



*Daventry Volunteer Centre  
Staff, Volunteers and Trustees  
wish all our members a  
very Merry Christmas  
and a Prosperous and Happy  
New Year in 2007.*

## **DAVENTRY VOLUNTEER CENTRE**

**The Library, North Street, Daventry,  
Northamptonshire, NN11 4GH.**

**Tel: 01327 300614**

**Email: [info@daventryvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:info@daventryvolunteers.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.daventryvolunteers.org.uk](http://www.daventryvolunteers.org.uk)**

N.B. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please just let us know and your name will be removed from our mailing list



**Daventry Volunteer Centre Winter 2006**

## **DAVENTRY CONNECTS**

*The newsletter for the voluntary sector in the Daventry District*

**Daventry Volunteer Centre  
Your Local Infrastructure Organisation**

Daventry Volunteer Centre (DVC) has been in existence since 1990. The Centre has grown over a number of years from a small organisation with one part-time staff member, to a much larger concern employing a full time manager and various other staff delivering project work in response to local need. In recent years the scope of work that DVC undertakes for the local community, has developed and expanded.

Our traditional role has been around recruiting, training, supporting and placing volunteers with local not for profit organisations, and focussing on all issues related to volunteering. DVC's role has recently changed and developed. We are now the Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) for the Daventry district. We have always provided a range of support to

*(Continued on page 2)*

voluntary and community groups involving volunteers, and it is this area of work that has now been increased and developed. DVC has recently partnered South Northants Volunteer Bureau and secured funding from Northants County Council for infrastructure provision across the two districts. A memorandum of understanding between the two organisations has been signed, aimed at increasing the impact and effectiveness of both organisations' services to members. In addition, Daventry District Council are funding DVC to develop infrastructure provision in the Daventry District. The two organisations will be working closely together to provide the widest possible service across both districts.

Services provided by DVC will include hosting the Daventry Voluntary and Community Sector Forum, providing a quarterly newsletter and the DVC

information website, giving funding advice, VCS representation at county and regional level, information and advice on starting-up a new group, quality standards, the role of Trustees, constitutions, becoming a registered charity, and good practice for volunteer involving organisations etc.

DVC are still running our projects: The Brushes and Spades project for volunteers with extra support needs linked to Gardening and Decorating for elderly or disabled people without family help, and a partnership project called DASH (Daventry Safety in the Home project) where volunteers take information and advice to elderly people to help them keep safe and secure in their own homes.

For further information about any of the services provided by DVC, please phone Carella on 01327 300614, or email her at : Carella@daventryvolunteers.org.uk

## **BT Community Connections Internet Access Scheme**

BT Community Connections award scheme enables community and voluntary groups throughout the UK to get online.

The scheme offers community or voluntary organisation the opportunity to apply for a multi-media internet-ready PC and a contribution towards a year's broadband internet access through BT Total Broadband.

The scheme targets community groups that could benefit from internet access but don't necessarily have the resources. It reflects the massive developments in the internet and broadband technology and how connectivity offered by the internet is becoming ever more essential in our daily lives.

The scheme has: Enabled over 4,500 groups to get online, from older

silver surfers, playgroups, cultural groups and local environmental initiatives to youth sports organisations. It has benefited an estimated five million people directly and indirectly and has won a prestigious Business in the Community Award for Excellence.

For more information and application forms see <http://www.btcommunityconnections.com/>. Closing date for the next round of awards is February 2007.

Details about BT Community Connections are also hosted at <http://www.fundersindex.co.uk/BTCommunityConnection.asp>. This is a free funding index web based service for voluntary and community groups. Paper based Copies of the funding index are also available if required.

*(Continued from page 5)*

dens, contributes to the clients' sense of well being, helping them to stay for longer living in their own homes.

We have recently applied to the Big Lottery Fund for funding for 5 years to continue to run this important project. Should our application be unsuccessful we will be looking to secure

funding from alternative sources to continue to run the project.

