Welcome to the new edition of the CVS e-bulletin. We hope you find the information useful. Don’t forget for constantly updated news and vacancies go to our website. There’s lots going on in our Facebook page and Twitter feed too! See address at the foot of this page.

Wyre Together Awards
The Wyre Together Awards are a great way of recognising local achievements and contributions and this year there are four categories to choose from: Best Volunteer; Best Young Volunteer; Best Community Group and Best Environmental Group. There will be a special celebration event on Wednesday 4th June 2014 to present all the nominees with a certificate and to announce the winners.

Contact Jane Williams on 01253 887437

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Event
Healthwatch Blackpool in partnership with the CVS would like to invite you to Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) event for the Third Sector on Tuesday 10th June 2014, 10am-4pm at the Salvation Army Citadel, Raikes Parade, Blackpool. Enclosed is a copy of the draft agenda. The afternoon session will consist of three workshops: Health and Wellbeing; Lifestyle; and Social Community and Environment.

If you would like to book a place or have any queries, please contact Helen Kay or Ruth Large on 01253 345445. Please also tell us which workshop you would like to participate in and if you have any dietary requirements.

Sector Vacancies this week include…

YMCA - Young People/Family Scheme Manager
HomeStart Wyre - Scheme Manager Post
Empowerment - Memory Assessors
Consultant Required for Digital Improvement Program

If you need help with websites or social media, we can help - just let us know what you need and we'll send you a volunteer, and best of all it’s FREE!

For further information on any of the above, phone us on 01253 624505 or e-mail on: angela.glass@cvsbwf.org.uk. To get the latest updates on what CVS is up to, visit our website or our new updated Facebook page.

We are also on Twitter @cvsbwf
Consultation on Adult, Family and Community Learning

Blackpool Council runs a range of adult, community and family learning courses at venues across the town. They offer a wide range of courses, at times to suit you, ranging from IT to employability skills and life skills for people over 19.

The courses were graded ‘Good’ by OFSTED in 2013 with ‘Outstanding’ features for teaching and learning and social inclusion.

To ensure this service becomes even better they are conducting a consultation on the future direction of it.

They are holding an event at Central Library on Friday 20th July, in the Brunswick Room.

The event will begin at 9.30 (time library opens) and runs until 12.00. Refreshments will be available.

They would also like you to take part in a very short survey which is seeking your views on how easy it is to access learning courses within Blackpool. There are only 8 questions to answer and should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

For information on courses for adults with learning difficulties see the learning brochure or if you would like to attend the event please contact 01253 478131.

Dancing with Dementia Event at the Tower Ballroom a huge success, full article to follow shortly.

Robin Windsor said “Great show with Kristina at the tower ballroom Blackpool.... Always an amazing feeling to dance there and for a great cause today... Dancing with dementia xxxx “
Fleetwood’s Memorial Park is hosting a community event for all the family on Wednesday 28 May, 10am until 2pm.

Spring Song is an invitation to get involved in Wyre Council’s £2.4m project to restore the First World War memorial park and find out more about the plans.

Volunteers are sought in a variety of roles including gardening and conservation, research into the park’s history, helping to run events and working with young people on educational activities. Whether you’re green-fingered or a keen genealogist, there’s a way to get involved and Wyre’s volunteering i-bus will be in attendance to help people enlist.

P Casey (Land Reclamation) Ltd, main contractor for the restoration, and council officers will also be on hand to talk about how and when the work will be carried out, starting with Remembrance Avenue and the memorial gateway at the Warrenhurst Road entrance, and answer any questions people may have.

There’s free family fun on offer too - kids can get creative with a professional artist in a series of First World War inspired art workshops to highlight the park’s heritage and musical entertainment will be provided courtesy of The Knick Knack Man, a travelling one man band and storyteller.

Spring Song takes place on Wednesday 28 May, 10am until 2pm near the children’s play area.

To continue the theme, Fleetwood Library is hosting Nottingham Playhouse in The Second Minute, a play about letters written by a young soldier from the trenches of the First World War. The performance takes place at 2pm and tickets cost £4. Call 01253 775800 to book.

Wyre Council has been awarded a grant of £2.4m from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund to restore Memorial Park. The funding will be used to carry out a comprehensive restoration of the Grade II listed park and create a five year programme of community activities to celebrate its heritage and the unique history of the town.

