

Dear all!

This is my last newsletter before I disappear into the world of retirement, where you can, I believe, at last do the things that you've always wanted to do "when you have the time" and relax in the knowledge that you are not at the dictates of diaries, funding or schedules! Just don't ask me to become a Trustee and perhaps I will maintain the illusion and find this Nirvana!



Things are bound to change at Community Action but I am sure that you will give my successor the same support and friendship that many of you have given me over the past 9 years.

We often overlook the many volunteers who run the sporting activities in the district, the parent governors and school fundraising groups, the scout/guide groups and all the myriad of smaller groups that provide the essential support and networking opportunities that contribute to the well-being and cohesion of our communities. **Thank you all!**

I wish you all continued success in all the varied aspects of voluntary and community work you do – I know that it doesn't always feel like it but your work is greatly appreciated and would be sorely missed if it wasn't there. Keep up your sterling work!

Don't forget that Community Action is here to help and support you. If you need help in setting up, running your group, finding funding – or applying for it – finding volunteers or reproducing your newsletters, minutes or publicity, THEN WE CAN HELP! All you need to do is give us a ring or call into the office and we will try our best to provide a solution to your request.

That's all for now folks!

Best wishes,
Diane



Community Lunch : Tuesday 3 March 2008

Speakers: Jenny Blount from Friends of the Elderly and Julia Kokkinos from Online Advocacy.

Topic: Services for Older People

Friends of the Elderly

Their services include:

Home Support Service, which is managed by Jane Bell and has 9 home support workers, who provide no personal care but will help with shopping and other tasks which help the person remain in their home. They have 62 clients and visit them between 1 – 3 times a week for about 1-2 hours each time. It is funded through a grant from Eveson Trust and there is always a waiting list for the service.



Howbury Day Care Initiative, Howbury Lodge now has a purpose-built dementia unit which has a respite bed unit attached to it. This has been set up through a three-way partnership of Friends of the Elderly, Health and Social Services and opened in February. It is open 5 days a week and has 10 members who are all in the moderate to late stages of dementia.



Geraldine Court Day Club, operates on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and provides day care facilities for 15-18 isolated and frail people. Referrals for day care are made via the Health service and Social Services.

There is a **Welfare and Grant-giving Scheme** which awards small grants which are assessed and considered to benefit the individual, helping provide eg. respite, apparatus or an activity which enhances their life.

Onside Advocacy

Julia explained that Onside Advocacy provide advocacy and support for people with learning disabilities, mental ill health, physical disabilities, physical ill health, sensory disabilities, needs relating to old age and carers. Her role provides support for those people with mental ill health and dementia. All their work is free and confidential and they ensure that the client's wishes are taken into account and that they are aware of the issues and the options available to them.

Other services that Onside offer are:

- ✓ Advice and support in accessing benefits and dealing with financial issues.
- ✓ Legal issues, such as wills, power of attorney
- ✓ Housing issues eg. repairs

They will support people who live in South Worcestershire in their own homes, resident in nursing homes and those in hospital and who may be isolated or excluded, denied services, lacking opportunities, denied choice, unaware of rights, unable to speak up without support.



The Development Workers, most of whom are part-time, rely heavily on volunteers to provide this one-to-one support. Volunteers are given 15 hours training and then will shadow a member of the development team initially.

Referrals are open and they guarantee to contact the client within 3 working days – it takes a maximum of 4 weeks to decide on the action to be taken. Like Friends of the Elderly there is generally a waiting list of referrals. The longest-running partnership between a client and an advocate is 13 years but most are a lot shorter and many are time-limited.

Both speakers fielded a number of questions from the floor and it was generally felt that there was not enough information available about the services provided in the area. However, Jenny said that Friends of the Elderly deliberately didn't publicise their services too widely because they relied on referrals and felt that they would be overwhelmed if they did.

Age Concern produce a booklet with contact details of services available to older people and DIAL publish their Guide to Services for those people with disabilities.



