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RCVDA
Leading
the Way

NEWSLETTER OF RCVDA

RCVDA Volunteer Award Winners 2011

JIM HARTNETT

WINNER OF OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Sponsored by RCVDA



Jim is not only the active heart and soul of the community he was also instrumental in developing the junior football club for the East Cleveland Community. He founded the club to help the people of Skelton and East Cleveland have a sense of Community and at the same time keep their children fit and active – he believes strongly that ‘Every Child Matters’ and his simple ethos ‘local football for local children’ certainly has attracted them. They presently have 8 teams, two of which are all girl teams, a Saturday morning Club for children aged 5 - 11 years and soccer tots for 3 - 4 year olds. In total he has 200 children registered with the club with parents turning from supporters to FA qualified coaches. Jim believes the football club is a vehicle to help young people become good citizens.

JACK AND ELLEN ELSE

WINNERS OF THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sponsored By Russell Smith

For the past 30 years Jack (86) and Ellen (80) Else from Marske have devoted their time and energy to fundraising to support Teesside Hospice. In 1981 they supported a scheme which successfully raised money for the first Macmillan nurse, by 1983 the group had raised enough to support a 2nd nurse. Jack and Ellen then took part in talks with NHS to raise money to set up a hospice. A Hospice Day Centre was opened in 1987 at Carter Bequest Hospital and in 1994 Teesside Hospice opened. Jack and Ellen worked in the first charity shop on the hospice site for 7 years moving to the Marske shop when it opened 20 years ago. They both retired from the shop in March but continue to support the vital work of Teesside Hospice.





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SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE (SODA) WINNER OF THE GEORGE PUNSHON COMMEMORATIVE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTARY GROUP



SODA was formed in May 2008 to help victims of domestic abuse and their families. Set up 'by survivors for survivors' they support anyone that has suffered any kind of abuse – physical, mental, emotional, financial, or sexual regardless of gender, sex, ethnicity or religion. Support is available 24 hours a day 365 days a year by phone, email, Facebook, website (www.s-o-d-a.org) and they also provide a service where clients can borrow a mobile phone which has a free call to SODA helpline. SODA volunteer's fundraise tirelessly to finance this support and have helped scores of people to survive domestic abuse.

Youth Award Winners SPONSORED BY INTEGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES



MATTHEW GOLDRING WINNER OF YOUTH AWARD

Matthew has volunteered with the Scout Association from the age of six. He has also volunteered with The Children's Society for the past year, befriending a disabled young man who he meets several times a month, reducing his isolation and giving him freedom to enjoy time with one of his

peers. Through his volunteering at Miltoun House residential care home for adults with mental illnesses, Matthew has been offered a job as a junior mental health carer. Matthew loves his job as a carer but says his main aim is to get his chores done as quickly as possible so he can spend time with the residents.

YOUNG CARERS WINNER OF YOUTH GROUP



Young Carers aged 11-18, contribute to the work of The Junction, inspiring, providing insight, boundless enthusiasm, commitment, experience and talent. They have worked to design and create a booklet providing information for young carers, and through "The F-Plan" worked to raise awareness of the issues that young carers face, the positive and negative impacts of being a Young Carer and provide support for other young carers through befriending. A truly inspirational group of young people.

EVA WOMENS AID THE FREEDOM PROGRAMME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SURESTART

WINNER OF PARTNERSHIP AWARD Sponsored by Redcar & Cleveland Partnership



EVA Women's Aid co-facilitate the Freedom Programme with facilities and child care provided by Surestart. Through participation in The Freedom training, women learn about the role of male domination in domestic abuse, self awareness, self confidence and assertiveness skills and how to keep themselves and their children safe. Four of EVAs volunteers have now become paid staff and hope to continue with these training courses in EVA's refuge.



More Winners



**HELPING HANDS FOR YOU
WINNER OF THE HEALTH CHAMPION AWARD
SPONSORED BY NHS REDCAR & CLEVELAND**

The 58 volunteers at Helping Hands for You support the elderly and disabled in the area by providing indirect care through one to one visiting, transport to medical appointments, shopping, gardening, lunch clubs, day trips and short holidays. The volunteers sum up the reciprocal nature of volunteering by the following:

The members of Helping Hands for you say
The volunteers of Helping Hands for you say

NO HELP
KNOW HELP

NO JOY
KNOW JOY

**CYCLEMASTER PEDALS 4 ALL
WINNER OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AWARD
SPONSORED BY THE ENTERPRISE TEAM**

Cyclemaster Pedals 4 All is a Community Interest Company formed to purchase new bikes for a course run in partnership with family learning so all the children no matter what age, ability or ethnicity could go home with a new bike after completing the course. Dave said "our achievements are many – but seeing a mum's face when her son or daughter rode his bike for the first time, something she thought would not happen because of his disability is one of our greatest."



