £200m to the Big Society Bank, the Prime Minister, David Cameron, has announced.

The announcement forms part of a larger programme of agreements with the banks, dubbed Project Merlin, which focuses mainly on banks' lending targets.

The Big Society Bank will receive that money over the next two years. It will also receive all money reclaimed from dormant bank accounts, which is expected to amount to between £60m and £100m in the first year

of operation and more than £400m over the next few years, according to the Co-operative Bank, which will run the reclaim fund to collect the money.

Voluntary sector leaders cautiously welcomed the news. "It breathes life back into the big society project," said Stephen Bubb, Chief Executive of Acevo. "It's crucial that the sector gets access to capital. There are many organisations out there with good ideas needing capital to carry them out."

But Bubb said that the announcement needed to be

married with fundamental public service reform if it was to ensure the long-term growth of the sector.

Caron Bradshaw, chief executive of the Charity Finance Directors' Group, said she welcomed the announcement but it was "a drop in the ocean" compared with the financial squeeze being experienced by the third sector.

"There will need to be significant other sums available to the sector to fill the funding gap," she said. "Government must play its part in pressing for more investment in the sector."

Geoff Burnand, chief investment officer of Charity Bank, said the announcement was welcome, but it raised questions about what would be done with the money. "We don't yet know what the government wants to achieve with this money," he said. "How will its effectiveness be measured? This money has been dumped into the sector, but no one's said how they think it will affect the social investment market over the next five years."

Policy-makers 'don't understand community organisations'

Policy-makers need a better understanding of how community organisations work if they are to become involved in delivering the government's big society agenda, according to a report by the Third Sector Research Centre.

In *Below the Radar in a Big Society?*, academics assess the role that about 600,000 small community groups could play in delivering the Big Society agenda.

The paper refers to this charitable activity, made up of groups either not registered with the Charity Commission or lacking a regular, substantial income, as "below the radar".

It says people usually become involved in

community action for personal reasons rather than from a sense of civic duty.

"What motivates grass-roots, informal and semi-formal community activity is little understood in policy circles and exhortations that communities should 'make it so' in building a political reality of big society may therefore be unlikely to succeed," it says.

It also questions whether people will be willing to become involved in volunteering and policy decisions.

It quotes research that shows volunteering levels have declined over recent years. For example, figures from the Communities and Local Government

Department show that the proportion of people who volunteered in England fell between 2005 and 2010.

"David Cameron has said that the Conservative manifesto was 'an invitation to join the government of Britain'. The statistics question whether there may be enough willing to do so," the report says.

Angus McCabe, author of the report said the diversity of 'below the radar' activity meant it could be argued that we already had a big society. He said the question was whether the government could engage with this activity.

"A lot will depend on whether the Big Society agenda can become a

bottom-up process with communities in control, rather than be seen as a top-down directive linked to cuts in public services," he said.

"If policies are to achieve equality and fairness, they need to be informed by a systematic analysis of power relations and the role of the state."

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funding news

Briefly

Funding for the victim and witness voluntary sector

The Ministry of Justice has announced that up to £9.8m per year, for three years, will be available in grant funding for voluntary-sector groups providing specialist support to victims and witnesses.

www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/victim-witness-support-funding.htm

Ironmongers Company

The Ironmongers Company supports projects that provide opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people to fulfil their potential. Grants range from a few hundred pounds up to around £10,000.

www.ironhall.co.uk/charities/organisations.htm

The Triangle Trust

The Triangle Trust 1949 Fund is currently inviting applications from charities for projects that support

- Carers
- Community arts and education
- Disability
- Older people
- Poverty
- Integration and rehabilitation

The objectives of the Fund are: the alleviation of poverty and the promotion of good health and welfare; the advancement and furthering of education. Grants are normally in the range of £1,000 and £10,000.

The next application deadline is the 14th May 2011.

http://thetriangle-trust1949fund.org.uk/index.htm#Service_Provided

Interim arrangement for Big Society Bank announced

An "interim arrangement" will be set up by the Cabinet Office and the Big Lottery Fund to deliver the functions of the Big Society Bank while it awaits approval from the European Commission under state aid rules.

