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This is **your** free community newsletter.

You can use it to promote your services, recruit volunteers and publicise your events.

All you need to do is to write a short article and either post, fax or e-mail it to us and we will let everyone else know about your work!

This newsletter has a circulation of **over 400** and is delivered **free** of charge.

Update

More For Less!

Well, it is a new financial year, with a number of new and on-going financial concerns for VCS groups across the UK and especially here in SE Northumberland. Combined with an ever growing need for our services, following further cuts to Local Authority budgets and Health care services, the phrase 'more for less' is one we are going to hear time and time again.

Alongside the financial constraints we are all feeling, there are a broad range of national reforms that will impact on our local communities.

The developing agenda around the 'Big Society' ideals, Public Sector reform, Healthy Lives, Healthy People - the Government's strategy for Public Health, the Localism Bill, including the community right to buy and the community right to challenge, to name but a few, will ensure that 'more for less' is here for some considerable time.

Here at CVABV we will be working to ensure you have the most up to date information possible to contribute into these reforms and to hopefully benefit yourselves and the residents of Blyth, Cramlington and Seaton Valley.

Goodbye to ICCQ staff

The Blyth Neighbourhood pathfinder project, Improving Croft & Cowpen Quay, has not received the funding it was expecting and as a result Guinness Northern Counties as the employers have had to make all ICCQ staff redundant as of 31st March.

The funding for Neighbourhood Management was received by NCC from Central Government, but as it was no longer 'ring fenced' for the beneficiary areas NCC informed the ICCQ board that they were 'not minded' to use the funding in Blyth and that they 'were seeking authority' to allocate part or all of this resource to the implementation of the Berwick Project.

It is particularly sad that such a successful local project has been curtailed in this way, especially when we consider that any such decision based on evidence of need, would have seen this resource remain in SE Northumberland. The local learning could have been developed across Northumberland building on existing skills, knowledge and experience for greater impact and benefit across Northumberland.

On a positive note the ICCQ Board have now established themselves as a group in their own right and are continuing to fight for the benefit of local residents in the Croft and Cowpen Quay wards.

Northumberland Funding Event

Community & Voluntary Action Blyth Valley, Community Action Northumberland and Wansbeck Centre for Voluntary Service held their first ever joint county-wide funding event on 30 March 2011 at Choppington Social Welfare Centre.

The day was a huge success - thanks to all those groups who attended. Approximately 200 people attended the event visiting 21 Funders in their 15-minute one-to-one appointments. A 'market place' stand occupied another hall and workshop presentations from the Big Lottery and Community Foundation were delivered in the large meeting room.

Main Hall used for 15-minute appointments with groups



Comments from groups:

- ◆ The best bit about the event was face to face access to funders
- ◆ Very, very useful event
- ◆ First event I have attended – and I WILL be back!
- ◆ Funders were very keen to help and provided a wealth of information

Market Place stands where groups visited between appointments to see other Organisations

Comments from groups:

- ◆ Great time networking – found it very interesting.
- ◆ It was well executed/organised. Have come out of event with positive information and good ideas.
- ◆ A relaxed friendly atmosphere - not intimidating to newcomers.



During the lunch break groups were able to network with funders, other groups, market place organisations and the organisers.



Groups attending one of the workshops delivered by the Community Foundation and the Big Lottery.

Blyth Valley Citizens Advice Bureau

Housing Benefit changes in April

The government has announced a number of measures designed to reduce the costs of the Housing Benefit (HB) scheme. These could have a significant effect on HB entitlement both for existing claimants and for people who make a new claim on or after 1 April. Existing claimants will have some transitional protection.

The changes include a reduction in Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates so that about three in ten properties for rent in the area should be affordable to people on HB, rather than five in ten properties as now. LHA levels will be further restricted by the introduction of an upper limit (cap) for each property size, with an overall limit set at the four-bedroom rate. (LHA rates are used to calculate HB for tenants renting from private landlords).

Prisoners and the right to vote

At present, most sentenced prisoners are denied the right to vote in elections.

In 2005, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that a blanket ban on sentenced prisoners voting was unlawful under the European Convention on Human Rights (right to free and fair elections).