**TED JOHNSTON, SOUTH BANK TOMORROW
WINNER OF ADULT AWARD
SPONSORED BY HELPING HANDS FOR YOU**

Ted has dedicated years for the benefit of South Bank on a number of projects including King George's Square, and Pearl's Park. He has lobbied for improvement to street lighting and is a key figure on the Eco Village group helping to bring the first new build homes to South Bank for decades. Ted works tirelessly with young volunteers to improve the town and make a difference.



**WHALE HILL FAMILY GROUP
WINNER OF VOLUNTEER GROUP AWARD
SPONSORED BY R & C ADULT LEARNING SERVICE**

The closure of Surestart left a huge gap in playgroup provision for the under 5's within the community of Whale Hill. This prompted a resident to persuade 10/15 local mums to set up the Whale Hill Family Group. Through fundraising and funding from Coast & Country the group has gone from strength to strength. The mums are 100% committed to the development of the playgroup and have recently undergone training to include elements of Early Learning and Development of Children. This has led to further NVQ training. The community has strengthened substantially from the service provided by this group and individuals feel empowered to progress and develop both themselves and the group.



**TED AMOS
WINNER OF COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD
SPONSORED BY COAST AND COUNTRY HOUSING**

Former head teacher Ted Amos is a well known figure in Guisborough. For the past 33 years he has dedicated thousands of volunteering hours to improving local facilities and projects for the benefit of local people and visitors. These include coach and later Chairperson of Guisborough Lifesaving Club, 32 years as Chairperson of Ravensgill Scout Campsite and for the past 16 years he has been a member of Guisborough Forest and Walkway, later setting up the 'friends' group. Ted's humour, dedication and persistence has enabled thousands of residents and visitors a memorable experience when visiting Guisborough Forest.





Volunteers Special Recognition

The number and quality of volunteers nominated for this year's awards was of such a high caliber the judges decided to award three Special Recognitions certificates to the following:



Trish Booth decided that opportunities for families were poor in Guisborough and she began her quest to improve the situation. Some of the activities she is involved in include Friends of King George V playing Field, an International Quilt project and she also organizes a Family exercise class in a local hall. This is just a snap shot of her many interests to help her community.

Jessica Herron came to volunteering via Teesside University where she was completing her degree and was unsure where to go next. She volunteered with Kidz Konnekt and over the year she was with them gained in confidence and experience. She continued to travel to South Bank from her home town of Sunderland once her degree was complete and has now secured employment working with young people.



Stan Peverley is a well known face in voluntary sector circles. He has been involved in a variety of groups including: West Redcar Pensioners Association, Redcar Pensioners, Older People's Partnership, 25K Youth and Community Centre, Redcar British Legion.

CABINET OFFICE LAUNCHES £10M FUND TO HELP VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS BECOME 'CONTRACT-READY'

The Cabinet Office has launched a new £10m fund designed to help voluntary sector organisations prepare for new types of social finance and play a bigger role in public service delivery.

The fund, called the **Investment and Contract Readiness Fund**, will open in April 2012 and will operate for three years. A statement from the Cabinet Office said it would appoint an external organisation to administer the fund. The Cabinet Office statement said: *"We want to help organisations to develop the right skills, the right systems and the right attitude so that they are ready for investment, and in a stronger position to win public sector contracts. As a result of the programme, we expect to see more civil society organisations attracting investment and winning public sector contracts, and a growth in the range and quality of intermediary organisations supporting the social economy."*

Nick Hurd, the Minister for Civil Society, has also published an open letter to the sector that outlines an "open public services listening exercise" to take place over the summer. "This exercise will look at issues such as accessing open markets, reducing barriers and improving commissioning," the letter said. It said details of how to take part in the exercise will be published on the Cabinet Office website, and the government will respond to it in the autumn.

Sir Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, described the Investment and Contract Readiness Fund as "a step in the right direction", but said he had some concerns about it. *"Helping the sector to get contract-ready is positive, but we also need contracts which are ready for the sector," he said. "Getting a proper handle on commissioning is essential for bringing about lasting change and, until we see progress with this, focusing on delivery and new mechanisms to transfer services out of the public sector will make little difference."*

Etherington said many NCVO members were also concerned that "the journey towards open public services outlined in Hurd's letter lacks either a clear destination or an estimated time of arrival."

