



*We would like to wish all our members*

*A Very Merry Christmas*

*and a*

*Happy New Year in 2010*

*from the Trustees,*

*Volunteers and Staff at*

*Daventry Volunteer Centre.*

**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



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



**Daventry Volunteer Centre Winter 2009**

## DAVENTRY CONNECTS

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

### **Volunteering For Profit—Is it Right?**

Most people would agree that there is value in private companies encouraging their staff to volunteer in the community. But the idea of the reverse happening – of local citizens volunteering in for profit firms, has a great deal of opposition.

“One of the basic tenets of volunteering is that it is undertaken for the common good rather than for private gain. And there is a justifiable concern that

any departure from this principle, will play into the hands of unscrupulous employers who will see in volunteering a chance to cut costs (particularly perhaps during a recession) by replacing paid staff with unpaid volunteers”, according to Justin Davis Smith, Chief Executive of Volunteering England.

Volunteering, as understood by the majority of people, is  
*(Continued on page 2)*

about giving your time and skills to make the world a better place to live in. Therefore, volunteering should be free from coercion and not undertaken for financial reward.

However, volunteers are already heavily involved in profit-making settings. For example, The Prince's Trust mentor young people and are involved in aiding young entrepreneurs in setting up their first business ventures, supporters of sport help out at their favourite professional sports clubs etc. and some people help out for free at privately owned gardens that charge an entrance fee.

Volunteering already happens in many private settings that offer positive returns to the individual involved, so should we rethink our opposition to volunteering in the private sector and begin to acknowledge and recognise the worth of what already exists?

Justin Davis Smith says that "Changes taking place in the delivery of public services, particularly in the field of social care, means that a blanket ban on volunteering in the private sector would threaten to harm the lives of millions of people who currently rely on the services of volunteers.

Some two thirds of residential care provision for elderly people is now provided by the private sector and the percentage is set to grow as the shift away from the statutory sector gathers pace".

Steven Howlett suggests we need "a loosening up of our obsession with organisational form and a focus instead on the quality of the volunteering experience being offered wherever it takes place".

And at a time when organisational forms are becoming increasingly blurred, with for profit, statutory and voluntary sector providers often

## Trustees Quiz!

**Try this little quiz out with your Committee Members or Trustees over the Christmas lunch!**

- What is your governing document called?
- Who is eligible to be a member of your organisation?
- What is the maximum number of committee members your organisation can have?
- What is the minimum number of committee members your organisation can have?
- How many committee members have to be present for meetings to be quorate?
- How many years can committee members stay on the committee?
- How often do you have to have an Annual General Meeting?
- How many members have to be present for your AGM to be quorate?
- What is the procedure for calling an Extraordinary General Meeting?
- Can your governing document be altered and if so how?

These are some of the most common queries that management committees have, and the answers can only be found by reading your governing document. Your governing document should always be available at committee meetings in case there is any uncertainty about whether you are acting within the governing rules.

If you are unsure about your governing document check it out on the charity commission website. [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)

## Free Funding Event

On Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup> a 'Meet the Funders' event is being held in Brixworth library/Community Centre from 4pm – 7pm.

Funding bodies such as Northamptonshire Community Foundation; Daventry District Council; Daventry District Housing; Northants County Council; ACRE; Awards for All and Santander (formerly Abbey Trust) will be on hand for you to talk

directly to about your funding needs.

If you would like to attend the event, please contact Daventry Volunteer Centre on Tel: 01327 300614 or by email to: [mal@daventryvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:mal@daventryvolunteers.org.uk)

The event will be free to local voluntary and community groups and parish councils.

## Idealware's Social Media Resource Library

The Social Media Resource Library is a tool of nearly 200 resources, that can help not for profit groups gain valuable insights into how to best use social media for your organisation. As there are a lot of different sources available all over the web, the Idealware library is a way of making it easier for you to find what you are looking for. Check it out at:

<http://www.idealware.org/blog/2009/11/introducing-idealwares-social-media.html>

coming together in the provision of social care and other essential services, such an approach would seem essential if we are to extend and retain the value of volunteering in our communities.

Some private sector volunteering could be thought of as just as legitimate as volunteering in more traditional settings. The key to determining whether a particular volunteering opportunity should be supported should, perhaps, be in the quality of the volunteering experience on offer. If the opportunity is clearly about cutting costs, with little thought given to the needs and interests of the volunteer, then it should not be considered. Irrespective of the setting.

On the other hand, if the opportunity has been well thought through, has been structured to allow for the interests of the volunteer to be realised, is

complementary to the work of paid staff in the organisation, emphasises the added value that volunteering can bring, and is not about cutting costs, then perhaps we should rule it in for all organisations, voluntary, public and private alike.

It is important for our local communities that volunteering is able to flourish, and it may be that in order for this to happen, that we need to move with the times. We now face the challenge of offering quality volunteering opportunities whilst holding on to the core values of our organisations.

**If you would like to join the debate "Volunteering for Profit—is it right?" you can log on to: [www.volunteering.org.uk/opinions](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/opinions) for more information.**

## Why Have a Volunteer Policy?

Does your group or organisation involve volunteers, and if so, do you have a Volunteer Policy? If not, it might be worth considering, because a volunteer policy is the foundation on which your organisation's involvement with volunteers should be based.

A volunteer policy forms the basis of your entire volunteer programme, giving cohesion and consistency to all the elements in your organisation that affect volunteers (recruitment, expenses, health and safety etc). It is also the key to involving a diversity of volunteers because it helps to define the role of volunteers within the organisation, and how they can expect to be treated:

- A volunteer policy demonstrates an

organisation's commitment both to its volunteer programme and to its individual volunteers. By having a policy in place you are showing that care and thought has gone into the volunteer programme.

- It helps to ensure fairness and consistency. Dealing with volunteers means dealing with a diverse range of people. Being able to refer to a written policy ensures that decisions are not made on an ad hoc basis and that all volunteers are treated equally and fairly.

- A policy enables volunteers to know where they stand. It also offers them some security in that they know how they can expect to be treated and what to do if they feel that things are going wrong. It also helps ensure that paid staff, senior

*(Continued on page 5)*

management and trustees fully understand why volunteers are involved and what role they have within the organisation.

If you would like some support to draw up a volunteer policy, or on

other "good practice" issues in volunteering, please contact:

Mal Thompson at Daventry Volunteer Centre on 01327 300614 or by email to: [mal@daventryvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:mal@daventryvolunteers.org.uk).



**DAVENTRY VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR FORUM**

**January 27th 2010**  
**From 12.00 to 1.30pm at The Abbey , Market Square, Daventry NN11**

**Meet with VCS and other sector colleagues for Information Sharing/Funding ideas/Networking/ County and Regional meeting updates/Support/ and To have your say**

***A free Lunch is provided if you order it by RSVP to Carella on Tel: 01327 300614 or email [Carella@daventryvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:Carella@daventryvolunteers.org.uk) or for more information on how to get involved.***