The government has until August to introduce legislation to comply with this ruling.

The government has been advised that the forthcoming elections in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and in local constituencies would be covered by the European Court's ruling.

The European Court can impose fines if the government does not comply with the ruling.

However, a recent High Court judgment has ruled that a prisoner will not succeed in a claim for damages or a declaration that their rights under the Convention have been breached. This judgment directly affects England and Wales and sets a precedent for cases in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

A prisoner who is refused an opportunity to vote at these, or other elections, should be advised to contact a specialist adviser.

The Prison Reform Trust can provide information and sources of specialist help on this issue.

Contact details are available on their website at www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk.

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the Prisoners' Advice Service provides legal advice on prisoners' rights. Contact details are available on their website at www.prisonersadvice.org.uk.

Request for flexible working extended

From 6 April, in England, Wales and Scotland, the right to ask for flexible working is extended to the parents of a child aged under 18. Before this date, the right applied to the parents of a child aged under 17 or, if the child had a disability, under 18.

In N. Ireland, the current situation will not change from 6 April, so it remains that the parents of a child aged under 17, or, if the child has a disability, under 18, have the right to ask for flexible working.



Blyth Valley CAB
Eric Tolhurst Centre
3-13 Quay Road
Blyth, NE24 2AS
Tel 01670 367779



CVA Blyth Valley Staff Arrangements

CVA Blyth Valley provide outreach services at local venues throughout Blyth Valley as follows:

- ◆ Cramlington Concordia (Town Council office) – Monday – all day
- ◆ Seaton Delaval & Holywell Community Centre - }
- ◆ Seaton Sluice Community Centre - } for Seaton Valley venues and times
- ◆ Seghill Community Centre - } please contact Gina Robson for
- ◆ New Hartley Community Centre - } information

You can drop in for a full range of our advice and support services or ring our main office on 01670 353623 to arrange an appointment at any of these venues.



Lighthouse Knowledge

Lighthouse Knowledge are offering training courses at the Cobalt Business Exchange in May, and are offering this for £30 per person (half day course) for voluntary organisations.

Please visit their website for further course information/dates at

<http://www.lighthouseknowledge.co.uk/Courses.html>

Or contact Louise at:

Louise Carbado
Lighthouse Knowledge
Tel: 0191 289 3072 / Mob: 07702079564
Email: louise.carbado@lighthouseknowledge.co.uk



Great North Run

As a charity Escape Family Support take part in the Great North Run every year to raise money and awareness for their organisation. This year the Great North Run is being held on 18th September, and they are looking for approximately 15 people to get involved and run/walk the 13 mile half marathon.

If you or anybody you know is interested in raising money and awareness for a brilliant cause please get in touch as soon as possible, they would love your support at this event.



Jenny Bell
Peer Mentor and Volunteer Coordinator
ESCAPE Family Support
07966069775
01670 544055



CVA Blyth Valley / Fairshares Training

Events Training Workshop

Do you manage events – are they successful? This training session will help you make your events more successful and give you lots of practical tips to take away. The session will look at the processes of managing successful events and will cover the following topics: planning; setting measurable goals; budgeting; risk assessment; marketing; working with suppliers; logistics; sponsorship; people; celebrities; the actual event; evaluation.

Venue: Briardale Community Centre, Briardale Road, Blyth, NE24 5AN
Day / time: Thursday 12 May 2011, 10:00am - 3:30pm (please arrive 9:45 for a prompt start)
Facilitator: Brian Bell, Be Brave Fundraising
Cost: Free, although if not cancelled within 14 days of course, non-attendees will incur a £15 admin charge

Environmental Sustainability Training

A one day course for community groups and not for profit organisations looking to improve their environmental credentials and reduce costs. This interactive training event will provide information and tools to enable individuals and organisations on how to maximise the opportunities of effective environmental management. Topics covered will include: energy efficiency and carbon footprints; feed in tariffs; water efficiency; waste management; developing an environmental policy, communication of environmental issues and more.