For more information visit wyre.gov.uk/memorialpark
Bids Selected to Lead Fair Chance Fund

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has selected the successful bids to be invited to submit a full application to the Fair Chance Fund.

The £15 million Fair Chance Fund aims to move at least 2,500 homeless, young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) into sustainable accommodation and at least 1,000 of those into sustained employment, education or training over a 36 month period - from January 2015 to December 2017. The deadline for expression of interest forms closed on 22 April 2014.

Bids were accepted from service providers who have evidence of a positive and proven track record of working with vulnerable young people, and the ability to work with the identified client group to achieve positive accommodation and employment, education and training outcomes.

The DCLG received 151 applications. Due to the high number of high quality bids the DCLG is inviting 74 providers and consortia to submit a full application, more than they initially anticipated.

It is estimated that between 5 and 15 grants will be allocated.

Winners will be announced in October 2014.

Source: DCLG, 19/05/14

Department for Communities and Local Government

Brief Reminders...

Spring into Education

Free Training still available! Further dates have been added

Please see attached timetable to view further details, and download booking form.

Shaping Your Neighbourhood funding

There is just one week left to bid for a share of council cash available to fund projects that will make a difference to local communities. Under Wyre Council’s Shaping Your Neighbourhood initiative. See full information.

Follow link for full details.

The Butterfly Group

Last remaining items for sale

There’s still time to grab a bargain on charity shop fixture and fittings.

Please see the attached list of items or if you wish further information please contact Christina Lukacs on 01253 316000 or 07708 689411
Blackpool Council are calling for applications to administer the funding to deliver support to the third sector on their (in lieu of small grants programme)

Following a review of grant funding, the Council has a funding pot of £5,000 which is to be used to support the voluntary, community and faith sector.

The small grants programme, whereby the Council has awarded grants to support a range of activities and projects, has now ceased. The Council would like to see this £5,000 pot used to support the sector in a similar way – disbursing small amounts to ‘pump-prime’ or contribute towards community activities, and proposes that a third sector organisation will manage and distribute the funds on our behalf.

Requirements

- An organisation is required to:
- Administer the pot of money (funds will be transferred to your organisation)
- Allocate funding
   And monitor how the funding is being spent.

The Council does not wish to prescribe how this is done, noting that it should be proportionate and appropriate to the funds available, and the needs of the sector.

The successful organisation is likely to have experience of:
- Managing external funds;
- Designing a process to allocate funds, based on a transparent assessment of need;
- Administering the payment of funds to another party, and agreeing funding terms;
- Agreeing and managing monitoring arrangements;
- Preparing reports for funders that are outcome-focused.

Funding arrangements

Funding will be allocated for the remainder of the financial year 2014/15. Funding is non-recurrent, and no undertaking can be given that arrangements will continue past the end of March 2015. The delivery of projects should start as soon as possible after the funding is made available. Funds may not be used to support the organisations own running costs or projects, or a proportion deducted for a management fee.

The successful organisations will be required to sign an agreement with the Council, evaluate and monitor the success of funded projects and submit a report to the Council about the outcomes achieved at the end of the financial period.

Application process

Interested organisations should put their proposal in writing (no longer than 2 pages of A4).

Please send your proposal to thirdsector@blackpool.gov.uk (putting in the message title ‘funding proposal’), to arrive no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 4 June 2014.

Late submissions will not be considered. Please note, individual applications to the Council for funding by organisations or requests for funding for specific projects or activities will also not be considered at this time.

For further information contact:
Amanda Bennett
amanda.bennett@blackpool.gov.uk
Volunteer Actors required for the Grundy Art Gallery

Grundy Art Gallery is looking for volunteers aged between 18-40 years to work with artist, Jennet Thomas and perform in her new film, The Unspeakable Freedom Device, which has been specially commissioned for Blackpool. Thomas is a highly experienced filmmaker with over 20 years of work, both in underground filmmaking and as an artist showing in galleries.

The film will be an experimental narrative set in the Winter Gardens which explores the legacy of Margaret Thatcher. Participants will be required to attend one rehearsal on the afternoon of Sat 14 June and then the filming will take place on the weekend of 21st and 22nd June.

This is a great opportunity to work alongside a highly skilled filmmaker and get your name in lights. If you would like to be considered please contact Grundy on 01253 478170 or grundyartgallery@blackpool.gov.uk.

For more information about Jennet Thomas visit her blog or read more about her on the Guardian’s artist of the week feature.
NCVO calls for Centre to Promote Social Value Act

NCVO, the umbrella body (Sir Stuart Etherington, chief executive, pictured) says this would help local authorities share best practice.