Source: Kaye Wiggins, Third Sector Online, 25 July 2011

Minimum wage changes

From 1st October 2011, the adult national minimum wage will go up by 15p an hour, to £6.08. For 18 to 20 year olds it will go up by 6p, to £4.98, 16 to 17 year olds will go up by 4p, to £3.68, apprentices up 10p to £2.60.

How to use the Equality Act 2010

The Equality and Disability Forum has published a practical guide to show how the voluntary and community sector can use the Equality Act 2010 in advocacy, service delivery and campaigning work including how to use the public sector equality duty. This can be downloaded from www.rcvda.org.uk/publications.html

Health and Safety made simple

This is a new section on the Health and Safety Executive website to make it easier to comply with the law and manage health and safety. The website includes useful links to resources and templates. www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety



Stronger Together: Consortia working in Redcar & Cleveland

RCVDA in conjunction with the R & C Voluntary Sector Forum recently secured the support of the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) to explore and support the development of local 'not for profit' consortia. This initiative is being used to explore the potential of developing a number of local consortia. The opportunity to take part in this programme was and continues to be open to any organisation based or working in Redcar & Cleveland.

On the 18th July 2011, a number of local organisations came together at Redcar Education Development Centre to start to explore some of the issues around 'consortia working'. The session, which had been condensed down from a proposed two day session was an intensive introduction to consortia development and participants discussed a broad range of issues including; What is a consortia and what are the benefits of membership?, consider the themes for potential consortia clusters, consider how democracy and local ownership are assured, start to think about business plans and a membership prospectus, legal structures, financial considerations and budgeting. The participants carried out an initial risk analysis exercise and drew up initial budgets to set up the company. The key task of tender writing was identified as requiring resourcing in order to win initial work and realistically achievable strategies were drawn up to build seed corn investment particularly through membership fees.

In the last year ACEVO has provided this service to support the establishment of 8 consortia around England. A number of these, such as the Birmingham Mental Health Consortium, have already gone on to receive major investment in their development from their local commissioners. The process will develop a locally owned and democratically controlled structure, and care will be taken to ensure engagement and ownership of the development process. This programme of support is worth up to £6,000.00.

A further two development days are planned for the 13th September & 18th October 2011 to write a position statement, develop a first draft of business plan, define a membership prospectus and application and look at Incorporation. If you would like to be part of this exciting initiative, please contact Mal Fitzgerald on 01642 440571 or email mal@rcvda.org.uk.

Unshackling Good Neighbours by The Red Tape Task Force Key points

- If recommendations made in this report are acted upon they could help open doors for organisations enabling them to play a bigger role in the delivery of services in communities.
- Full support must be given to the proposal to improve local authorities commissioning and procurement practices. (*already started in R & C through Connecting Together for Change*)
- Many are not surviving – since May 2010 the total number of registered charities has fallen by more than 1,600 in the UK
- Thought must be given to staff within these organisations who are changing how they work to diversify their income streams, entering new markets and trading to generate income. They would greatly benefit from a friendlier environment in which to do business, which could be created through the introduction of incentives and benefits such as reduced business rates.
- With the public purse running dry and members of general public giving less to charitable causes organisations desperately need access to finance from other sources if they are to remain a fixture in our society.

The full report can be downloaded from <http://www.rcvda.org.uk/publications.html>

Source:Charity Times



APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council are appealing for volunteers to help in undertaking a "Rough Sleeper" count in mid October. The count is a snapshot of the number of rough sleepers in any given area on a particular night and it will not therefore record everyone in the area with a history of rough sleeping. However it can be an effective means of gauging the scale of the problem and monitoring progress over time.

Any individuals / groups who are interested in assisting should contact Erika Grunert on (01287) 612457, briefing sessions for all volunteers will be held in advance therefore "count experience" is not a necessity.

OPEN PUBLIC SERVICES WHITE PAPER

Source: Civil Society

The Government says it will encourage commissioners of public services to break up contracts into smaller lots "where appropriate" to enable smaller providers to participate in service delivery. It will also push commissioners to disclose TUPE liabilities at an early stage in the commissioning process so that voluntary sector providers can price their bids more accurately.

The commitments come from the Open Public Services White Paper and form part of a host of policy proposals that Government promises will "signal a decisive end to the old-fashioned, top-down, take-what-you-are-given model of public services". The Paper sets out Government's approach to public services through five key principles:

- Choice – wherever possible they will increase choice
- Decentralisation – power decentralised to the lowest appropriate level
- Diversity – public services open to a range of providers
- Fairness – fair access to public services
- Accountability – public services accountable to users and taxpayers

A consultation will take place until September and in November Government will set out how various departments will implement the policy. From April departments will have to publish regular progress reports.