Venue: Seaton Sluice Community Centre (Small Hall), Albert Road, S Sluice, NE26 4QX
Day / Time: Thursday 9 June 2011, 9:30 am—3:30 pm (arrive 9:15 am)
Facilitator: Mark Huggins, Groundwork North East
Cost: Free, although if not cancelled within 14 days of course, non attendees will incur a £15 admin charge

Lloyds TSB Foundation Application Workshop

Lloyds TSB Foundation support registered charities whose core work helps disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in communities. Full details of their funding priorities, guidelines and exclusions can be found on their website www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk. This free workshop is designed to encourage good quality funding applications from this area. The workshop will cover: Lloyds TSB current funding priorities; What they are looking for in a good application; Examples of successful projects; One to one appointments to discuss any potential project; Advice and support completing Lloyds TSB applications.

Venue: Briardale Community Centre, Briardale Road, Blyth, NE24 5AN
Day / Time: Tuesday 14 June 2011, 10:00 am—2:00 pm (arrive 9:45 am)
Facilitator: Peter Ellis, Lloyds TSB Foundation (North East)
Cost: Free, although if not cancelled within 14 days of course, non attendees will incur a £15 admin charge

These training sessions are offered FREE to VCS groups in Blyth, Cramlington and Seaton Valley. For groups outside these areas and statutory organisations the price is £30 per delegate. Places are limited to 3 places per group initially, although additional places may become available. If anyone is interested in attending the course please contact us on **01670 353623** or email info@cvabv.org.uk

What's On (Blyth, Cramlington & Seaton Valley)

Astley Park Pavilion

Race Night - Thursday 12 May 2011, 7:00 pm - 9.30pm

A night of fun and laughter! The evening will cost £2.50 per head which will include a Pea and Pie Supper. You can sponsor a race if you want! There will be soft drinks and a special raffle.

Website: www.seatonvalleyradio.co.uk / Tel: (0191) 2370248 / Mobile: 0789 269 6394

Email: stephenstanners@seatondelaval.org

16 July 2011, 12:00 noon—3:00 pm— Astley High School Summer Fayre - All welcome

The Harvest Festival Gala this year will be on **Saturday 20 August 2011,**

12:00 noon—4:00 pm.

Blyth Battery

Blyth Battery Goes To War - Saturday and Sunday 21 and 22 May 2011

- ◆ Vintage Vehicles
- ◆ Military Displays
- ◆ Live Wartime Entertainment
- ◆ Access to Blyth Battery Buildings
- ◆ World War 2 Re-enactors
- ◆ Children's Activities



All Welcome - Blyth Battery, South Beach, Blyth, NE24 3PQ

Cramlington - Eastfield Estates

The 2011 Cramlington Town Fair is to be held on the Eastfield Playing Fields on **Saturday 4 June 2011.** Post code for sat-nav users is NE23 2UA. In attendance on the day will be Turners Fun Fair with all the fun of the Fair. **All welcome.**

Eastfield Pavilion Easter Fayre - Sunday 24 April 2011 from 12 noon—4:00 pm

Design your own Easter Egg competition (to be made at home or in the kids club) winner to be announced at 3:30 pm. Pop along and join in an afternoon of fun for all the family - tombola, bunny hunt, traditional games for all, animal antics (photos available holding some of the animals), sweets and refreshments available throughout the afternoon - all proceeds to support Eastfields youth clubs.

Cramlington - East Hartford Community Centre

28 April 2011, 6:30 pm start - Cats and Dogs - The Revenge of Kitty Galore,
£1.50 entrance fee.

New Hartley Community Centre

Summer Fayre 18 June 2011. Fun packed family day out. Craft Stalls, Displays, Competitions and much more. All welcome. For further details please contact Clive Raper on 0191 237 2210.

Continued on next page

Seaton Sluice Community Centre

Credit Union (A local savings and low cost loans organisation) - starts 20 April 2011 from 11 am—12 noon at Seaton Sluice Community Centre, Room 11.

Festival of Music 3rd 4th and 5th June 2011 Seaton Sluice village. A huge music event with numerous singers and a Sea Shanties competition, Ceilidh, Tea-dance, Fish and Chip Lunches, Workshops, numerous concerts – over 4-5 different venues within the village finishing on Sunday night with a 'Community Hymn Singing' session in the grounds of Seaton Delaval Hall.