The next government should create a "centre for social value" to promote the principles of the social value act legislation, according to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. The umbrella body says in its 2015 general election manifesto, published today, that such a centre would help to implement the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, which requires central government and NHS commissioners to take into account "economic, social and environmental wellbeing" when seeking to purchase services from suppliers.

The manifesto says the proposed centre would help councils share best practice and assess more stringently the value for money of bids. It would also help voluntary organisations measure and provide evidence of the added social value they bring to public service delivery, the document says.

"The social value act was welcomed by our sector and can be a tool for change – but it has yet to be implemented in many areas," says the manifesto. "It will be critical for government to review the current state of public service markets in 2015 and take action to ensure that quality is being upheld and these markets are fit for the future."

The manifesto also calls for simplification of the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, which allows charities and community amateur sports clubs to claim a Gift Aid-like payment on donations totalling up to £5,000 on small donations without individual paperwork.

According to HM Revenue & Customs figures published last month, the government has paid out only £7m to organisations in the sector under the scheme, which was launched in April 2013, despite predicting that the GASDS could be worth more than £100m a year.

The manifesto says that the GASDS uses overly complicated eligibility criteria and penalises smaller charities with its matching rule, which requires every £10 of donations claimed under the scheme to be matched by £1 of donations claimed under Gift Aid in the same tax year.

Other recommendations made in the manifesto include introducing targets for preventive spending and a loan fund to allow public bodies to access capital for major preventive initiatives.

Sir Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the NCVO, said in a statement that by investing in services that addressed health and social problems before they became more serious, the next government could minimise public costs at the same time as helping the most vulnerable people in society. "Charities and volunteers have long been at the heart of running such services and creating new and innovative ways to act early to change people's lives for the better," he said.

Caron Bradshaw, chief executive of the Charity Finance Group, said it was crucial for the government to take steps to simplify red tape and the administrative burden for charity donors. "The government's Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme has fallen well below the intended target," she said. "If the rules were simplified and made easier for charities to use, a real difference could be made for charitable causes."

By Susannah Birkwood, Third Sector Online, 15 May 2014
Free Workshop: Supporting Speech, Language and Communication in the Early Years (formerly known as Universal Training)

When: Wednesday 25th June (9 am - 12 noon)
Where: City Learning Centre, Dinmore Ave., Grange Park, Blackpool.

This training is commissioned by Blackpool Local Authority and provides an essential introduction for all of Blackpool’s Children’s Workforce, i.e. those working in the Local Authority (in Children’s Centres, advisory and family services etc.), NHS (e.g. Health Visitors, midwives etc.), Social Care, Police, Early Years settings and child minders, and those working in the Third Sector.

Content of the training workshop:
- Attachment
- Why Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) skills are so important; How SLC skills develop in babies and young children; Why SLC difficulties occur; What we can all do to support SLC development and prevent problems occurring; When to be concerned and what to do next; Local Speech and Language Therapy Services (Children’s Centre and NHS)

Presenters:
- A Senior Educational Psychologist with Blackpool Council
- Caroline Coyne and Joanne Burr (Speech and Language Therapists with Communicate SLT CIC)
- Christine Russell (Team Leader, Children’s Communication & Hearing Team, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

N.B. Each training participant receives a handbook which acts as an excellent reference resource.
To book a place contact Ann Shellard at ann.shellard@blackpool.gov.uk

Where to go for advice Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde

Advice Link have now produced their guide on where to go for advice for 2014. There are lots of useful contact telephone numbers and online details. Topics range from local council information to Citizens Advice and Age UK.

To pick up a copy please visit the CVS offices on 95 Abingdon Street.

Volunteers Week Event at Fleetwood Library

Celebrate Volunteers’ Week at Fleetwood Library

Find out what it was like to be Live, Work and Volunteer in Fleetwood and Wyre During World War One

Activities include:
- Knitting Workshop
- HELP to knit a Community Scarf and make Pom Poms and Poppies
- Creative Writing Competition
- Poetry and a Soldier’s Letter
- Bring your Memorabilia with you!
Group Feature - Aztex Theatre School

By Ryan Griffiths

Aztex Theatre School, based at Highfield Humanities College, on Highfield Road offers dance, drama and voice training classes for students aged 3 to 18 years. These classes run from 10am to 2pm and are designed to serve those who wish to take the first steps on the road toward a career in the theatre and television industry, improve skills already learned, or who simply want to have fun, communicate and gain a higher level of confidence. Our classes are a balance between having fun and enjoying performing, yet developing the kind of discipline needed for rehearsals and stage work.