The bank will lend money secured from dormant bank accounts to support retail lenders working in social investment, but the Commission must agree that this does not contravene state aid rules.

These rules say that

governments must not give undue advantage to a particular business sector.

Nick Hurd, the Minister for Civil Society, said that European Commission approval was not expected to be secured by the time the first funds become available in the middle of this year.

He said the plan was to "work with the Big Lottery Fund to set up interim arrangements that would allow them to carry out funding"; this arrangement meant the government would be in a position to

start lending by the third quarter.

Hurd also said that his understanding was that the £200m invested in the Big Society Bank by four high-street banks would be invested on a permanent basis.

The government has also announced that the venture capitalist Sir Ronald Cohen and the investment banker Nick O'Donohoe would act as advisers on the structure and staffing of the Big Society Bank.

Heritage Lottery Fund consults on how to spend increased funding

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has launched a consultation on how it should spend its money between 2013 and 2019 after it was given an increase in funding of £50m a year.

The HLF said it would have an increased annual awards budget of about £300m after changes to the way its funding was allocated.

The government decided last year that from 1st April this year the share of National Lottery funding for art, heritage and sport would rise from 16.66% to 18%. In April 2012 this will increase to 20%.

The Big Lottery Fund's share will gradually be reduced from 50% to 40% during the same period.



A statement from the HLF said it wanted people to use the consultation to consider what its priorities should be, what it should continue doing and what it should do differently.

Dame Jenny Abramsky, chair of the HLF, said that with significantly more money to invest than in recent years, it needed to make the most of it.

"In future, heritage organisations will need to become even more deeply rooted locally, sustained by

a combination of volunteering, local ownership, and income generation – alongside continued public investment and private philanthropy," she said.

The online consultation will run for the next three months.

The HLF said it would also be gathering representatives from heritage and community organisations to gain views on its funding priorities.

The HLF will publish its strategy for 2013 to 2019 in spring 2012.

www.hlf.org.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/Pages/Consultationonourstrategicframeworkfor20132019.aspx

Knowsley Children, Young People, Families and Faith Forum

Who are we?

Knowsley Children, Young People, Families and Faith Forum membership is made up of representatives from Voluntary, Community and Faith sector organisations and groups working with children, young people and families in the Borough of Knowsley.

What do we do?

Amongst the Forum's aims and objectives are that its members are properly informed, actively involved, participating in discussions and being part of the decision making process which influences

Knowsley's Children's Services.

How can we help you?

The Forum will help identify and address capacity issues and training needs of members in order to support the delivery of services to children, young people and families in Knowsley.

Some members of the forum are.....

- **Centre 63** is a purpose built Youth Centre serving the Community of in Kirkby for over 47 years. It has been a part of the lives of many generations of young people, a place where aspirations and ambitions are encouraged and supported. Today it houses social enterprises, and many Community Groups, working with all ages of the community in a safe healthy, warm and welcoming environment, run by caring staff and local volunteers

The Manager of the Centre and Chair of Knowsley Children, young people's Family and Faith Forum **Jeane Lowe** says; **"Centre 63 is at the heart of Kirkby and has been working with Children, Young people and the wider community for over 47 years We currently have four projects which includes a new project funded by B.B.C Children In Need providing multi-media, music and arts to local young people.**

The Centre also acts a hub by housing several projects who are tenants within the Centre and they provide much needed services to the Community. Other projects within the Centre are the Volunteer Project helping young people into work and the Y.E.S project providing housing and tenancy support".

- **Jus' Kidz** is a non profit organisation set up by parents of children with disabilities to end the isolation the children feel at weekends and school holidays. **Manager Cathy** says 'being part of the forum gives our organisation another voice to speak up on behalf of children by identifying and acting upon policies and decisions that have an effect and impact of the lives of our loved ones'.
- **Music Sweet Music** helps break down barriers of isolation and social exclusion through music and light exercise. Delivering workshops to help self-expression, build self-confidence and encourage healthy lifestyles. **Liza** from the group says 'working with the Forum has helped our organisation identify gaps and work in partnerships with other like minded Voluntary and Community groups for the benefit of families, young and vulnerable members of the Borough.

