

*We would like to wish all our members
A Very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year in 2012
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
Website: 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 2011

DAVENTRY CONNECTS
The newsletter for the voluntary sector in the Daventry District

Funding Success for DVC!!

DVC were delighted to hear that 2 of our projects will be funded through Lottery grant programmes, starting in the new year.

Firstly the DASH/Safe n Sound Partnership project with Daventry Volunteer Centre and South Northants Volunteer Bureau, has secured £163,624 from Reaching Communities over the next 5 years. We will be employing a part-time worker early next year, to recruit volunteers from

villages across Daventry and South Northants, who will help publicise the project and engage elderly people in the events and road shows that the project will be running.

The project aims to help older residents from rural areas to feel less isolated and enjoy a better quality of life, by providing them with information and access to support services,

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caring for a family member or personal illness, but whose confidence is low.

LOTTERY FUNDED

and linking them to local leisure or social activities.

Free safety and security equipment such as shed alarms, door chains, window locks, night lights, smoke alarms and personal defender alarms, will be distributed to elderly residents at the Road Show events, and a printed directory of support services will be produced as well.

The second grant is from Awards For All for a pilot project working with women who would like to return to work or undertake re-training following a long break from the work market, due to bringing up children,

Women will be empowered to set goals, make changes in their lives and act more positively in order to achieve their targets and take advantage of the health benefits offered by the project. The pilot will be run over 6 months from January 2012.

If you would like more information about either of the projects, please contact Carella on 01327 300614.



Training with CVS Northampton



Need a refresher on **Basic Computer Skills**, or need to learn from scratch? and How does **Social Media** work?

Monday 5th December and Monday 12th December – Corby

Computer Skills

Basic Computer Skills two day course – you are welcome to bring something you are working on and would like help with. Please let us know when booking the area you wish to cover.

Delivered in partnership with NVCA.

£20.00 per person 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Please note: Lunch is not included with this course at Corby VCS, The Old TA Building, Elizabeth Street, Corby, NN17 1PN

Tuesday 6th December - Northampton
Exploring Social Media, Face Book, Twitter, Linked In, Bebo, etc.

What is Social Media? How can it be useful to your group? Can it be used for Fund-Raising? Marketing? Profile-Raising? Come along and find out more!

£15.00 per person 09.30 – 12.30

(Lunch included)

Venue (in Northampton) to be confirmed

For all bookings contact John Stroud, CVS Northamptonshire, 32 – 36 Hazelwood Road, Northampton, NN1 1LN

Email john@cvsnorthamptonshire.org.uk

Big Lottery: £50m funding to help with VCS cuts

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) is opening £50m of investment to the voluntary and community sector in England to help organisations cope with funding cuts.

Some £17m of the funding will provide support to an additional 650 charitable and community projects, while the remaining £33m will help existing projects within BIG's portfolio.

The funding available to new projects will be distributed through BIG's current Reaching Communities and Awards for All programmes.

Reaching Communities currently provides grants of between £10,000 to £500,000 for new or existing community projects helping those in the most need.

Awards for All offers small

grants of between £300 and £10,000 to community projects.

Uniquely, grants of up to £10,000 will be made available to almost 1,000 existing grant holders within the last 18 months of their projects to allow them to review their projects, and a number of projects evidenced to be having a particularly significant impact will also receive an additional year's funding.

Visit the Big Lottery website for more information:
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk



Do the talking heads make any sense?

Jay Kennedy, Head of Policy at the Directory of Social Change believes there are some glaring contradictions in some of the big discussions bouncing around the voluntary sector at the moment.

1. Receiving a grant makes you "dependent", but winning a contract makes you sustainable .

All organisations need resources of one kind or another to function, and often grants are part of these resources. It's true that grants from the state can be really problematic – mainly because they are administered poorly by public bodies – but on the other hand they can attract all kinds of other resources and so provide a social value far beyond their financial value.

2. It's the age of local-

ism, citizen empowerment, and anti-bureaucracy – but there are too many charities and more should merge and get bigger to compete.

The vast majority of charities are small, local, voluntary, and not hugely complex in an organisational sense – yet we are constantly told by politicians, policymakers and commentators that more need to merge, grow, form consortia, and become more professionalized. But why?

The charity sector has thousands of very small organisations working across a multitude of different causes and issues. If localism and individual activism are what we now purport to value, clearly the voluntary sector should provide part of the model. Yet many peo-

ple argue that charities need to merge, grow, become more complex and formalized, when at the same time we acknowledge the limitations of large, bureaucratic institutions.

3. Charities need to measure their results and impact with complicated metrics – but for Government programmes anecdotes and stories will do just fine...

We constantly hear that charities need to do more to demonstrate their results and impact.

The real contradiction is that whilst government officials and politicians are a main source of this rhetoric, government policy and programmes routinely fail to demonstrate evidence of need, clear, achievable goals, impact, results and value for money. In fact, 'evidence-based policy making' seems positively out of favour at the moment. (Read DSC's Head of

STEAM Dr Catherine Walker article on [Burning the Evidence](#)).

4. The highest levels of our market, politics and now the media have been exposed as morally wanting, if not corrupt – but charities are the ones in need of help from these other sectors...

This is perhaps the worst contradiction of all. We're supposed to be learning from bankers about how to make our organisations financially sustainable, after they nearly bankrupted the country. We're told by politicians that we need to be more accountable for how we spend donors' money, after many have cheated their expenses and taken campaign contributions from suspicious sources. The media give us advice on how to promote ourselves, sell stories, and boost our brands, amidst lurid revelations of bribery, corruption and despicable illegal practices by journalists.

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Jan Kennedy thinks the Voluntary and Community sector need to tell them: "we're open-minded but in the main we don't need lectures from those who aren't fit to preach. We know what we're doing and if we don't we'll ask for help on our own terms. In fact, we've got some advice for you about how to run organisations which still have some kind of a moral com-

pass at their heart!"

To read the full article go to:

<http://www.dsc.org.uk/PolicyandResearch/News/Dontlistentothetalking-headsiftheydontmakeanyense>.





DAVENTRY VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR FORUM

Wednesday January 25th 2011
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 or for more information on how to get involved.***