

Spring 2008

Welcome to this 1st edition of our newsletter for 2008. A Happy New Year to all our readers!

CVSC 10 Year Event—were you there?



The Party of the decade went with a swing - with over 120 representatives from the community sector joining in the celebrations over the course of the day!

A lot of productive "business" and networking was conducted and prizes courtesy of Pizza Hut and Cineworld given to Ruth Williams of A4e for the "Spot the baby competition". Cam Ymlaen won a year's free membership of CVSC (2008/09) with their attendance slip.

Staff, Trustees, volunteers of CVSC celebrate 10 years of working with the voluntary sector in Conwy. (Photo courtesy of NW Pioneer Newspaper)

Visit of Dr Brian Gibbons

CVSC received a visit from Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Dr Brian Gibbons, in January to hear about current issues affecting frontline services to the voluntary sector. Whilst touring head office in Colwyn Bay, he had the opportunity to meet staff and discuss topical issues such as partnership working, the Compact, and new "Third Sector Infrastructure" arrangements. Project staff were also able to comment on how their specialist support complimented the general role of CVSC in promoting and developing voluntary activity in the local area.

A primary purpose included a visit to CVSC Conwy Volunteer Bureau to announce the continuation of funding in 2008/09 of £315,000 for part-time Youth Volunteer Advisors based within County Voluntary Councils across Wales.

Since taking up their posts in April 2007 the Youth Volunteer Advisors have recruited over 900 youth volunteers and helped develop new volunteering opportunities.

(Dr Brian Gibbons, with staff and volunteers of CVSC)



Dr Brian Gibbons said "Youth Volunteer Advisors play an important role in encouraging local youth led projects. A recent report on the monitoring of the work of the Youth Volunteer Advisors shows extremely positive results in the first six months, with Youth Volunteer Advisors exceeding their recruitment targets for young people by 16% and exceeding the number of opportunities created by 85%.

David Taylor, Chief Officer of CVSC said: "The appointment of a Youth Volunteering Advisor has given a much needed boost to the recruitment of young volunteers in Conwy and we very much appreciate the continuation of funding to enable us to develop more opportunities for young people."

Alwyn Selway - An Appreciation

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Alwyn Selway who passed away suddenly on the 27th December 2007. Alwyn had worked with CVSC as a simultaneous translator and translator on our newsletter for many years. His quiet demeanour and smiling face will be missed by all.



CFAP CVSC Small Grants Scheme

Total awards for round 8 of CFAP, CVSC Small Grants were **£15,335 to 13 groups as follows:**

- ◆ Bethel Methodist Church, Deganwy
- ◆ Conwy District Scout Association
- ◆ Gwefan Llanrwst Website
- ◆ Llandudno Community Allotments Association
- ◆ Llanfairfechan & North Wales Croquet Club
- ◆ Llanefydd Arts Society
- ◆ North Wales Deaf Association
- ◆ Disability Resource Centre
- ◆ Trefriw Youth Football Club
- ◆ Conwy Crystals Majorettes
- ◆ Cor Syniad Da
- ◆ Cymdeithas y Berfeddwlad
- ◆ Cymdaiths Y Gorlan Uwchaled a'r Cylch

The panel meeting for round 9 met on 6 February and at time of press we still await the outcome of our application for a further round of CFAP monies to distribute as a Small Grants Scheme in the County of Conwy.

More news in our next newsletter!

WREN announces more funding streams in 2008!

There is a new funding stream expected to be launched soon aimed at smaller projects and will be geared for applicants who have an eligible project and require between £2,000 and £15,000. The total value of the project must be no more than £50,000.

WREN main grant programme is for funding of between £2,000 and £50,000.

Deadlines are quarterly.

WRG Communities Challenge for 2008 has been launched—Organisations are invited to bid for between £75,000 and £250,000 for capital projects which make a real difference to their community. Deadline for applications is 30 May 2008.



WREN would like to see more applications from the Conwy area in 2008 and would urge community groups, not for profit organisations and Community Councils to contact them.