Harbour Day – 9 July 2011, 11 am – 4 pm

Traditional harbour day with rides plus much more. The day will be opened by Malcolm McDonald.

Seaton Delaval Hall (opens 11 am—5 pm)

Make a Peg Bag - Monday 18 April 2011

Easter at Seaton Delaval Hall

- ◆ Over the whole of the 4 days Easter Holidays there is a Easter egg trail
- ◆ Good Friday 22 April – Make a St George's Flag
- ◆ Saturday 23 April – Make a Georgian Easter egg
- ◆ Sunday and Monday Cadburys Easter Egg Hunt

Pop along and join in the fun! Loads of other things to do and make at the Hall during the Easter School holidays.

Royal Wedding Party at the Hall, Friday 29 April, Bring a picnic and join in the fun of the day. FREE ENTRY.

Seghill Community Centre

Pea and Pie Supper - 20 April 2011, 7.00 pm – 7.30 pm start

Supper evening £3.00 with bingo. For further details please contact Glenys on 0191 2372651 or Elsie on 0191 2373168

May Gala Queen Disco - 7 May 2011, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

This is a very honourable role for the children of Seghill area. For further details please contact Glenys on 0191 2372651 or Elsie on 0191 2373168.

Spring Craft Fayre - 21 May 2011 10 am -1pm, 50p entrance fee

This is a great day out for the whole family, it is also where you can obtain the children's tickets for Seghill Children's Gala. A brilliant day to buy some very special hand crafted gifts – start Christmas shopping. Also at the Craft Fayre will be a walk down memory lane of the Seghill Gala's.

Seghill 100th Gala + Craft Fayre + Parade through the streets, 4 June 2011

Theme is 100 years of the village. All community groups, schools and street entertainers included. WWII Lancaster Bomber fly-over, huge street parade with men on giant stilts, vintage cars, star wars characters, Blyth Battery Volunteers, and much more.



FUNDING INFORMATION

Community Foundation - Grassroots Grants

Grassroots Grants Additional Funding Programme Available for Community Groups

The Government has made a one off sum of £168,648 available to grassroots community and voluntary groups in Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland. Grants are available for constituted groups that has a turnover over of less than £30,000, have been going for over a year and have a full set of accounts.

Applications for equipment and summer activities are particularly welcome, but please note all funding awarded must be spent by the 30 September 2011.

Jane Roberts-Morpeth, who manages the Grassroots Grant programme, said: "We have got £58,461 earmarked for community and voluntary groups in Newcastle alone, as well as £51,180 in North Tyneside, and £59,005 in Northumberland."

The deadline for submitting applications is **Friday 27 May 2011**.

Please contact Jane Roberts-Morpeth, Project and Programmes Officer for an application form and details on how to apply.

Community Foundation
Cale Cross, 156 Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne. NE1 6SU.
Telephone: 0191 222 0945



Barclays Community Sports Award

The new Community Sports Award recognises the outstanding achievements of individuals and groups that use sport to benefit communities across the UK.

Each month, the winner of the award will receive £1,000 for their group or organisation, a limited edition trophy and will be entered into the end of season award to win a further £5,000.

Nominations can be made for any individual, group of individuals or not-for-profit organisation.

All entries must be made via www.barclayscommunitysportsaward.com on or before 5pm on the 20th of each month.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.barclayscommunitysportsaward.com/>



Woodward Charitable Trust

The Woodward Charitable Trust is inviting applications from UK registered charities working with or in the areas of:

- ◆ social and ethnic minority groups
- ◆ prisoners and ex-offenders
- ◆ homelessness
- ◆ violence and abuse
- ◆ arts outreach
- ◆ disability
- ◆ the environment.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available through their small grants scheme and grants of over £5,000 through their large grants scheme. Every year, the Trust makes about 50 grants through its small grants programme and around 5 awards through its large grants programme. The closing date for applications is the **31 May 2011**.

In addition, the Trust runs a Summer Playscheme Grants Programme. This is open to charities with an income not exceeding £100,000 a year.

For more information please visit:

www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk/index.html

THE WOODWARD CHARITABLE TRUST

The Wakeham Trust

Funding to Improve Local Communities

The Wakeham Trust offers grants to organisations wishing to improve their communities and is particularly interested in supporting neighbourhood projects; community arts projects; projects involving community service by young people; projects set up by those who are socially excluded.