You Write

Firstly we would like to congratulate all the Malvern District sports people and volunteers who were nominated at the 2008 Sports Awards recently – **Jason Relf** from Malvern Archers, **Jennifer White** from the Chase and Worcester Athletics Club, Malvern Hills Gymnastics Club, **Jenny Field and Christopher Barker** from Malvern Joggers and **Robin Farr** from Tenbury Rugby Football Club. Well done to you all and especially those who came away clutching the trophy!



**St. Richard's
Hospice**
CARING FOR LIFE

Saturday 3 May 2008

“ANTARCTIC AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE”

An illustrated talk by Dr John Turner of the British Antarctic Survey

At

**Colwall Village Hall
Refreshments available**

Details from Sandy Gibson 01684 563429

The Alzheimer's Society

The Alzheimer's Society is the leading UK Care and Research charity for people with dementia, their families and carers. It was founded in 1979 as the Alzheimer's Disease Society by two nurses.

**Alzheimer's
Society** | **Leading the
fight against
dementia**

The Worcestershire Branch was formed in 1987 and the branch now covers the County of Worcestershire with the exception of Wyre Forest District which has its own branch.

Dementia is a growing problem; it robs the person of their identity, memory, speech and understanding. Most people do not want to know about this problem until it affects a relative or friend which is quite understandable because of the devastating effects of this disease.

By 2020 it is estimated that 1.5 million in the UK will have some form of dementia. The most worrying factor is the number of younger people under 60 who are developing dementia. Any person having loss of memory, confusion or problems with thinking affecting their everyday life, should consult their doctor as soon as possible. Early diagnosis is very important in this disease.

The Worcester & District Branch of the Alzheimer's Society provides the following services:

Information and Resource Centre based in Malvern at Rowan House

Open to Callers "Drop in" or telephone enquiries on Thursdays 11am – 4pm at Rowan House Day Hospital, Osborne Road, Malvern Tel: 01684 891455 (answer phone at other times)

24 hour Helpline, 7 days a week, to offer information, advice and support :
Tel 01905 763322

Worcester Branch Office, Room 5, Angel Centre, Angel Place, Worcester
Open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 10.00 – 2.00
Tel: 01905 22195 – when unmanned answer phone in operation.

A Support Worker for Worcester and Evesham can be contacted via the Branch office.

The Branch also supports "**Al's Café**" held monthly at Perdiswell Worcester for younger people with dementia and their families. Details from the Branch office.

(thanks to Ken Crump for this information).

Parkinson's Disease Society – Malvern Branch

Please Note:



The Friendship Group has joined forces with the Worcester Group until a Group leader can be found to organise activities and events. Meetings are held at St Richard's Hospice, Worcester at 7.30pm on the THIRD Tuesday in each month.



Malvern Hydrotherapy group meets at Osborne Court, Osborne Road, Malvern Link at 12 noon on Mondays. It costs £5.00 per person per session and you provide your own towel and costume.

For more information contact: Angela Hughes, Pool Therapist on 01684 612752

One for Tenbury!

Tenbury Library has a room at the back of the library that is for public use. It is set up with 2 tables and 8 chairs and is available when the library is open. Monday, Tuesday. Thursday and Friday 9.30 – 5.30 (except Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as they are already booked).

And it's FREE!

The library would like to develop this as a Community Resource, with information for local services. If you need a meeting place please contact:

Angela Green or Helga Tyler via 01684 862151 or speak to any of the library staff: 01584 810285.



Borrowers Toy Library

**Gypsy and Traveller cultural awareness training
Perdiswell Young People's Leisure Centre**

**15th May 2008
9.30 – 12.30**

**Free to voluntary sector groups
£5 non-voluntary
Lunch provided**

**To book a place call 01684 891081
There will be a cancellation fee of £10 if you book a place and do not
use it!**

Black Pear Credit Union

As the effects of the 'Credit Crunch' are being felt by more and more people, an ethical, local organisation is offering an alternative to unprotected savings schemes and high interest lenders for the people of Malvern for the first time

Black Pear Savings & Loans is a credit union: a co-operative that offers ethical savings and loans for people from all backgrounds.