(please visit www.cvsc.org.uk to see a list of the successful grant awards in Conwy in 2007)

More information from Meleri Jones on 01248 674907,
e-mail meleri.jones@wren.org.uk or visit www.wren.org.uk



Llandudno Junction Community Club had great cause for celebration recently as the club was handed to local residents by a local developer. Beech Homes sold the former Hotpoint Club back to the community for a token sum of £1. Three years ago the venue was threatened with closure following private companies taking over the club's ownership.

The community club boasts facilities for disabled children to do non-contact sport, a dance school, football, darts and dominoes, as well as a fantastic open space safe for children.

CVSC would like to congratulate the team on all their hard work which so directly benefits the local community!

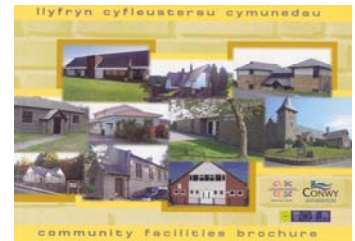
COMMUNITY BUILDINGS INFORMATION EVENT

AVOW are holding an event on the **13th March 2008 at Gresford Trust Memorial Hall, Wrexham** for individuals involved with community buildings, from 2pm-6pm. Refreshments from 1.15pm
 Various organisations will be attending to try and help with any worries people have and just to up date them on their responsibilities e.g. North Wales Fire Service will be doing a presentation on risk assessment. The Carbon Trust, Charity Commission, North Wales Police, WREN and others have confirmed their attendance and will be providing presentations and advice surgeries.

Cathryn Williams, AVOW Community Buildings Officer, has kindly extended an invitation to groups in Conwy, offering 10 places. To register your interest please contact Cathryn on 01978 317097 or e-mail cathryn.williams@avow.org

Community Facilities Brochure - new edition

The third edition of the Community Facilities Brochure is on its way!
 Be a part of it - if your community facility isn't already included, or if there have been any changes in contact details, please complete and return an application form for inclusion in the third edition.
 Closing date 31 March 2008.



(Popular 2nd edition of the Community Facilities Brochure)

TUDNO FM – LLANDUDNO COMMUNITY RADIO LTD

Tudno FM has just been awarded a five year community radio licence from OFCOM.
 They will star live broadcasting on March 1st and will provide education and training facilities in radio production and encourage people from the community, including local schools and colleges, community groups and charities to get involved with the station.

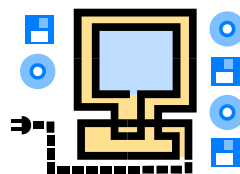
Local groups and organisations will play a major part in station output and many will find themselves producing and presenting their own programmes. It is a COMMUNITY project and that means YOU!

Tudno FM are based in the Ty Hapus Community Resource Centre in Llandudno (the old John Bright's School Sports Hall).
 If you are interested in being a part of the team then please contact Derrick Orme on 01492 863190 or email communityradio@mac247.co.uk

IT Tips—regular column whereby Sue Jackson of Byte Back shares some useful IT short-cuts—No 2 Edit a cell in Excel

The magic key in Excel (Access & Project too) is F2. You can quickly edit a cell by pressing F2—this will put you into edit mode. You can then use your Word quick editing keys -

- ◆ Home—will take you to the beginning of the cell
- ◆ End—will take you to the end of the cell
- ◆ Ctrl and left and right arrow—moves you a word at a time
- ◆ To turn Overtyping mode on so that existing characters are replaced by new characters while you type, press the Insert key
- ◆ When Overtyping mode is turned on, OVR is displayed on the status bar. Overtyping mode can be turned on or off only when you are in editing mode



sue@byteback.force9.co.uk or
 Tel:07770 472488

Remember the range of Information Sheets on various relevant topics—download from the CVSC website—www.cvsc.org.uk

Children & Young People's Partnership



CORE AIM GROUPS

The Children's Partnership, and the Young People's Partnership have been restructured into Core Aim Groups which will report to the Children and Young People's Partnership Framework Board. The current focus of the groups is the single Children and Young People's Plan, sourcing information to help inform the development of local desired outcomes and performance indicators. The plan is being drafted by a Project Team within the Local Authority and will be subject to a ten week consultation period.

