

**IN THIS ISSUE: CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE FUND, GOLDSTAR AWARD, CHARITIES ACT AND FUNDRAISING, JUST THE TICKET?, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES TRUST.**

# inter-ACTION

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RCVDA

RCVDA  
**Leading**  
the Way



Members of the reading group with some of the Art works

## Romanian Art Exhibition

Middlesbrough may have unveiled MIMA but on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January saw the opening of an exhibition of Romanian Art. by the Mayor Cllr Mary Ovens. The venue for this unusual exhibition is Grangetown Library. Story inside.

## Community Forum Success



Jean, Ena, Bernard, Mary, Gemma and Dai with award

North Guisborough Community Forum hit the hat trick when they were presented with their third award since forming eighteen months ago. They had previously received a national Respect Award and RCVDA Community Group award. Now they have been awarded the Tees Valley PANDA (People and Nature Development Awards) Community Project Award by Redcar & Cleveland's mayor Cllr Mary Ovens.

The event began with a presentation of the NE1 project over tea and biscuits in Guisborough Swimming Baths and then moved to the site of the environmental project at Holbeck Road Shops in North Guisborough. The award sponsored by NPower and co-ordinated by the Wildlife Trust was awarded for the environmental stream of the NE1 Youth Project which involved visiting and local young people and adult volunteers redesigning a neglected area and transforming it into an attractive feature.

## Funding

In response to requests for more funding information we have decided to provide a separate funding newsletter to allow us to provide you with as much information and to make room within the newsletter for other features you have requested.

## Grangetown Libraries Romanian Art Exhibition

Grangetown library is a community hub offering education, access to employment together with a full range of young people's groups ranging from fashion to a garden group in partnership with the local regeneration organisation FROG. The West Cluster youth forum also meets there which is facilitated by Redcar & Cleveland Youth Services.

The current Romanian Art exhibition is a direct result of the library's junior readers' group. The group was set up in 2005 and currently has 20 members. Through the People's network computer system which is provided free in all Redcar & Cleveland Libraries the group were able to talk to many countries through a safe e-mail system called e-pals.

It was through this system the group met Calin Rudeanu and his group of students from Romania who sent the exhibition to the group as a gesture of friendship. To arrange for the paintings to be brought in to the country Andrew contacted Magda Stroe from the Institute of Culture for Romania who came up from London with her husband to attend the opening. Members of the readers group have also been comparing books, and through this the group are discovering culture and celebrating this through exhibitions like the one currently in the library.

## Children's Workforce Fund

Bursaries are available until the end of March 2007 to support training for individuals or organisations who work with young people.

Mark Gray, Planning Manager for Vulnerable Children, told Interaction that Redcar & Cleveland's Children's Services have been successful in securing £12,000 for the development of the boroughs children's workforce. Areas they particularly want to support are NVQ Level III in Youth Work or the Level III Assessor Training.

The panel will also consider any other training linked to supporting working with children and young people. The panel will be meeting on a regular basis and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

An application form can be obtained from RCVDA. All funding must be allocated by 31st March 2007.

## The Children's and Young People's Trust

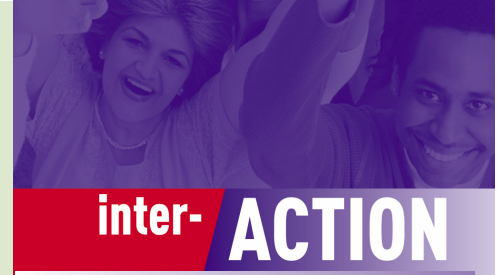
The Children's and Young People's Trust was launched on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2006. The Trust replaces the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership. The Trust will have responsibility for establishing a vision for all children and young people they will also make sure that local need is understood and that services are based around those

Organisations represented on the Children's Trust include Redcar and Cleveland PCT, RCVDA, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust, Cleveland Police, South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust, National Probation Service Teesside, South Tees Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Learning and Skills Council North East, Redcar and Cleveland Community Empowerment Network, a GP representative and head teacher representatives.

## Redcar & Cleveland Multicultural Association Annual General Meeting

In November the Redcar & Cleveland Multi-Cultural Association held an event to look at the future of the organisation. The report from this event is currently being finalised and will be available at the Association's forthcoming AGM which is scheduled to take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 10.30am at Golden Boy Green, South Bank.

If you wish to attend the AGM or would be interested in joining the management committee at this exciting time in the development of the organisation please contact Cllr Ian Jeffrey email [ian\\_jeffrey@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:ian_jeffrey@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk) or Karen McGarrity on 01642 440571



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### Just the Ticket?