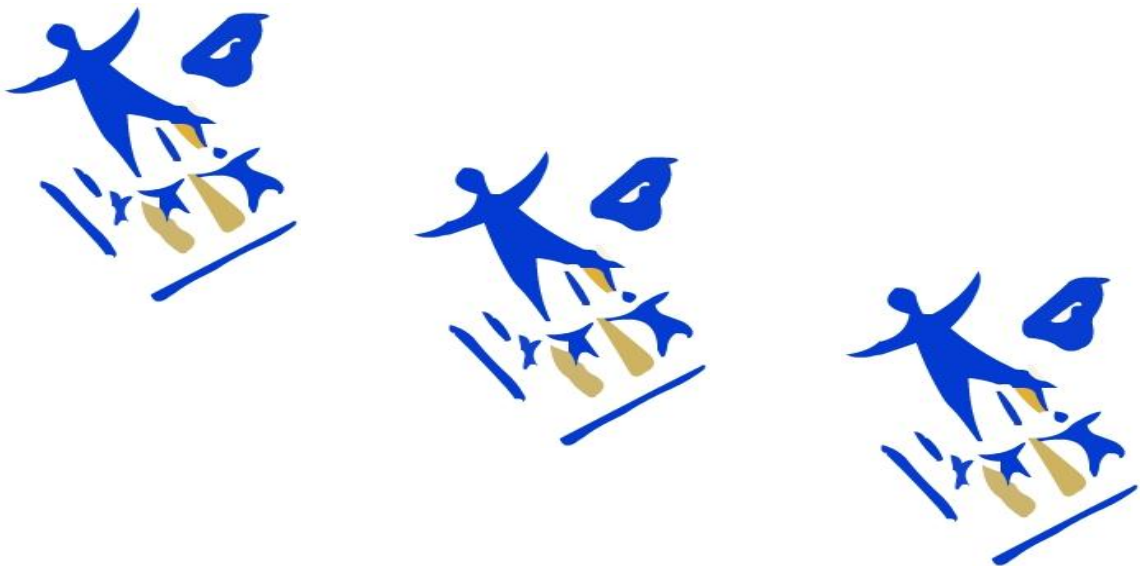
The history of credit unions is long and proud and has its roots in the co-operative movements of the early 1800s. Today there are 71,000 credit unions in the world, with over 90 million members.

Members who save with Black Pear can apply for small loans at rates that are dramatically cheaper than those charged by doorstep lenders and often also cheaper than mainstream lenders.

The Credit Union has been active in other parts of the county for 20 years and has now established its first MoneyPoints in Malvern. Festival Housing, who are supporters of the credit union, now offer Black Pear's services through their Malvern office five days a week.

There is also a volunteer-run MoneyPoint at the Pickersleigh Community Centre on Wednesday mornings between 9.30am and 11.30am, which has been supported by Malvern Hills District Council and Community Action.

Call 01905 612197 or visit www.blackpear.org.uk for more information.



Fundraising

If you haven't already registered it – Worcestershire County Council's Community Grant scheme was launched in March and the closing date in 4pm on 30th April.

You just have time to send in an application if you are quick.

At the same time WCC launched their Strategic Grant scheme.

NeXus



What is Nexus?

It is a small grants programme operating in the Rural Regeneration Zone that focuses on improving access to services and facilities for rural communities.

Who can apply?

It is expected that applications will largely be achieved through the voluntary and community sector, giving local groups an opportunity to address their communities' needs whilst encouraging capacity building within the organisation itself. In particular the fund is looking to enhance or create health, leisure, ICT, training or support services. You must be providing or looking to provide new services or a newly enhanced extension to a service in an eligible RRZ ward.

What will the fund support:

The fund is predominantly capital and therefore focussed on adapting buildings or purchasing equipment to provide new services and establishing or enhancing outreach services to improve accessibility for rural communities.