The Core Aim Groups will be identifying gaps in provision, duplication of provision and identifying priorities. They will be monitoring progress and actions relevant to the aim within the context of the single plan. The Framework Board has the ultimate responsibility and will receive performance reports and information from the Core Groups. It is the Board which will be setting commissioning priorities and giving a clear lead as to how national strategies, policies and priorities will be tackled locally.



BIG LOTTERY CHILD'S PLAY PROGRAMME AWARD

North West Wales Play Partnership is a partnership made up of stakeholders from the voluntary and statutory sectors from the counties of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Conwy with an interest in improving children's play opportunities across the three counties.

A steering group submitted a funding bid to BIG Lottery Child's Play Programme to fund an infrastructure project, to support the development of a North West Wales Play Forum to provide and plan for children's play opportunities. Conwy County Borough Council acted as the lead organisation for the bid, but it is anticipated that North West Wales Play Forum (NWWPF) will become a constituted group achieving charitable status.

The application was successful and two play development workers will be recruited shortly to support the development of NWWPF and move the play agenda forward. One will be based in Conwy and South Gwynedd and one in Anglesey and North Gwynedd.

MENTAL CAPACITY ACT 2005

The Mental Capacity Act provides a statutory framework to protect vulnerable people aged 16 and over who may not be able to make their own decisions. It makes clear who can take decisions in which situations and how to go about it. And came into force in October 2007.

David Lewis, Planning & Development Officer Social Care & Housing, CCBC has drafted a summary document looking at the few parts of the Act which may affect children under 16, and the position of young people aged 16 – 17 yrs and the overlapping laws that affect them.

Please contact Ann Westmoreland for a copy or visit our Partnership page on CVSC's web www.cvsc.org.uk

VOLUNTARY SECTOR NETWORK MEETING

The next meeting is on **11 March, 2.30pm in Venue Cymru, Promenade, Llandudno.**

The focus of the meeting will be consultation around the Children & Young People's Plan. The meeting is open to all voluntary and community groups working with children and/or young people in the county.

Contact Ann Westmoreland for booking form
on 01492 523849



REGIONAL TRAINING FRAMEWORK

CVSC

- **Introduction to being a trustee/committee member, including Board and sub committees**, 7 March 2008, CVSC Colwyn Bay, 9.30am to 12.30pm.
- **From planning to delivery - working with the statutory sector, networks, alliances and consortia** 27 March 2008, CVSC Colwyn Bay, 9.30 - 12.30

These courses are costed at £50 (£100 per full day), but are heavily subsidised by WAG and offered to CVSC Member organisations at £5, Wider voluntary and community sector at £10, Private and Statutory at £20. Includes refreshments and handouts.

- **Introduction to Sustainable Funding**, 14 March 2008, CVSC Colwyn Bay, 10am - 4pm.
- **Introduction to Preparing a Sustainable Fundraising Strategy**, 18 April 2008, CVSC Colwyn Bay, 10am to 4pm. This course will help you understand the importance and benefits of adopting a structured approach to fundraising in order to develop a sustainable income base.
- **Introduction to Business and Strategic Planning**, 16 May 2008, CVSC Colwyn Bay, 10am to 4pm. This course will help you understand the importance and benefits of long-term planning and provide you with practical resources to plan more effectively within your organization.

These courses are costed at £100 per day, but are heavily subsidised by WAG and offered to CVSC Member organisations at £20, Wider voluntary and community sector at £30, Private and Statutory at £40. Includes refreshments, lunch and handouts.