If you would like to join, or have any questions about the Knowsley Children, Young People, Faith and Families Forum contact:

Tony Barton, Vice Chair-

E-mail: tony-bart@hotmail.co.uk Mobile: 07801064860

Jus' Kidz was established in 2004 by local Knowsley residents to offer appropriate play and socialising experiences for children with a range of disabilities, complex needs alongside their siblings.

From 2009, Knowsley MBC has financially supported this provision, recognising this community-based, child and family centred scheme also provides valuable respite for the parents and carers.

Manager Cathy says 'being part of the forum gives our organisation another voice to speak up on behalf of children by identifying and acting upon policies and decisions that have an effect and impact of the lives of our loved ones'.



SAL4KIDS is a speech and language support group run by parents for parents. We hold 4 support group meetings per month throughout the Knowsley area and a Saturday playgroup. Our aim is to raise awareness of speech and language and the effects that the impairment has on the child and their family / carers.

We hope to provide a shoulder to lean on and someone to talk to who has been through the same issues themselves.



Deli 63 will be delivered by a group of 8 young people in that they will receive appropriate training and support to allow them to take a day-to-day role in managing the Community Café and dealing with aspects of its operation with the guidance of the Centre's staff.

Once the training has been completed and the CIC registration received then Deli 63 will be a social enterprise that is run out of Centre 63 as its own business.

Overall the project will be supervised by the centre management and ultimately the responsibility for the project will be with the Centre Manager who is responsible to the Board of Trustees.

Centre 63 have a number of organisations based at the centre who are supporting the project and would be potential customers of the Community Café. Centre 63 have received funding from **KMBC's Big Deal, Little Deal to fund 50% (£5,630) of the project's total cost** and they are asking Working Links to fund the remainder of the costs £5,630.

It is intended for the Community Café to be operated as a social enterprise. Income from the sale of food and drinks will be used to purchase relevant stock and continue the project. However, we anticipate that the Café will not be self sufficient immediately, so will be seeking funding to support the project initially until it becomes fully self sufficient.

I need a hero !



- Volunteer of the Year award winners with Knowsley CVS Chief Executive, Jackie Davies (left)

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superheroes, and prizes were awarded for best costumes.

A caricaturist was on hand to offer free portraits of attendees, and entertainment at the ceremony was provided by the Kirkby based dance group Performance Studios. KCC Live FM radio station, which is largely run by volunteers, provided technical support and music, and a set was performed by local band Major Major and R&B artist Jay Norton.

Over one hundred young people received certificates, and nine young people were honoured as Volunteers of the Year.

Chief Executive of Knowsley CVS, Jackie Davies, said “the nominations received for

Volunteer of the Year were so strong we felt that every one of them deserved an award”.

One of the recipients of the award, Sophie Bold, volunteers weekly at Halewood Arts Association. Their Vice Chair, Carol Trenaman, said: “Sophie undertakes everything with the same high quality and enthusiasm. She takes the lead and enthuses and inspires other volunteers to aspire to better things. Nothing is too much trouble for her...her attitude has reinvigorated my own work”.

After receiving her award, Sophie, aged 21 and from Halewood, said “It was lovely to see all of the volunteers gain

recognition for all the hard work we all do. It was great to get my award”.

The vInvolved project ended on 31st March following government funding cuts. Knowsley CVS will build upon the work achieved by the team with its Volunteer Centre and BASIS Team supporting local volunteers and organisations.



- Sophie Bold pictured with her Volunteer of the Year award.

Goodbye from v!

Knowsley CVS will continue to support volunteering with its Volunteer Centre development team, led by Clare Carter. Unfortunately, however, funding for v teams will cease nationally from 31 March 2011, and vInvolved Knowsley will no longer exist.

During the past three years, vinvolved Knowsley has worked with organisations and volunteers throughout Knowsley to promote and support youth volunteering. During this time, our key achievements include:-

- Supported over 2600

local young people interested in volunteering

- Advertised over 1200 part-time or full-time opportunities to volunteer around Knowsley
- Promoted over 1700 "taster" one-off local volunteer opportunities
- Accredited over 250 young local people for their volunteering
- Hosted three successful Awards Ceremonies for organisations and their volunteers
- Worked with more than 140 local organisations to support them in

recruiting volunteers

- Successfully completed our Youthnet Quality Assurance Mark, REACH
- Spoken to over 70 groups of young people in Knowsley schools and colleges
- Attended over 30 local community events promoting volunteering
- Achieved positive press coverage of youth volunteering in Knowsley media
- Doubled the range of types of local volunteering opportunities advertised.

