

Group Success

Michael Jackson, chair of community group Friends of Swaton launched Swaton's first fun day at August Bank holiday weekend. Events included dog agility, show jumping, a visit by the local fire service and music from local bands including a bag piper. There was also a tug of war, welly wanging, fairground amusements, pony rides and face painting as well as refreshments throughout the day. The day was organised by Friends of Swaton which is a small group of friends who wanted to put on a local event for the benefit of the community.

Why should we tell you about this? Well, with support from our Project Officer they were awarded a grant from the PIP fund of £500 which they could use towards the cost of hiring portaloos and paying for public liability insurance. Funds raised at the event will be used to put on events for local children and the elderly. Our support in paying these 'upfront' costs enabled more of the funding to be available to meet their aims.

We wish the Friends of Swaton continued success.

The Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) is responsible for distributing half of the good causes money raised by the National Lottery. BIG's mission is to bring improvements to communities and the lives of people in need throughout the UK.

Some of BIG's current funding programmes are nearing the end of their grant making cycle. New programmes are expected to commence during 2009. Once established, they are anticipated to provide a simpler and more straightforward system of funding than the various programmes presently offered.

Prior to the commencement of its new funding cycle, BIG wishes to consult with people about its future funding objectives. The Big Thinking website will offer people the chance to submit their views and help BIG to plan for the future. Over the coming months, BIG will be seeking public opinion in order to help shape funding policies.

People can have their say by visiting the new website from 17 November 2008.

<http://www.big-thinking.org.uk>



Clear advice on volunteering while on benefits

Jobcentre Plus has published new guidance on volunteering whilst on benefits. 'Volunteering while receiving benefits' can be downloaded from http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/stellent/groups/jcp/documents/webcontent/dev_015837.pdf, or a printed copy is available from the VCS NK. Phone Steph on 01529 308450 for details.



Wanted

Committee Members for Art Event.

One to One Supporter - Crafts

Contact the Volunteer Centre for details on

01529 308450



ProHelp Community - getting support

ProHelp provides free professional advice and support to local community groups and voluntary organisations and operates through several groups in city, urban and rural locations across the country.



Their aim is to ensure that local community groups can access free professional help and advice with issues that might otherwise hinder their work and projects.

ProHelp members include solicitors, accountants, surveyors, architects, public relations, marketing and management consultants who undertake one-off projects. Each ProHelp group is a local network of professional firms who often work collaboratively on larger projects. Community organisations receive the same level of service as a fee-paying client - the only difference is that the community client is not charged for the work undertaken. For more information go to:

http://www.bitc.org.uk/take_action/in_the_community/community_investment/engaging_employees/prohelp/community_getting_support/index.html or contact Ann Hilton on 0115 924 7400 or ann.hilton@bitc.org.uk

Stop Press!!

Pro-Help are offering a free Professional Advice Surgery on Tuesday 11th November 2008, 12:30-17:00, lunch included. It will be held at:

Pegasus Business Park - Off J24 of the M1

Funding for staff/volunteer training

VCS NK is pleased to announce that it has a small **training grant fund available** for voluntary and community organisations operating in North Kesteven.

To be eligible for a grant:

- Training must be for staff / volunteers of a constituted group/organisation operating for the benefit of communities within the North Kesteven district.
- The training has to be relevant to the group/organisation's aims and activities.

You will need to complete a short application form, and a simple evaluation to assess the impact of the training.

To apply, please contact Caty Collier, Area Co-ordinator, on 01529 308450 or email caty@volunteercentrenk.org.uk as soon as possible as funds are limited.

Closing date Friday 14th November. Bursaries must be spent by the end of December (although the training itself does not have to be completed by this date)

Governance in children's organisations

The National Council for Voluntary Child Care Organisations has published, with help from the Governance Hub, 'Governing for Children: A beginner's guide to governance in the children, young people and families voluntary sector'. There are focused real-life examples of particular relevance to any committee members of smaller organisations involved with children. A hard copy is available to loan from VCS NK or go to



http://www.ncvcco.org/UserFiles/File/Governing%20for%20children_06_aw_Low.pdf

FSCS & Icelandic banks

The Charity Commission has issued the Treasury to try to ensure charity assets are protected in full. For more info see - www.ncvo-vol.org.uk. Our thanks to Sandy Adirondack for this information. You can contact Sandy on:

NCVO, Charities Aid Foundation, Charity Finance Directors Group and ACEVO have issued a joint statement urging all charities affected by the Icelandic banks crisis to contact them so they can correlate information about who is affected. They also want to hear from non-charitable voluntary sector bodies. They will be negotiating with the Financial Services Authority, Ministry of Justice and

sandy@sandy-a.co.uk
www.sandy-a.co.uk



News on ITC

Involving Lincs (Lincolnshire Voluntary Sector Consortium) has got together to appoint an IT specialist to support the voluntary sector. Matt Hopkins is based at Voluntary Action East Lindsey (VAEL) but is available to support groups throughout the county.