More information on the above 3 courses from www.sustainablefundingcymru.org.uk

To obtain a booking form please telephone CVSC on 01492 534091 or e-mail mail@cvsc.org.uk or download from www.cvsc.org.uk

Mantell Gwynedd

- **Sustainable Community Buildings**, 5 March 2008, 7 – 9.30pm, Penrhyndeudraeth Memorial Hall.
- **Preparing for Volunteers (2 days)** 29 & 30 April 2008, 10am to 4pm, Royal Sportsman, Porthmadog
- **Introduction to preparing a sustainable fundraising strategy**, 29 February 2008, Ystafell Madog, Glaslyn Leisure Centre, Porthmadog, 10am to 4pm.
- **Grants – Preparing Applications and Supporting Documents**, 14 March 2008, Queen's Hotel, Blaenau Ffestiniog, 10am to 4pm.
- **Introduction to Business and Strategic Planning**, 1 April 2008, 10am to 4pm, Royal Victoria, Llanberis.
- **Loan Finance and asset based development**, 3 June 2008, Ty Siamas, Dolgellau, 10 - 4pm. Cost: £15 Voluntary Sector, £40 Private and Statutory

For more information please contact Mantell Gwynedd on 01286 672626 or e-mail yhmholiadau@mantellgwynedd

Medrwn Môn

- ♦ **Effective Communication Skills**, Tuesday 15 April 2008, 10am to 3.20pm, Rhosyr Room, Economic Department, Anglesey Business Centre, Llangefni. Cost £13 including lunch. Closing date 3 April 2008.

For further information please contact Derlwyn Hughes on 01248 724944

Cruse will be running their 48 hour foundation course in bereavement counselling skills in Denbighshire starting in September- probably in St Asaph or Rhyl. The course is accredited. Please contact Trish, the Administrator to chat about what the training involves or to register your interest and for an application form. Phone :08702 402758 or email: crusenorthwales@btconnect.com



News from the Network

Conwy Voluntary Health and Social Care Network would be delighted to welcome you to its first **Annual General Meeting** at Colwyn Bay Cricket Club, Penrhyn Avenue, Rhos on Sea on **Tuesday 4th March 2008 at 2.00pm.**

Please join us to celebrate our achievements to date and launch us into future success, sustainability and development!

RSVP to Jill Owen
Health & Social Care Coordinator
Conwy Voluntary Services Council
Tel. 01492 523841 or
Email: jillowen@cvsc.org.uk

Conwy Health Precinct at
Colwyn Bay Leisure Centre

CVSC and Conwy County Borough Council recently commissioned the Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit to undertake a health impact assessment of the Conwy Health Precinct. Health Impact Assessment seeks to explore all the future potential impacts of a particular project on peoples' health and well-being, and to modify and enhance project delivery.

Stakeholders were identified and invited to a participatory workshop held at Colwyn Bay's Leisure Centre on 15th January 2008. The workshop was very well attended and gave stakeholders an opportunity to explore the maximum potential improvements in health and to minimise the potential risks to health. This information and the recommendations suggested will be collated and presented in a report over the coming months.

Direct Payments &
The Rowan Organisation

For those who have not yet heard of Direct Payments, they are payments made by the Local Authority in lieu of their usual care. If you have an assessed need & meet the eligibility criteria, you may be entitled to receive a Direct Payment.

The Rowan Organisation is an enabling organisation which provides information, advice and support regarding Direct Payments.

A small local team provides support across Conwy & Denbighshire. They are happy to discuss any queries you may have about using Direct Payments.

For more information, please contact
 Head Office on Freephone number
 0800 783 1755 or to speak in Welsh please call
 0800 783 8397



Follow on from Inaugural Meetings of
Conwy & Denbighshire Neurological
Alliance

A new neurological alliance has now been formed and the next meeting will take place on 3rd March, 2.00—4.00pm (Venue to be decided).

For further information, please contact Jill Owen on tel. 01492 523841



In the first meeting chaired by **Dr Brian Gibbons in his new role as Minister for Social Justice and Local Government**, the **November meeting of the Voluntary Sector Partnership Council** heard how the Assembly Government plans to support and work with the sector over the next three years. Through its Strategic Action Plan, 'The Third Dimension', the Assembly Government has reaffirmed its commitment to the principles and values in the Voluntary Sector Scheme and presented a picture of what the Assembly Government wishes to achieve through its support for the 'third sector'.

In response, voluntary sector representatives broadly welcomed the commitments in the plan whilst stressing the need for its implementation to be closely monitored and for the focus to be on achieving real outcomes. Each Assembly Government department will now work to identify how it will take action to support the delivery of the commitments in the Plan. One of the headline commitments in the Action Plan is a media campaign to increase awareness of volunteering and raise its status. This will be linked to a research project that will aim to improve understanding of the motivations and barriers facing volunteers.