"I've been a member of the

Youth Action Team [supporting the vinvolved project] for over a year now and I have thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills, volunteering, and also having fun!

I enjoyed helping out with the Stockbridge Village community dig, and really felt a sense of achievement when we saw the end results, and I also really liked the team building activities we took part in at Nutgrove Villa.

We are constantly being rewarded for our efforts, we recently went to Laser Quest and for a meal just before Christmas which was a brilliant chance to bond as a team.

Volunteering at Aintree Hospital and Barnardo's has helped me to decide that I would like to study medicine at university, and I have learned so much which I'm sure will help me in the forthcoming years.

I am very grateful to Fiona, Cathy and Diane for all of the effort they put into the project and for helping us to achieve so much."

Natasha Hoey, 18, Huyton

If you need support from 31st March with volunteers or volunteer opportunities, please contact Clare Carter, Knowsley CVS Volunteer Centre Lead, on 0151 489 1222 or email clare.carter@knowsleycvsvs.org.

Thank you for your support and commitment to volunteering, we wish you well and hope that you will continue to work with and support local volunteers.

Cathy Georgeson, *Youth Volunteer Development Manager*
Fiona Villanova,
Youth Volunteer Advisor

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funding news

Briefly

Heroes Return

The Big Lottery Fund has announced that its Heroes Return programme has been extended for a further 12 months. The Heroes Return scheme provides funding to help World War II veterans that saw active service to take part in commemorative visits (within the UK and overseas) to mark the anniversary of events that led to the end of WWII.

New deadline:

31st January 2012.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_heroes_return.htm

Government launches free website to help charities find contracts

The government has launched a new website aimed at helping charities and small businesses to find public sector contracting opportunities.

The site, called *Contracts Finder*, will list all such opportunities worth more than £10,000.

Organisations can register on the free site to specify what sort of contracts they are interested in and receive

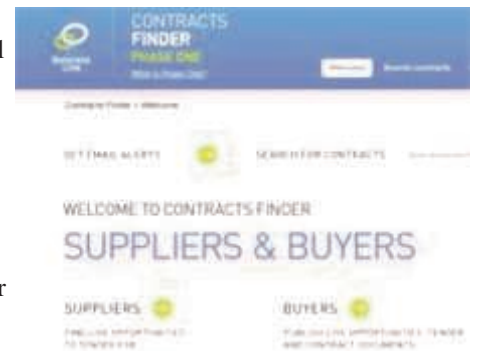
emails about them, the Cabinet Office announced.

Organisations that bid for contracts worth less than £100,000 will no longer have to fill in pre-qualification questionnaires, it said.

Organisations that fill in such questionnaires for larger contracts

will be spared filling in further questionnaires for similar opportunities.

The government has also



Introduction to Digital Photography Course Trafford Hall, Chester - June 17th - 18th 2011



Trafford Hall is a beautiful Georgian country house set in tranquil Cheshire countryside, this unique venue is the setting for a complete introduction to digital photography.

This course is designed to give students a comprehensive overview of the fundamental basics in photography. A series of talks, demonstrations and interactive sessions that will cover all the base elements you will need to get out there and start taking great shots.

The course will be relaxed and enjoyable as well as very informative.

The course content includes:

- Photography equipment
- Camera functions, aperture, shutter speed and manual settings
- Composition of photographs
- Digital editing basics
- Introduction to studio / portrait photography
- Weddings, parties and event photography basics
- Landscape and outdoor photography basics

£290.00

The price includes:

- One night en-suite accommodation, Lunch, dinner and refreshments Day One
- Breakfast, lunch and refreshments Day Two
- All tuition and course resources

For an information pack or to book a place, please contact: Helen Barker

helen@kpac.org.uk

0151 481 0047 or 07725109711

appointed the management consultant Stephen Allott as a new crown commercial representative in order to "build a more strategic dialogue between government and smaller suppliers", a statement from the Cabinet Office said.