Our performance class runs from 1pm to 2pm. This class allows students to train and practice large scale pieces for the HITS performance, which is hosted twice a year at the Winter Gardens. This allows students to perform in front of an audience of thousands on one of the largest stages in England! As well as our main school, we offer an Aztots class, which runs from 9am to 10am for children aged 3-5 years. This class is designed to introduce singing, dancing and acting in a fun and activity filled way.

Our cooldown class runs from 2pm to 3pm and allows students to learn about other aspects of the arts. This class allows students to use and develop new skills and exhibit these new talents at our Aztex showcase events. As well as our cooldown class, we are now offering one to one vocal tuition from 2pm to 3pm. We offer L.A.M.D.A (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) classes for students aged 3 to 18 years and we have a 100% pass rate in our LAMDA examinations at Aztex.

We have now been confirmed to appear at The Grand Theatre on Tuesday 8th July. We will be performing our routine as part of Blackpool Music Service’s Au Revoir show. The show will start at 7pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to experience performing in another major theatre here in Blackpool and I am sure everyone will enjoy the experience.

To find out more about fees and anything else please call 01253 736409 or visit our website at www.aztextheatreschool.com
Dr Tony Naughton, Clinical Chief Officer, would like to thank you for your contribution in helping to shape our 2030 Vision for Health and Care in Fylde and Wyre.

Over the past six months they gathered feedback from thousands of local people, and he is very pleased to be able to share with you the final document which incorporates the comments they received. Their Governing Body approved the document at its meeting yesterday, and has also heard in detail about how the comments of individuals and partner organisations have made a difference.

The document describes many of the challenges they face and how they aim to tackle these with partners to meet their aspirations for local health services. Taking on board the feedback they received, they believe the following is crucial if they are to address these challenges:

• Supporting people to keep well both mentally and physically to prevent ill health in the first place
• More support to help people manage their conditions at home to keep as fit and well as possible
• Better information to support people to make informed choices about their health and healthcare
• More coordinated and integrated health and social care planned around their needs
• Access to many services seven days a week
• More community and home-based care
• Care in hospitals for specialist services only
• Better use of technology to improve access to services and improve productivity

They recognise that 2030 is 16 years away, and that our environment will undoubtedly change. However, our vision will guide us to where we need to be, and will inform our planning over the coming years.

You can view the 2030 Vision document, as well as the outputs from the engagement exercise, by visiting their website: www.fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk. If you would like to receive a hard copy you can email enquiries@fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk or telephone 01253 956400 to request one.

They will be formally launching the 2030 Vision at their annual general meeting in the next couple of months, and you are very welcome to attend. More details will be circulated shortly.

He would like to thank you again for your contribution. He looks forward to working with you in the future to further improve health and health services in the area.
HRUK and SUBWAY® Healthy Heart Grants of up to £10,000 are available for new, original and innovative projects that actively promote Heart Health and help to prevent, or reduce, the risk of heart disease in specific groups or communities.

Heart Research UK (HRUK) is inviting applications from community groups, voluntary organisations and registered charities through their new SUBWAY/HRUK Healthy Heart Grants. Grants of up to £10,000 are available in different SUBWAY regions to support projects that strongly promote heart health, not just healthy lifestyles.

Previous projects supported include a grant of £8,900 to the Swindon Tamil Association to run activities, including ‘Bharathanatyam’, a popular South Asian dance, and healthy heart cooking workshops, to get the community exercising and eating more healthily. Each region within the UK has its own application deadlines. Deadline for applications from the Granada area is 30th May 2014. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to give a presentation to the Award Panel on the 24th June.

http://www.heartresearch.org.uk/grants/subwayhhg

We are a registered charity and work with groups and organisations in the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector helping to ensure Blackpool Wyre and Fylde has thriving, strong communities providing opportunities to build capacity and enhance effectiveness of the sector. Our website contains information about the projects that CVS run and our news pages provide updates on news items, events, funding, jobs etc. We also have a community events diary confirming all the upcoming events across the 3 districts. You can find out more about the history of CVS as well as meeting the staff and trustees and there are also useful links to other local voluntary and community groups. We hope you enjoy the site and find the information useful.