Contact: Andrea Cooper, Nexus Grant Administrator, Community First Malvern View, Willow End Park, Blackmore Park Road, Malvern, Worcs WR13 6NN.

Tel: 01684 312730 Email: andreac@comfirst.org.uk

Big Lottery: The People's Millions

This year's competition was launched in March and Five People's Millions awards of up to £50,000 are up for grabs across the West Midlands to carry out projects that improve and enrich local communities.



LOTTERY FUNDED

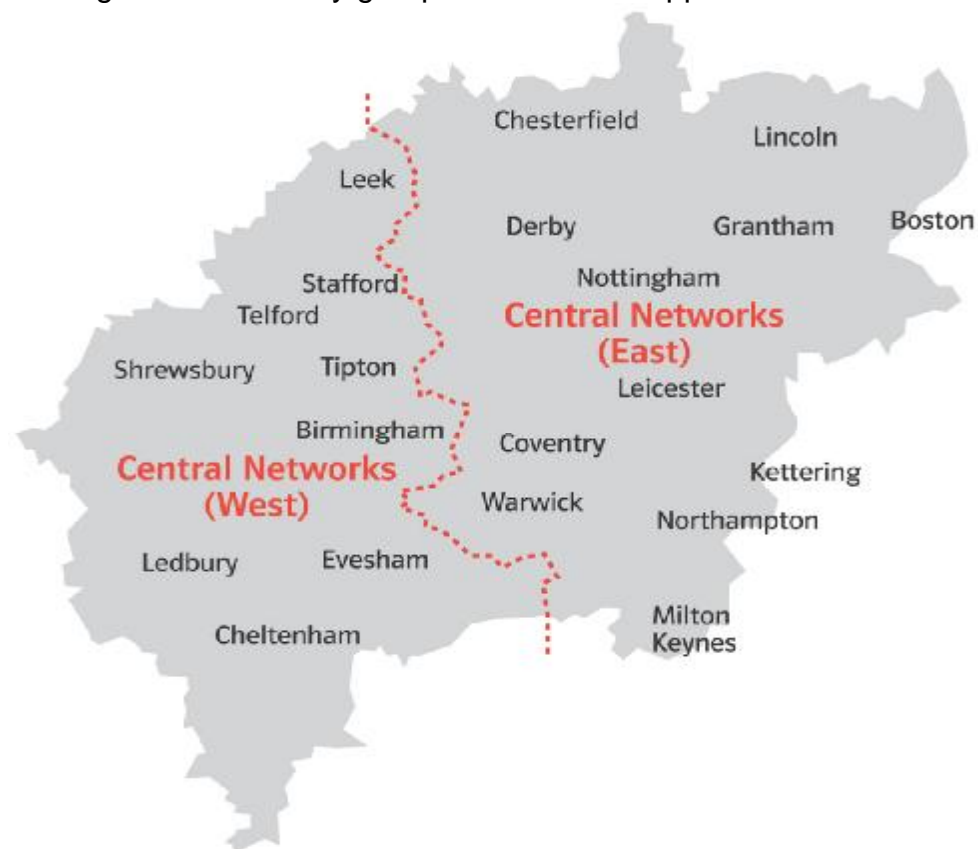
Organisations have until 15 May 2008 to enter the contest. The finalists will be screened on ITV Central West evening news later in the year when the people of the West Midlands will be able to cast their vote for the projects they want to win the Lottery good cause cash.

Entry packs are available on the website:
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peoplesmillions
Or call the hotline: 0845 0101112

My thanks to Charities Information Bureau for supplying much of the following information via their Fit4funding Newsletter.
If you would like to receive the complete newsletter via email, please let me know on 01684 580638.

Central Networks – Safer Environment Fund – Building a better and safer environment for your community

Central Networks has a fund to support community projects that will have a positive and lasting impact on their local environment. The fund is open to local community and not-for-profit organisations, within the boundaries on map below, and joint proposals with statutory partners will be considered, although the community group must lead the application.