Francis Maude, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, said: "These changes will help create a system that is transparent and allows small businesses and voluntary sector organisations to compete more fairly for government contracts – helping to drive economic growth at national and regional level, while delivering better deals for the taxpayer."

The government is already paying the National Council for Voluntary Organisations £1.6m over three years to deliver *Funding Central*, a website that lists grants and contracts available to the third sector which went live in June 2009.

<http://contracts-finder.businesslink.gov.uk/>

Home Office announces limits on criminal record checks

Volunteers and staff will need criminal records checks only if they work "closely and regularly" with children and vulnerable adults, under plans for a wide-ranging reform of the vetting and barring system announced by the government.

Under the proposals, part of the new Protection of Freedoms Bill, about 4.5 million people who would have had to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority under the vetting and barring scheme initiated by the Labour government, would not have to have criminal records checks.



The Labour system, which was never implemented and which the coalition government halted in June, would have involved carrying out the checks on nine million people.

Under the proposed new system only about 4.5 million people would be subject to criminal records checks.

The new proposal would also make criminal records checks portable so that individuals would not need

separate checks by each organisation they worked or volunteered for.

A Home Office spokesman said: "Far fewer people will come within the scope of regulated activity under the new system. The only people needing checks will be those working most closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults."

A statement from the Home Office said that, subject to parliamentary approval, the bill was expected to become law by early 2012. It said the new system would be introduced soon after that.

Proposal to tax volunteer expenses 'an administrative nightmare'

A recommendation to abolish a threshold below which expenses and benefits are tax-free would be "an administrative nightmare" for charities with large numbers of volunteers, according to the Charity Tax Group (CTG).

The Office of Tax Simplification said the threshold should be removed in its recommendations, which were published after a thorough review of tax reliefs.

Under the existing rules, anyone earning less than £8,500 does not have to pay tax on these benefits.

The CTG said the removal of the limit would be "of considerable concern" because it would mean that any benefit paid to volunteers was potentially taxable.

This would cause major problems for some charities that pay expenses to thousands of volunteers, the CTG said.

"The previous government consulted on the idea of abolishing the £8,500 threshold," said Helen Donoghue, Director of the CTG. "Unfortunately, however desirable that proposal may have been for businesses, it would have been an administrative nightmare for charities with lots of regular volunteers.

"We communicated this to HM Revenue and Customs at the time and pointed out that at least one of our members had more than 50,000 volunteers that would need to be covered.

"The proposal was dropped but we will need to make the case again if the idea is resurfacing."

Giving World Online

A national awareness campaign is being launched by the online charity

Giving World Online over the next few weeks which will benefit charities and community groups around the UK.

Giving World Online is a charity set up to offer a simple solution for companies with surplus goods to dispose of. They register with Giving World Online and publicise their goods onto charities and community groups who can access the items free of



charge to support the people they work with.

Efforts are being focused on engaging more businesses to use Giving World Online to directly help community groups in their locality access surplus stock. Television giant Discovery Networks UK are sponsoring a television advert to get the message out.

Now is the time for charities and community groups to

register to be able to access those goods. As goods become

available on the website, only those charities and community groups already registered will have immediate access.

Giving World Online director, Rama Bhalla, explained: "Often goods are snatched up as soon as we make them available online, which is great news for those already registered to receive but it means that others will miss out if they have still to register. By registering now, charities and community groups can be alerted as and when their desired items become available."

www.givingworldonline.com

Your news could be here!

Email: kcvs@knowsleycvs.org

news

New bill drafted to simplify charity law

A new Charities Bill, aimed at consolidating existing areas of charity law, has been put before Parliament.

The Bill will include law from the Recreational Charities Act 1958, the Charities Act 1993 and the Charities Act 2006. It brings together existing charity law with the exception of part 3 of the 2006 Act, which would make the Charity Commission the lead regulator of public charitable collections but has never been activated.

The Bill says street and door-to-door fundraisers would be required to obtain Public Collection Certificates from the Commission, and street fundraisers would also require local authority permits.

The Commission, which has suffered significant budget cuts, has said it would not be able to take on new duties without more resources.