The Paper can be downloaded here:

<http://www.rcvda.org.uk/publications.html>

And responses can be given via the following website

<http://www.openpublicservices.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>

NHS Tees is launching an Equality Consultation inviting people to have their say on how equality can be improved in the NHS. People are being encouraged to complete a questionnaire as part of a public engagement exercise to help promote equality and fairness for all in the local NHS.

Questions include:

- What could your local NHS do better to meet your needs?
- What actions would you like to see in the Equality Strategy?
- How can we improve the way we communicate with you?

All the information collected will be anonymous and will be used to inform the Equality Strategy for NHS Tees. By completing the survey people can help them to understand the needs of the different communities.

There are a number of ways in which you can complete the survey:

Online at: <https://www.oc-meridian.com/nhstees/content/EqualityEngagement>

Download a copy from www.tees.nhs.uk and send it to;

FREEPOST NEA 9906
Ben Murphy
Middlesbrough
TS2 1RH

Or request a copy of the survey from benmurphy@nhs.net or call 01642 666700

Surveys can be completed up until 14th November 2011.



The Enterprising Market Place

TVRCC, RCVDA and the Redcar & Cleveland Voluntary Sector Forum recently organised a very successful half day event at the Eston City Learning Centre for local groups to hear 'first hand' about the support and resources that are available to them from local, sub regional and regional organisations and projects. The **Enterprising Market Place** brought key support providers to our borough to outline:

- Support available through **VONNE** (Voluntary Organisations Network North East) for seminars / events / workshops and one to one mentoring.
- Hear about **Sustainable Solutions North East** who offer a free Factfile (everything the voluntary and community sector needs to know about procurement), a programme of procurement training and mentoring, ConTracked (through Funding Information North East) – a commissioning and procurement e-bulletin, and advice on commissioner engagement.
- Support through professional, flexible one-to-one coaching and practical business support provided by **Community Venture Ltd Third Sector Contracting Capability Unit** to help Third Sector organisations develop, compete through procurement for contracts, and manage change and performance effectively.

On the day participants got the opportunity to discuss their interests and issues in depth with representatives from these organisations and projects and the opportunity to network with other local organisations. Feedback from attendees on the day was incredibly positive; describing the event as 'fantastic' and 'really, really useful'.

Linda Fleetham from South Bank Tomorrow said *'I attended the meeting thinking it was going to be just another event, to be pleasantly surprised with the varied and practical range of information, advice and support that was available. Speakers delivered on a range of topics from ESF funding to Advocacy support, most of which is readily accessible and free. Already we have received the promised feedback making it a very productive informative event. Well done'*.

Munro Review of Child Protection

The Government has published its response to the Munro Review of Child Protection. The response is the first step on the journey to create the conditions for sustained long term reform of the child protection system to deliver improved outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people.

Headline messages:

- The Government agrees that Professor Munro's 15 recommendations need to be considered in the round and acknowledges that together they represent the opportunity to deliver holistic reform of the child protection system.
- An amendment to statutory guidance by December 2011 to remove the prescription of timescales and the distinction between core and initial assessments.
- There will be greater transparency and coordination of local arrangements to deliver an early help offer to children, young people and families.

In an open letter to VCS organisations Tim Loughton MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families states:

"The Government is committed to supporting voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to have a much greater involvement in the running of public services. The voluntary sector plays, and will continue to play, a significant role in reforming services for children, young people and families. The VCS is central to our commitment to building a Big Society and we strongly believe it has a significant role to play in improving outcomes for some of the most vulnerable children, young people, parents and families in our society"

Full reports, responses and letter can be downloaded from

<http://www.rcvda.org.uk/publications.html>

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NEWSLETTER OF THE RCVDA

And finally just a reminder....

In these times of austerity some easy ways to boost your funds:

- In Kind Direct redistributes surplus goods from manufacturers and retailers to UK charities working at home and abroad.

Since foundation in 1996, they have redistributed £100 million in value of goods from over 850 companies. Over 8,000 charities have joined the network to benefit, helping millions of people in need. Register at www.inkinddirect.org

- **buy.at** and **easyfundraising.co.uk** are two affiliate networks which allow organisations to generate income through their supporters online shopping. The organisation receives a commission every time a purchase is made via the organisations free webshop.

Visit <http://buy.at/fundraising/signup.php> and www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ for more details and to register.

The information in the Interaction is published in good faith but RCVDA accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracy in the items.

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