Front Row: Lynne Baggley, Jack, Ping Bingham, Janet Mason, Norman Evans MBE, Cllr Val Halton  
Back Row: Dawn Conway, Pat Robson, Maria Silver, Anne McGuire M.P., Vera Baird M.P.

The Just the Ticket? event took place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The Minister for Disabled People Anne McGuire was in attendance at the event which was also used to launch a poster campaign featuring local people which highlights the new Disability Equality Duty that came into force in December.

The day proved to be a great success, not only because of the key speakers addressing the conference as a whole, but for the enthusiasm which the delegates showed in the workshops.

I was privileged to be asked to facilitate one of a series of workshops which took place during the day. I will admit I was rather naïve when it came to the concept of the Disability Equality Duty which in essence means that all public bodies are required to actively look at ways of ensuring that disabled people are treated equally.

The key of the workshops was that officers of the various public bodies were asked not to speak but were there as observers. This proved to be a new and strange experience for the officers. This gave the citizens themselves the opportunity to voice their concerns and wishes.

Issues addressed through the workshops were Housing, Health and Well-being, Feeling Safe, Education and Employment and Transport.

For further information please contact ROC on 01642 774500

### Community Skills Training what would you like to see?

Community Skills would like to hear your thoughts, ideas and requests for topics, venues and days/times.

They can provide community training on topics that help you or others to develop community groups or work/volunteer more effectively in the local community.

- Would you like to see new topics?
- Would you like to see evening or weekend training?
- Where would you like the training?

Ideas can be faxed to Catherine Sills on (01642) 775899 or emailed:

[catherine\\_sills@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:catherine_sills@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)

### Project North East

Project North East are offering their 'Building Capacity in Voluntary Organisations' course for managers in the voluntary sector, starting 15 February in Middlesbrough.

Ring Anne- Maria Brown on 0191 261 6009 for more details

### Voluntary Skills

This easy to access website provides a searchable database of training courses and providers in the area, along with job profiles and information on the skills needed.

Visit [www.voluntaryskills.com](http://www.voluntaryskills.com)

## RCVDA Annual Volunteer Awards Your Chance to say thank you to your volunteers

This popular event is taking place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June - so mark the date in your diary and don't miss out. This celebration recognises the contribution of people who give their time and talents freely to make the voluntary and community sector in Redcar and Cleveland so vibrant and as an additional treat the event will conclude with afternoon tea in the splendid setting of Gisborough Hall.

To help us to build on the resounding success of last year's event we need **YOU**. Please take the time to tell us about your outstanding volunteer, your team or your community hall by completing the nomination form which will be in the April edition of Interaction. Every nominee will receive a certificate and the winners of each category will be presented with a trophy.

This celebratory event is an opportunity for you to say "thank you" for the time and effort your volunteers contribute to the success of **YOUR** organisation.

### Confused by annual accounts?

Do you struggle to understand your organisations annual accounts? Here are a few terms that may help.

#### **SOFA - (Statement of Financial Activities)**

This looks at the money received and money spent, in other words the income and expenditure account.

**Balance Sheet** - shows the organisations assets and liabilities at a point in time i.e. the charities year-end. Current assets are money that is owed to the charity and money in the bank. Current liabilities are money that the charity owes to others.

**Unrestricted Funds** - money that the charity can use for any purpose within the organisations charitable objectives.

**Restricted Funds** - money that the charity has, which has to be spent on a specific purpose that has been outlined by the donor.

**Designated Funds** - money set aside by the trustees for a specific purpose however the trustees can change this purpose.

### MEET THE FUNDERS FREE Membership Event

RCVDA is holding a membership event on Wednesday 28th March at Eston City Learning Centre from 9.30 until 12.30 followed by a buffet lunch. The event will offer the chance to talk face-to-face with a number of funders.

This event will also provide an opportunity to meet RCVDA staff members and talk to them about how they can support **YOU** over the coming year.

**Places are limited so – don't delay – contact Jill on 01642 440571 to book your place.**

Member organisations may bring up to 3 representatives

If your group is not a member, but you would like to attend there will be a small charge of £10 per organisation (up to 2 people)

### Get on Board : Advertise your trustee vacancies

The Governance Hub, Charity Commission and Volunteering England have launched the Get on Board campaign to raise the profile of trusteeship and they are hoping to bring in a new generation of trustees. The newly launched website offers two choices for potential trustees to express an interest and also for existing boards to advertise vacancies. Once potential trustees have been identified their details will be passed to us to match with vacancies in this area.

If you have any vacancies on your Board contact Trish Waters on 01642 440571 email [trish@rcvda.org.uk](mailto:trish@rcvda.org.uk) or visit the Get on Board website

[www.getonboard.org.uk/index.php](http://www.getonboard.org.uk/index.php)

## Goldstar award

A cup of coffee in RCVDA led to a windfall for one local organisation. I spoke to Julia Bracknell, Chief Executive of The Junction who recalled the day Trish asked her to sum up the organisation's approach to the recruitment and maintenance of volunteers. Trish had been asked by Government Office North East to nominate an organisation for an award for Good Practice in volunteering and knew that The Junction had a good record of supporting volunteers.