A spokeswoman for the Office for Civil Society, which is responsible for the new Bill, said the part 3 provisions had not been included because they related to "areas of law that go much wider than charity law". She said the provisions still existed in law but confirmed that they would be reviewed later this year.

The new Bill is intended to make charity law simpler and more accessible. It has gone before the House of Lords and will pass through the House of Commons once its third reading has taken place in the Lords.

The OCS spokeswoman said the Bill simplified existing charity law and had been introduced because it was considered unjust for legislation to be so complex that it was inaccessible to those it affected.

eBay raised a record £7.5m for charity last year

The auction website eBay raised a record total of £7.5m for charity in 2010. A statement from eBay said the total was a 20% increase on 2009 and a 200% increase on 2007.

Nick Aldridge, Chief Executive of MissionFish, the website's charitable arm that helps run *eBay for Charity*, said "We've made it a lot easier for people to donate. We've learnt more about engaging with donors by featuring the causes they respond to.



"We've also run promotions and done more active marketing over the past year."

Last year eBay launched My Favourite Charity, which allowed users to register a charity of their choice in their account details. The site's figures show that users who do so are 17 times more likely than others to use eBay's Donate at Check-out feature, which

asks people to make donations when they pay for items.

Aldridge said a large proportion of the funds raised went to the Disasters Emergency Committee, which raised about £800,000 through the site.

Clare Gilmartin, Vice President of European Marketplaces at eBay, said it was amazing that, despite the recession, there had been such a level of year-on-year growth in charity giving.

Francis Maude denies that spending cuts are undermining the Big Society

Francis Maude, the Cabinet Office minister, has responded to claims made by Dame Elisabeth Hoodless, Executive Director of volunteering charity CSV, that the government's Big Society agenda lacks a "strategic plan" and is being undermined by spending cuts.

In media interviews to mark her retirement, Hoodless said volunteering projects were being hit hard by government spending cuts and this was at odds with the Big Society agenda.

But writing in *The Times* newspaper, Maude says: "Building the Big Society is not about pouring taxpayers' money into the voluntary sector.

"What we are doing is

supporting a new culture where everyone gets involved and society stops relying on the state to provide all the answers.

"I believe too much time is spent asking the taxpayer to prop up traditional organisations, rather than innovating and finding new ways to inspire people."

The plans had been developed by David Cameron's Head of Strategy, Steve Hilton, Cabinet Office ministers Oliver Letwin and Francis Maude and Lord Wei, the government's adviser on the Big Society.

The article also says that Labour leader Ed Miliband has written to the leaders of several large charities, asking them to take part in

the party's policy review on civil society.

Len McCluskey, General Secretary of trade union Unite, has also called for the Public Administration Select Committee to launch an investigation into the government's funding of voluntary organisations in the light of the Big Society agenda.

"The select committee needs to investigate the crisis that is engulfing UK charities," he said.

"If the Chancellor George Osborne does not address the crisis facing the sector in his Budget, many charities will go to the wall and that will be the death knell of the Big Society."

Commission 'will focus on core regulatory role'

The Charity Commission is proposing to focus its investigatory work on charities where there is a "serious and systemic risk" and it believes its involvement will have most impact.

It is also proposing that sector umbrella bodies and charities "need to take back responsibility for promoting and sharing good practice" and giving one-to-one advice to charities.

The proposals come in initial conclusions of the regulator's strategic review, set up in response to a cut to its budget of more than a quarter, from £29.3 in 2010/11 to £21.3m in 2014/15.

The report says the regulator "must maintain the capacity to investigate individual charities where there is mismanagement or abuse."

It goes on: "We need to ensure that we focus on individual interventions only where there is a serious and systemic risk and where our involvement can have most impact - continuing to work with others, and recognising that risk is not confined to the bigger charities".

Dame Suzi Leather, Chair of the Commission, said in a statement: "There is strong support for a clearer focus on our core regulatory role, and on doing what only we can do.

"This will mean a rebalancing of the relationship between the sector and the regulator so that umbrella bodies, and charities themselves, take back responsibility for



sharing and promoting good practice.

"It will mean reinforcing the confidence and self-reliance of charities to make their own decisions within the legal boundaries wherever possible. It will mean reducing our interventions

in individual charities and, over time, our one-to-one advice to charities."