Matt is running an ICT Fair on 9th December 2008 at, Horncastle College. He would also like to hear about your IT needs. Please either complete the attached questionnaire or contact him directly.

His contact details are as follows:

Lincolnshire Countywide ICT Officer , Lincolnshire Voluntary Sector Consortium ,
 C/O VAEL, Lindum House, 10 Queen Street, Spilsby, Lincs, PE23 5JE
mathewh@vael.org.uk; 01790 720000.



Myth Busters and Reality: Myth - Health and safety laws ban bonfires

The reality

Despite the story of a rugby club showing a film of a bonfire instead of lighting a real one, health and safety legislation doesn't ban them.

Millions of people will shortly be enjoying Guy Fawkes Night celebrations. So if you're organising a public event, don't let it go up in smoke - manage the risks responsibly and sensibly. - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/oct08.htm>



£25 Reward

Some time ago groups were asked to complete a survey offering £25 reward. Thanks to all those of you who took the time to complete the form and your comments have been noted. I am pleased to say that not one but two organisations have been selected to receive this reward.

The two winning groups are

Sleaford Little Theatre Youth Drama Group and SOVA - Congratulations.

Anyone who hasn't already sent the form back is welcome to complete and return it in order to direct our priorities but obviously the draw and reward have now completed.

Help for Sports events

Sporting Champions are available **FREE of charge** and can be arranged very easily through the Lincolnshire Sports Partnership.

To find out more about sporting champions go to

www.lincolnshiresports.co.uk

Lincolnshire Sports Partnership can also assist you by publishing your sporting event on their website. Just email details through to Emma on emma.burke@lincolnshiresports.co.uk or contact her on 01522 585580 for more details



Support for Portuguese workers

A web site specifically for the large number of Portuguese workers in the UK has been launched by the TUC. With input from Citizens Advice, it explains the rights workers can expect at work and also contains information about social issues such as housing and health.

The Portuguese language site is at

<http://www.trabalhareinounid.org>,

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/newsroom/tuc-15186-f0.cfm>.

Training Updates

A few places are still available on the following courses:

Vetting and Barring Scheme, 10 November, 1.00 pm - 3.30 pm

This briefing session on the new Vetting and Barring Scheme is crucial for staff or volunteers who provide services for children, young people or vulnerable adults.

It is an introduction to the new legislation and procedures for vetting applicants to work with vulnerable groups which will come into effect in Autumn 2009.

Introduction to Volunteer Management, 26 November, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

New to working with volunteers? Is volunteer co-ordination a part of your role?

Come along and find out more about 'good practice', and the resources and support that are available to help you recruit, support and manage your volunteers.

Both sessions will be held at the Volunteer Centre in Sleaford. **For details and to book a place, please contact us on 01529 308450 or email info@volunteercentrenk.org.uk**

Dates for your diary... Community Training Events

Community Lincs and the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils have arranged the following joint training sessions, as all these topics are highly relevant both to Village Hall and Parish Council representatives. Details of the training sessions are as follows:

Topic	Venue details	Date	Time
Security of Community buildings and tackling Anti-social Behaviour	Coleby Community Centre	18 November 2008	7.00pm - 9.00pm

Village Hall Quality Award Scheme Training

In order to recognise the work of the many volunteers who run community buildings in Lincolnshire, Community Lincs has developed the Village Hall Quality Award Scheme. Training sessions have been arranged to help halls who are considering entering the scheme. Details of these sessions are as follows:

Date	Venue and session times
Tuesday 4 th November	Faldingworth Memorial Hall, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

For booking forms and more information about these events please contact: Samantha Smith at Community Lincs on 01529 302466 or email: samantha.smith@communitylincs.com or visit

<http://www.communitylincs.com/?sect=documents&pid=113>