Some months later Julia received a phone call informing her that The Junction had been chosen as one of the five organisations in the region to receive an award. She was then asked to fill in a form which seemed strange for what Julia thought was going to be a logo or at most a trophy. It was at this point that she realised that there was a large sum of money involved in the award, a total of £118,000 over two years.

The Goldstar Exemplar Programme is a national initiative designed to encourage and enable voluntary organisations and projects throughout England to realise the potential of volunteers, mentors and befrienders from socially excluded or disadvantaged groups. The aim of the programme is to promote and share the good practices used in engaging people from these groups and giving them the opportunity to enrich their own and other peoples' lives.

As well as engaging a member of staff to support their own team of volunteers part of the funding is to enable The Junction to offer opportunities for Volunteer Involving Organisations to develop best practice. This can be done in a variety of ways to suit the organisations.

Julia was very clear that this support can take many forms such as

- Up-to-date information on best practice in volunteering
- One to one consultancy either at The Junction or at the organisation's base
- Mentoring of key people within an organisation to support them in developing areas of best practice within their volunteering programmes
- Bespoke training packages

This support is for any organisation, no matter what size, no matter whether the organisation uses volunteers now or is thinking about using volunteers. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity please contact::

**The Junction on 01642 756000**



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### Charities should adopt a reserves policy

The Charity Commission states that £3.6 billion is held by charities in reserves unaccounted for by a reserves policy. The purpose of a reserves policy is to objectively justify and explain the charity's position on reserves to all stakeholders.

Disclosure of a reserves policy is a requirement under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005. As a minimum a reserves policy should contain the reasons why the charity needs reserves and what level or range of reserves the trustees believe the charity needs. This also applies to charities that have no reserves who may still need to justify this on the basis that nil reserves is still a level of reserves

Source: Social Economy

### BECOME A MEMBER OF RCVDA

If your group is interested in contributing to the voluntary and community sector in Redcar & Cleveland why not join RCVDA as a member organisation.

Full membership is open to any community or voluntary organisation based, or working, in Redcar & Cleveland.

**For a membership pack or further information please contact Jill on 01642 440571**

## Shopmobility Rides Again

Following the closure of the original Shopmobility scheme, Redcar and Cleveland Real Opportunity Centre (ROC) re-opened the Information and Shopmobility service on the 12th December 2006 after gaining 18 months funding from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.

The service is delivered from Pybus Place which has been cleared, redecorated and had a full electrical overhaul and minor maintenance work by Jarvis. The scooter and wheelchair fleet has also had a full overhaul. In 2007, Shopmobility will be developing the Information part of the project and will work closely with the Disabled People's Partnership Board, ROC and other partners. From the launch day to the end of 2006, Shopmobility have hired out 67 electric scooters and manual wheelchairs and have had a lot of positive feedback from customers accessing the service.

If you would like any more information or want to make a booking (Shopmobility advise booking to avoid disappointment –you can do this up to a week in advance), please contact Shopmobility on 01642 498894 or Text Service on 07748 917291, or just call into the shop at 2 Pybus Place, just off the Esplanade, Redcar, TS10 3AE. (near Pacitto's and blue badge parking)

## THE CHARITIES ACT AND FUNDRAISING – WHAT'S CHANGED?

**Professional fundraisers or commercial participators** (businesses which sell products or services and give some or all of the proceeds to charity) currently must make a fundraising solicitation statement telling potential donors that they are getting paid. Now they will have to state the actual amount they get, or give a reasonably accurate estimate of what they will receive. This has been extended to apply to in-house fundraisers.

**The procedure for public charitable collections** has been completely withdrawn. All charities will now have to apply to the Charity Commission who will issue them with a public collections certificate deeming them fit to carry out a collection, valid for up to five years.

**'Street' collection has now been replaced with** collections in 'public places' including railway station ticket halls and supermarket forecourts. Charities wishing to fundraise in a public place must take their public collections certificate to the relevant local authority who will then issue them with a permit to hold collections at a certain time and place. Local authorities will ensure there are not too many collections at the same time.

**'House to house' fundraising has been replaced with** 'door to door' to include business premises. Charities no longer have to gain permission from their local authority to conduct 'door to door' fundraising, but merely have a 'duty to inform' the local authority that the collection is taking place. The national exemption orders previously granted to large charities, allowing them to do house-to-house collections without a permit, have been abolished.