The report says the Commission will stop providing extra support to groups that fail to get charitable status. It will "move quickly and clearly to reject applications which do not meet the requirements, rather than spending time working with them to refine their

application."

The report also says that the Commission's priorities will include registering new charities, publishing information about charities, providing guidance to trustees and dealing with serious mismanagement and abuse.

The Commission also plans to reduce its layers of management through a restructure that is due to be completed by 1st October.

Why not become a Trustee for Knowsley Pensioners Advocacy?

Knowsley Pensioners Advocacy and Information Service (KPAIS) is a voluntary organisation aiming to meet the need for independent advocacy, for older people in Knowsley.

Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain services they need. Advocates and advocacy schemes work in partnership with the people they support and take their side. Advocacy promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice.

KPAIS wishes to expand its Board of Trustees to ensure we have the right balance of skills and experience to govern the organisation and its small team of staff. We are actively seeking new Trustees with skills in areas such as business planning, funding bids and the commissioning of services, although we would welcome all types of experience.

Trustees need to have a commitment to working for the rights and representation of older people and be willing to attend quarterly Board meetings and other occasional meetings as required. Trustees are unpaid but out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed. This is a chance to make a difference to the lives of older people in Knowsley.

To obtain a copy of the role description for Trustees, please contact Sue McCarthy at KPAIS on 0151 449 3706.

Applicants need to submit a covering letter and/or CV by Wednesday 27 April 2011 for the attention of The Trustees, KPAIS, The Old Schoolhouse, St Johns Road, Huyton. L36 0UX

Informal interviews will be held on 11 May 2011.

There will be a Training Day on Wednesday 25 May 2011 which new Trustees will be required to attend.

funding

Big Lottery Fund opens £20m fund for vulnerable children



The Big Lottery Fund has launched a £20m programme that will fund charity-led partnerships supporting families with vulnerable children.

The Improving Futures Programme will provide funding for local voluntary sector organisations that work in partnership with public services to help UK families with children aged between five and 10 years old with housing, health, employment and other needs.

The scheme will fund up to 20 partnerships for three to five years, with up to

£900,000 for each project. The BLF will also fund an evaluation of the programme that will assess how the different projects' successes can be replicated elsewhere.

A statement from the BLF said the programme would aim to help not only individual families, but also local communities and society as a whole.

"It may also help realise savings for the taxpayer as a result of reduced need for further costly interventions such as taking children into care, housing evictions, hospital stays or criminal

proceedings," it says.

Anna Southall, interim chair of the BLF, said: "We know that families in these circumstances interact with many different public services - from housing authorities to mental health services and schools to police. While some have benefited from integrated assistance, many have not.

"Improving Futures is designed to enable the voluntary sector to play a crucial role in reaching out to these families, providing holistic and tailored support in partnership with local public services."

The BLF said it would aim to support organisations that have a track record of working with disadvantaged families. Each proposal must be endorsed by the Chief Executive of the relevant local authority.

Applicants will need to submit expressions of interest to the BLF by midday on 12th May. These will then be reviewed and around 20 applicants will be invited to submit full applications by late September.

Department for Work and Pensions announces £73m credit union fund

The Department for Work and Pensions has announced a £73m fund to modernise and expand the credit union sector.

The DWP said that it would carry out a six-month fact-finding mission to decide how to spend the cash, which will be available over the next four years.

In a statement, the Department pledged to build closer links between credit unions and the Post Office.

Abcul, the umbrella body for credit unions, had previously asked the government for £15m to build an IT platform that would allow post offices to

access credit union customer details.

The previous government provided a five-year Growth Fund, worth £100m, for credit unions to lend, which closed on 31st March.

"Ministers expect the post office network to play a central role in enabling credit unions to reach more families," the DWP statement said. "We would like to see people accessing credit union accounts across post office counters, as well as credit union branches."

Mark Lyonette, Chief Executive of Abcul, said in a statement that his 325 members were keen to

connect more closely with post offices.

"Credit unions have achieved great things in recent years through the Growth Fund, so we are especially pleased to learn today that new funding is being made available," he said.

