



shropshire infrastructure partnership

strengthening the voluntary sector together

21st July 2010 (Issue1)

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter. After the success of the launch of our web site www.ShropshireVCS.org.uk at the end of March, we have been busy developing the range of information and resources available on the site. This newsletter will keep you updated with the latest news, issues and support in conjunction with the web site. We will be adjusting lay-out and design as we establish themes and areas of interest and welcome your feedback both on the content and lay-out.



Who are in the Partnership?

- [Community Council of Shropshire](#) supports people and communities in Shropshire through a wide range of initiatives and developments designed to enhance their quality of life.
- [Marches Community Enterprise](#) supports existing social and community enterprises and co-operative organisations and to develop the potential for new enterprises
- [Oswestry Community Action](#) (OCA) aims to improve the quality of life and empower members of the community marginalised through age, health, disability or rural isolation.
- [Pre-school Learning Alliance Shropshire Sub-committee](#) is a national educational charity and umbrella body, supporting community pre-schools.
- [Shropshire Youth Association](#) supports voluntary youth groups across Shropshire with a wide range of support and services.

Infrastructure Support describes activities that improve the capacity and capability of voluntary and community organisations to achieve their objectives. This includes the development of people including all aspects of volunteering, physical assets, management and governance, income generation, representation and performance improvement.

Two new partners join the Partnership

South Shropshire Furniture Scheme (SSFS) and **Mid West Rural Enterprise** (MWRE) have joined the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership.



Jean Jarvis from SSFS and Sue Fry from MWRE

- The [Furniture Scheme's](#) core function is front line delivery but uses its extensive experience in creating and operating a successful social enterprise to offer infrastructure support to other VCS organisations. From their example other organisations are either motivated to develop social enterprise themselves or learn how they may expand, diversify and become more sustainable. SSFS also encourages and supports social entrepreneurs to develop social enterprise ideas as well as offering specific advice on specialist areas as required throughout the life cycle of a social enterprise.
- [Mid West Rural Enterprise](#) provides training, one to one advice and enterprise coaching, training, in depth consultancy support and mentoring via volunteer business mentors. MWRE adds insight and direct experience of working as and with social enterprises.

Radio opportunity for Voluntary/Community Groups



During the 123rd Shrewsbury Flower Show, **August 13th and 14th** local radio station **Buzz FM** will be broadcasting (87.7FM) and is looking for Voluntary/Community Groups throughout Shropshire to feature in 1 minute 'advertising' breaks, so here is your opportunity....

If you would like to take part and provide a short clip about your group, charity or social enterprise please email info@ShropshireVCS.org.uk by **close of play Friday 23rd July**.

Please include a contact phone number and a short description of your group.

Buzz FM will be **recording the clips on Wednesday 28th July (and possibly the 30th July)** at the Community Council of Shropshire so you will need to be available to attend one of the interview slots. Unfortunately we wont be able to travel or deviate from the planned recording day.

If your group has a specific interest/link with gardening or horticulture we are especially interested to hear from you but we would like to have as diverse a mix of clips as possible with something of interest from all over the County!

For more information on Buzz FM see <http://www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk/BuzzFm>

Voluntary Forums throughout Shropshire

The Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership facilitates a number of discussion forums; meetings where groups can exchange views and share knowledge with peers and raise awareness throughout the sector. Meetings last about 2 hours and start or finish with an informal lunch.

Forum dates are as follows:

- [Oswestry Voluntary Forum](#) Friday 23rd July, 10am
- [Wem Voluntary Forum](#) Monday 26th July, 10am
- [Ludlow Voluntary Forum](#) Wednesday 22nd September, 10am
- [Bridgnorth Voluntary Forum](#) Tuesday 14th September, 12Noon
- [Cleobury Mortimer Voluntary Forum](#) Wednesday 8th September, 10:30am
- [Central Area Voluntary Forum](#) – Shrewsbury Thursday 9th September, 10am

Further details can be found by clicking the appropriate link, by visiting <http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/networking/> or by phoning our outreach officers below.

- For further details on the Oswestry or Wem Forums, please call Kim on 01691 656882
- For further details on the Ludlow, Bridgnorth or Cleobury Mortimer Forums please call Clive on 07791260888
- For further details on the Shrewsbury Forum please call Lisa on 01743 237872

Breakfast Briefings

After the success of the pilot 'Knowledge and Nosh' Breakfast briefings held in Shrewsbury, we are now rolling these out across the rest of Shropshire, starting on the 17th Aug 8.30am to 10am at Ludlow Assembly rooms. The subject of this informal get together Monitoring & Evaluation. Places are limited and to book please. Call Clive on 07791260888.

Further details will follow in future news letters and can be found via

<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/our-services/training/breakfast-briefings/>

Do-it.org

We are promoting lots of local volunteering opportunities on www.do-it.org.uk.

If your opportunities are not yet on there get in touch with our volunteering outreach workers:

- North Shropshire, call Kim on 01691 656882
- Central Shropshire, call Lisa on 01743 237872
- South Shropshire, call Clive on 07791260888

Also a gentle reminder that if we do promote opportunities for you via Do-it.org to periodically check the details and let the relevant outreach worker know if any changes need to be made.



The Breakfast Briefings are one of several ways of accessing training and learning. Details of other training events and more formal courses can be found on our web site

<http://shropshirevcs.org.uk/site/our-services/training/>

Funding Fair 'Save the Date'!

We are in the throws of organising a large Funding Fair, details will be available shortly but if the following topics are of interest save **Friday 1st October** in your diary:

- Writing a funding strategy
- Managing reserves
- Investments
- Cost saving/
- Recycling/Energy efficiency
- Getting ready to tender for contracts
- Funding Applications
- Evidencing need for the project

If you need more information about any topic in this newsletter, want to feed back your comments on it or have questions regarding the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership, please email the Partnership Services and Information Officer on info@ShropshireVCS.org.uk

Please feel free to pass this e-bulletin on to others.

If you do not wish to receive further updates from us please email 'Unsubscribe' to info@ShropshireVCS.org.uk .