The VSPC also heard a joint presentation from the representatives for Advice and Advocacy, and Older People, which highlighted the role of the voluntary sector in information and advice provision. The Assembly Government was urged to recognise their key strategic role in ensuring adequate and diverse provision at a local level. It was agreed that the VSPC would initiate an investigation into the current level of support for independent information and advice and the role of the voluntary sector. This work would inform Assembly Government policy, including the Wales Advice Strategy and regional commissioning.

The next meeting of the VSPC will take place on 13 March in Carmarthenshire. Members of the public are welcome to observe, and if you would like to attend this meeting, please contact Nigel Woodward, Voluntary Sector and Inclusion Unit, on 01685 729272 .

Minister's focus on public services

Andrew Davies, the Minister for Finance and Public Service, had his first meeting with third sector networks under the auspices of the National Assembly Voluntary Sector Scheme in January since his appointment to his new portfolio. The meeting focused on the third sector's contribution to the public service reform agenda, with particular reference to its role in citizen engagement, partnerships and commissioning, service delivery and scrutiny.

The Minister emphasised the government's commitment to citizen engagement underpinning the reform agenda. He recognised that achieving genuine engagement between public services and the people who use them posed significant challenges, and he welcomed the contribution that many third sector organisations could make. The sector's representatives stressed the importance of engagement being more than just consultation, and the need for citizen and user voices to be part of decision-making and challenge. The meeting also discussed the sector's role in delivering public services. The sector's representatives raised the need for a level playing field that ensured that all public services were subject to the same commissioning and procurement regime, and the need to track the extent to which patterns of service delivery were changing. The minister referred to the Business Procurement Task Force, which had recently approved new guidance from Value Wales on procuring from the third sector, and the potential to monitor how this was impacting on local procurement.

The meeting welcomed the actions included in the Assembly Government Strategic Action Plan for the third sector relating to public services. There were seen as setting an important agenda for the greater involvement of the sector, and the minister agreed to write to provide an update of how these actions were being implemented. This would form the basis for continuing discussion at the next half-yearly meeting.



News from the Bureau

Visit

www.volunteering-wales.net
to see all our current volunteer vacancies

Millennium Volunteers

Have you signed up yet as a Delivery Partner to get funding towards your young volunteers?

Ring the Bureau for details

WALES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS, 2008

Know a volunteer who's given outstanding service? Or a group of volunteers whose efforts have dramatically enhanced the community?

Then nominate them for an Award and have their efforts recognised!

Give Alan or Sophia a call for details of the various award categories and how to nominate.

Closing Date—28th March, 2008

01492-871110 or e-mail
alanedwards@cvsc.org.uk

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS

Proud of the way you treat your volunteers?

Want to be recognised for good practice?

Would like a check-over on your procedures for volunteers?

Then apply for the Investing in Volunteers Quality Mark. This UK Award recognises organisations' commitment to high-quality volunteer involvement.

Remember, having the Award will demonstrate to potential funders that you are a professionally run organisation and are serious about involving volunteers.

For more information contact the Bureau or call WCVA on 0870 607 1666

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

MENCAP are looking for befrienders at their Gateway social clubs in Colwyn Bay & Llandudno

CHOOSE2CHANGE need volunteer support workers to help in their work with non-convicted male perpetrators of domestic abuse

OUTLOOK COMMUNITY—MANTAIS PROJECT need volunteer youth workers to provide pastoral care during expeditions

CPRW—INTERGENERATIONAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT need older volunteers to share their memories with local schoolchildren

NANT CONWY DAY CLUB are looking for volunteer assistants to help & socialise at the club

FOUNDATION FUNDRAISERS are looking for volunteers to help staff their shop in Llandudno

TY LLYWELYN are looking for Walk Leaders to promote walking activities amongst the local residents

WRVS need Social Club Assistants at Pentre Newydd Lunch Club/Social Centre

Interested? Ask Alan or Sophia on 01492-871110 for more details