Email your news to:
kcvs@knowsleycvs.org

The deadline for the next issue of Voluntary News is:-
Friday, 6th May 2011

Email: kcvs@knowsleycvs.org

Fax: 0151-443 0251

Promote your event here - FREE! Email: kcvs@knowsleycvs.org

what's on

Merseyside IBS Self Help Group

Supporting people with Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Meeting dates for 2011:-

April 20, May 18

(Speakers to be confirmed)

We meet every 3rd Wednesday in each month (except July, August and December) between 2 and 4 pm

*Our meetings take place in the Holy Name Parish Church, Mossfits Lane, Fazakerley, Liverpool L10 9LG
(entrance in Longmoor Lane, next to Body Talk Ladies Gym)*

Prescot Historic Society

Meetings are held in the Methodist Hall, Atherton Street, Prescot at 7.30pm

Tea will be served at 7.00pm



Fundraising for Fairbridge Merseyside

9th October 2011 — where will you be?

Fairbridge inspires positive change in young people, supporting them to develop the confidence, motivation and skills they need to turn their lives around. We give young people from disadvantaged areas of Merseyside a fairer chance to succeed in life. Every year we win the trust and commitment of young people that many other organisations find difficult to engage. Outside education, training and employment, they have often lost hope for their future. We help them to think differently.

Located in Liverpool and working across Merseyside it serves some of the most disadvantaged areas of the UK. Fairbridge works in partnership with local communities and organisations to provide cost-effective solutions to issues such as truancy, crime and unemployment. Last year:

87% FIRST WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR WITH THREE OR MORE SUPPORT NEEDS. THIS WAS THE START OF THEIR JOURNEY AT FAIRBRIDGE

40% HAD A HISTORY OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE

68% HAD MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES OR LOW SELF ESTEEM

35% HAD LOW (BELOW GCSE GRADE) OR NO QUALIFICATIONS

61% OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16 - 18 WERE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING

79% OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16+ WERE OUT OF WORK

Of those we supported **85%** went onto to achieve something positive, such as return to the classroom, gain a qualification, get a job or remain on our programme.

For these young people, Fairbridge was a clean slate, a chance to change direction and make a new start.

If you're up for the challenge of supporting our young community and changing lives please contact Jonpaul Lowles

Jonpaul.lowles@fairbridge.org.uk or 0151 709 5881

Liverpool and District Short Mat Indoor Bowls League

Weekly (ongoing)

Indoor Bowls at

Huyton Leisure

Centre, Roby

Road, Huyton

Wednesday

evenings

7.00 - 9.30pm.

Players, teams, beginners – men or women – light exercise.

All are welcome, old or young, for an enjoyable evening.

480 7529

what's on

Promote your event here - FREE! Email: kcvs@knowsleycvs.org



Huyton-with-Roby Historical Society

Come and join us on the 2nd Friday of every month at 7.30pm from March to October.

April 8th

Kevin Taylor, Anglo Saxon Settlers

May 13th

Ken Pye, Liverpool

Meetings are held at

**THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE,
ST JOHN'S ROAD,
HUYTON L36 0UX**

Deadline for the June issue is Friday 6th May 2011



Diabetes UK

St Helens and District Group

Wednesday 6th April 2011– *Carbohydrate Counting in Diabetes* Lara Wessels, Diabetes Dietician, NHS Knowsley

*** Wednesday 4th May 2011**– *Home Blood Glucose Monitoring* Jan Cardwell, Diabetes Specialist Nurse, St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Wednesday 1st June 2011– *Diabetes and Your Kidneys* Prof. Kevin Hardy, Consultant Physician and Endrochroinologist, St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Meetings held in **St Helens Town Hall** at 7.30 p.m.

*** 4th May meeting will be held in St Helens United Reform Church, Ormskirk Street (next to Windle Pilkington Hall)**

ALL WELCOME - ADMISSION FREE

For further details contact Cherry Bowmaker on **0151- 480 0821**

The Charity for people with diabetes

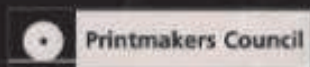
Registered charity number 215199

21 February - 24 April 2011

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7th BRITISH INTERNATIONAL MINI PRINT EXHIBITION

www.7thminiprint.com



Kirkby Gallery
Knowsley