As a guideline here are some typical examples of the types of projects that we would consider for funding:

- Laying or replacing safe flooring on children's playgrounds
- Building nature conservation areas that will benefit the community
- Replacing and installing fences around community public places – including sports fields
- Installing disabled access ramps to village halls/community centres
- Public lighting for community spaces – parks, sports fields etc.
- Building sensory gardens for the visually impaired
- Replacing and installing new public seating



English Heritage – Historic Buildings, Monuments and Designed Landscapes –see website www.english-heritage.org.uk/properties for Guidance Notes.

UKVillages Community Kitty

This is a fund from which a number of grants from between £50 - £300 are allocated to community projects. These are awarded twice a year. Deadlines are 10 April 2008 and 10 October 2008 and recipients are notified no sooner than 6 weeks later.

To apply you must be registered on UKVillages and funds must go towards a clearly identifiable project. Applications are made via the website:

www.ukvillages.co.uk.



LlankellyChase Foundation: Summer Playschemes Small Grants 2008

For children between 5-13 years and preference is given to small local playschemes lasting 4-6 weeks and groups planning special activities for youngsters who are disadvantaged.

Please read the Guidelines carefully and return the completed application form **not later than Friday 2 May 2008**.

Visit www.lankellychase.org.uk

Training

Government Funded Training Now Available for Volunteers

Volunteers can now access funding through the **Train to Gain programme**.

Train to Gain provides funding for volunteers to complete an NVQ in a subject relevant to the work they do – all training takes place in the work place and there are no evening or weekend classes to attend.

To be eligible for Train to Gain, volunteers must be 25 years or older and must not hold qualifications equivalent or above 5 GCSEs grade A-C. There is no minimum limit to the number of hours worked by the individual and there is no need for a written agreement to be in place between the organisation and the volunteer..

If you or anyone you know is interested please contact 0845 508 2442 or marketing@jhptraining.com .

Full details about all JHP training courses can be found by visiting www.jhptraining.com .



NCVO Barclays Leadership Programme 2008 – Inspiring the leaders of civil society

The programme will run between May 2008 and February 2009. Participants will become part of a group that meets 4 times between June and February – which you will join for the whole programme. The nearest venue to Malvern will be Bristol.

Each group meeting will consist of some input around an aspect of leadership, followed by structure discussion. In between meetings you will given material to help you reflect on your leadership and practices.

The launch of the programme is 15 May 2008. The cost is £210 for NCVO members and £300 for NCVO non members – once you have participated in the London launch and all sessions £100 will be returned to your organisation. There are a small number of bursaries available.

For more information go to: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk or contact Claire Curtis on 020 7520 2511 or clair.curtis@ncvo-vol.org.uk

University of Worcester

Spirituality, Culture and Identity: An Approach to Care.

This subject seeks to explore how health and social care practitioners can best meet the spiritual needs of service users and carers.

24 June 2008

For further details please contact:

Joanne Gibbs, Departmental Administrator, Tel: 01905 855147

Fax: 01905 855589

Email: j.gibbs@worc.ac.uk

University of Worcester

Documentation and Record Keeping; How Might They Look in Court?

Room MB 162, University of Worcester
(09.15 -16.30)

12 June 2008

For further details please contact:

Joanne Gibbs, Departmental Administrator, Tel: 01905 855147

Fax: 01905 855589

Email: j.gibbs@worc.ac.uk



Information

Courtesy of Fit4Funding Newsletter: Community Website Builder

Allows VCS organisations to build and maintain their own websites free of charge. The scheme is operated by BT Better World and Recipero Ltd.

Google Grants – Free advertising

These grants are designed for UK charities which meet the requirements and are registered with the Charity Commission. It is a unique free advertising programme which gives AdWords to groups seeking to inform and engage their public online. Adwords advertising on Google are used to raise awareness and increase traffic and have resulted in charities attracting major sponsorship, increasing numbers of volunteers and increased take-up of services.