If you know of an elderly or disabled person without family help, living in the Daventry District, who might benefit from the gardening, decorating or small DIY jobs that the project can help with, please contact Carella on 01327 300614 for further

***Invitation to:***

**DAVENTRY VOLUNTARY AND  
COMMUNITY SECTOR FORUM**

***Wednesday 7th February 2007***

**12.00 to 1.30pm at The Abbey , Market  
Square, Daventry NN11**

Meet with other VCS colleagues for  
Information Sharing/Funding ideas/  
Networking/County and Regional meeting  
updates/Support etc.

Bring your own lunch—drinks provided.  
Tel. Carella on: 01327 300614 for more info.  
and to book a place.

**CRB CHECKS FOR STAFF AND  
VOLUNTEERS**

It is now standard practice of good recruitment for employers to satisfy themselves of the identity of applicants to whom they wish to offer a job or volunteering position.

**This precaution is essential for people in sensitive positions working with children or vulnerable people.**

Many funders and statutory bodies now require evidence that staff and volunteers have had their identity checked. Enterprise Training Project Ltd

are offering a countywide service.

Volunteers checks cost from £7, standard checks cost £39 and enhanced checks cost £45. ETP will take care of all the administration and provide any documentation required. All information will be held in a confidential manner in keeping with CRB and Data protection guidelines.

**Telephone 01604  
603045** or e-mail  
training@enterpriseproject  
.fsnet.co.uk for details.

**CVS COMMUNITY FINANCE SERVICE**

If you're struggling with your accounts or payroll don't forget the CVS in Northampton offers a **Bookkeeping and Accounting Service and a Payroll Service** as well as training on financial accounting.

Contact the CVS Community Finance Service on 01604 627128 or go to [www.cvscommunityfinance.org.uk](http://www.cvscommunityfinance.org.uk)

## **Central role for the third sector (VCS) in government white paper**

The white paper launched on 26th October says councils must work in partnership with the third sector (VCS) to deliver the government's agenda. Local authorities will have a new duty to ensure the participation of voluntary and community groups in public service delivery.

The white paper recognises that the "expertise and enterprise" of the VCS should be "developed to enable local authorities to fulfil their place-shaping role". Key proposals include:

- The involvement of the VCS in all Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP's) to help shape local areas
- The expectation of minimum 3 year grant funding for VCS organisations working with local authorities
- Better procurement practices based on Compact principles
- Facilitating communities

and community groups to take on the management or ownership of community assets

The white paper also acknowledges that some significant challenges remain. "Engagement between the local VCS and LSP's is inconsistent at best and weak at worst". It also recognises the problems caused by short term funding.

VCS umbrella bodies will be working with the Local Government Association to deliver the vision outlined in the white paper.

For further information see [www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/localgovernment](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/localgovernment)

If you would like to get involved with the Daventry Local Strategic Partnership please call Tim Cantwell On Tel: 01327 302403 for more information

## **Daventry Volunteer Centre's Brushes and Spades Project.**

It was with great sadness at the end of August that we are had to close the Brushes and Spades (Extra Support Needs) Project and cease the gardening and decorating activities the project volunteers carried out, due to lack of funding.

The project had received funding from the Community Fund for the first 7 years of its life, and top up grants from both Lloyds TSB and the Allen Lane Foundation to keep it going, whilst additional funding was secured. Despite 18 months of searching for alternative funding we were unsuccessful until Northamptonshire County Council recently awarded us £8,000. This grant now means that the project can be run for two days a week for another 5 months, until March 07. Jeremy Patterson, who was previously a volunteer

with the project, has just started work with us as the project co-ordinator. His previous involvement with, and experience of the project, means it will be off to a flying start from December 1st.

During the past 7 years the Project has achieved an enormous amount, not only for the volunteers involved in the scheme, but also for the elderly or disabled people who have received help, most of whom do not have family or friends to call on for basic gardening and decorating jobs.

Through helping people in their local community, volunteers are supported to learn new skills to enable them to seek paid work when they leave the project. The help given by the volunteers to elderly or disabled people to maintain their homes and gar-