Source: Professional Fundraising, December 2006

## BACK TO STRATEGY

Sometimes we appear to be drowning in strategies but what is a strategy - one recent magazine article suggests that we should go back to the real meaning of strategy.

"A strategy is not a written document. It isn't even a plan. An organisational strategy is a long-term, general approach to how an organisation will achieve its mission while living its values. It is the mixture of assumptions and ideas we hold about the organisation's:

- Purpose
- Beneficiaries
- Resources
- Main areas of work
- Past, present and future place amongst other similar organisations

A strategy is a habit; a mindset. We use it to make sense of organisations."

Source: Governance Issue 10

## Health Matters from Redcar and Cleveland PCT



From Rebecca Willshee,  
Patient and Public Involvement Manager,  
Redcar and Cleveland Primary Care Trust

Phone 01287 284231 or email [rebecca.willshee@rcpct.nhs.uk](mailto:rebecca.willshee@rcpct.nhs.uk)

### Coatham Surgery

Redcar and Cleveland PCT are thinking of making some changes at the above practice. Today, an increasing number of services are provided in doctor's surgeries. Patients have the right to expect that their surgery be fit for purpose, with enough space to provide modern General Practice services. We feel that the current surgery does not meet those standards, and that we need to seek alternative premises. We have held initial discussions within the surgery, and we are considering new purpose-built premises, possibly on the site of Coatham Bowl, alongside a new leisure centre.

You can send us your thoughts and comments by telephone or in writing to the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).

You can contact PALS in the following ways:

- By telephone: 0800 013 0500
- By email: [pals@rcpct.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@rcpct.nhs.uk)
- By writing to: PALS, Redcar and Cleveland Primary Care Trust, Langbaugh House, Bow Street, Guisborough. TS14 7AA

### Tees Valley Condition Management Programme

Do you...

- ✓ Live with a long-term condition?
- ✓ Receive incapacity benefit?
- ✓ Have an interest in services for people who are receiving incapacity benefit?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above, then we need your help. We are looking for 8-15 people to meet regularly (up to six times per year) to form a "Customer Reference Group". This group will help to shape and evaluate the Tees Valley Condition Management Programme.

The Condition Management Programme is designed to help people who are off work and claiming incapacity benefits. It is a programme of support, delivered by a healthcare team. The aim of the programme is to help people to achieve a fuller and more satisfying life. Participants can claim full incapacity benefits whilst making small steps to return to work. The programme is available in local venues across Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, North Tees and Redcar & Cleveland and deals with a wide range of conditions.

Customer Reference Group Meetings will be held in various locations across Tees Valley, at venues to suit the members of the group. If you would like more information, please give Rebecca a call on 01287 284231.



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### Community Care Forum News

#### Next Forum meeting:

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007  
10am - 12pm Venue Redcar Youth Centre, Coatham Road Redcar

Agenda includes:

- a speaker on the Mental Capacity Act.
- Sarah Jay – Informing the Public Involvement Strategy for the TEWV Mental Health Trust Louise Forrest – Whizz Kidz

Please note that this is a change from the 21<sup>st</sup> February. To find out the latest forum information go to:

[www.redcarcareforum.org.uk](http://www.redcarcareforum.org.uk)

### Disability: Rights of Access Code of Practice

The Disability Rights Commission has published a revised Code of Practice which provides an extensive list of services provided to the public including services of voluntary organisations. The document is available online at [www.drc-gb.org/library/publications/services\\_and\\_transport/code\\_of\\_practice\\_rights\\_of\\_ac.aspx](http://www.drc-gb.org/library/publications/services_and_transport/code_of_practice_rights_of_ac.aspx)

Source: Social Economy

### The Teesside Homeless Action Group (THAG)

Smartmove have a new telephone number for all enquiries and appointments in relation to the Smartmove Bond Guarantee Scheme.

The new number is: (01642) 224802



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## Letters page?

One of the suggestions received is to have a readers letter page. Obviously before we can introduce this feature we need letters or emails from you. On the front page I have included an article on Grangetown library. Perhaps you would like to share what is happening in your local area. Perhaps something is really annoying you and you want to share it with the wider community to find out what they think.

What is your opinion of the Local Strategic Partnership, the new Charity Law, ASBOs. One suggestion made is that sport should be one of the conditions of the ASBO – what do you think?

Write to me at RCVDA or email on [karenmc@rcvda.org.uk](mailto:karenmc@rcvda.org.uk)

## Open letter to our readers

Should funding from the Big Lottery be used to fund the 2012 London Olympics? There have been many stories in local and national press lately from organisations in the voluntary and community sector who are concerned at the possible reduction in funding for the voluntary sector if money is diverted to fund the Olympics.

What do our readers think? Put pen to paper or send an email and let us know.

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