Each organisation choosing to participate in Google Grants receives at least 3 months of free advertising. They select recipients every quarter and you will know within 6 months whether you will receive the grant award.

Further information and eligibility is available on www.google.co.uk/grants

Every Action Counts

Provides advice and support to voluntary and community organisations which are looking to reduce their impact on the environment, tackle climate change and improve their local area.

To find out more go to: www.everyactioncounts.org.uk

Homeless UK

Is a leading source of information about 8,500 services that can help people who are homeless or have housing problems.

To get started visit www.homelessuk.org and click on *Search all services* under the Services menu.



Calor Village of the Year Competition 2008

Entering Calor Village of the Year is easy. Every entrant completes a profile outlining the services and activities that take place in your community. Judges look for a well-balanced, caring village community, which has made the best of local opportunities to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all inhabitants.

For entry forms contact Pauline Dumville or Andrea Cooper at Community First 01684 312740 or download the entry form from http://www.comfirst.org.uk/calor_village_of_the_year

Dates for Your Diary

APRIL

- 23rd **DIAL Disability Information Session** at Malvern Library
10.00 am – 12.00 noon
- 30th **Closing date for WCC grant applications**

MAY

- 3rd **Illustrated talk in aid of St Richards
Colwall Village Hall**
- 15th **Gypsy/ Traveller training: Perdiswell
9.30 – 12.30**
- 14th & 28th **DIAL Disability Information Sessions (see above)**

JUNE

- 3rd **Community Lunchtime Meeting – Holy Trinity Hall,
Link Top, 12.30 – 2.30pm.**
- 2nd – 6th **VOLUNTEERS' WEEK**
- 6th **Volunteering Stall in Barnards Green**
- 10-11 **Charityfair Central Hall Westminster
(further details form Community Action**
- 11th & 25th **DIAL Disability Information Session**

JULY

- 10th **Community Action's AGM – Victoria Park Bowls Club**

NOVEMBER

- 15th **CHARITY FAIR – to be held at Malvern St James' School
10.00 – 3.00**

**The following extract is taken from Worcestershire's *Story of Place 2008*
– full text accessible from:
<http://www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk/home/index/wp-laa.htm>**

The Voluntary and Community Sector

Worcestershire has a rich tapestry of voluntary and community organisations. The VCS (or Third Sector), has a growing and important role and is engaged in developing and sustaining civil society and in delivering a raft of public and community level services. Recent research²⁶ has identified over 2700 voluntary and community organisations with an annual income of £365 million and assets worth in the region of £2.3 billion operating in Worcestershire. The sector employs over 4,500 people and utilises in excess of 54,000 volunteers. It is increasingly recognised as having a cross cutting role in Worcestershire with a role in campaigning and voice. It plays a pioneering and culture changing role, as the sector's voice is heard more loudly. In terms of public services, there is increasing VCS delivery, focussed users. The VCS is an integral part of building strong and active communities with the sector's ability to reach out engage, providing support and networks for people who find themselves isolated and alone, particularly in rural settings. The VCS in Worcestershire is making a major contribution in social enterprise, contributing to a stronger economy and fairer society. This is critical to the successful economic and social regeneration of many communities, and in helping to deliver the vast majority of LAA outcomes across all our Themes. The challenge for the County will be to assist in creating the right environment in which organisations are empowered and enabled to achieve these changes. The VCS in Worcestershire will make important contributions to achieving virtually every one of the new LAA priorities. The VCS already contributes to the delivery of key priority outcomes through the new Public Service Agreement (PSA) framework²⁷. This focused on supporting the environment for a healthy VCS, enabling voice and campaigning, strengthening communities, transforming public services, and encouraging social enterprise.

The new PSA aims to build more cohesive, empowered and active communities. Worcestershire recognises the critical role of the VCS in strengthening communities and welcomes the creation of a PSA indicator to measure a thriving third sector, focusing on levels of formal volunteering and the number of people employed by the sector. The VCS in Worcestershire is effectively a golden thread, which will run through the delivery of the new LAA.