The Trust also support innovative projects to promote excellence in teaching (at any level, from primary schools to universities), although individuals cannot be supported. The Trust normally gives grants to projects where an initial £75 to £750 can make a real difference to getting the project up and running. To be eligible, applicants need to be registered charities or have access to a registered charity that will be willing to accept funds on their behalf.

Applications can be made at any time. For more information please visit:

<http://www.wakehamtrust.org/>



Swimathon Foundation Grants

Local groups such as for example community groups, swimming clubs, swimming pools, older people's organisations, youth groups, sports clubs, scout troops and healthy living groups can apply for grants of between £300 and £2,500 to help more people participate in and enjoy swimming and to make swimming more accessible. Examples of applications which are supported include:

- ◆ Fundraising events, galas or family fun days at a pool
- ◆ Community pool 'open days'
- ◆ Extra floats for a swimming club to improve swimmers' development
- ◆ Transport costs to take an elderly group to a pool
- ◆ Club scuba diving equipment to allow more people to try the sport; etc.

Applicants must be a representative of, or have the support of, a pool participating in Swimathon or Simply Swim 2011.

Applications are accepted in one of four rounds. The next closing date for applications is the **6 June 2011**.

For further information please visit:

<http://swimathon.org/page.php?page=Foundation>



Ernest Cook Trust

Ernest Cook Trust Grants

Registered charities, schools and not-for-profit organisations wishing to encourage young people's interest either in the countryside and the environment, the arts (in the broadest sense) or aiming to raise levels of literacy and numeracy can apply for funding to the Ernest Cook Trust.

The Trust operates two grant making programmes:

- ◆ the small grants programme (under £4,000)
- ◆ the large grants programme (Grants over £4,000)

Grants are normally awarded for one year only.

For further information please visit Earnest Cooks' website at:

<http://www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk/>

Application deadline: Trustees meet several times a year to consider applications.



Community Foundation

Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland: Call for Applications

Sage Fund

Up to £5,000 for organisations working to support local people of all ages to nurture talent or provide life and employability skills which make a lasting contribution towards improving the quality of life of those it helps - Deadline **3 May 2011**

John D Fund

Up to £2,500 to support creative activities for young people that allow them to explore their creativity and develop hobbies - Deadline **20 May 2011**

Northumberland Group Fund

Young People in Northumberland could benefit from grants available from the Northumberland Group Fund, which is managed by the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland.

The Northumberland Group Fund aims to enhance educational and employment opportunities for young people and will award grants up to £5,000 to organisations which support young people to improve their employment skills and assist them to access further educational courses, training and/or employment.

In addition, The Community Foundation is also keen to receive general applications for smaller amounts (under £5,000) from community groups supporting people in accessing information, advice and in providing activities that enhance their well-being.



Guidelines and application forms are available from the Community Foundation's website
www.communityfoundation.org.uk
or by calling 0191 222 0945.

Coalfields Regeneration Trust

£30m funding for The Coalfields Regeneration Trust

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) is an independent regeneration organisation that was established in 1999 to improve the quality of life in Britain's coalfield communities. Funding of £30 million has been awarded to the CRT over the next two years to enable the Trust to continue supporting the social and economic regeneration of the English Coalfields.

The trust offers grants through two programmes, these are:

- ◆ Bridging the Gap
- ◆ Main grants programme

For more information please visit:

www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/news/default.asp?art=1299847824



the coalfields
regeneration trust



Staff List:

Thom S Bradley
Chief Executive

Pauline Blake
Capacity Building Officer

Sybil Pattie
Administrator

Gina Robson
Capacity Building Officer

Jill Oxnard
Capacity Building Officer

Nichola Dodds
Capacity Building Officer

Fiona Wardlaw
Capacity Building Officer
(Community Engagement & Involvement)

Claremont Centre Lunch Club

Opening Friday 15 April 2011
the

Claremont Centre Lunch Club

Every Friday between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm
(excludes bank holidays)

Claremont Centre, Claremont Terrace, Blyth

- ◆ Pop along and enjoy a warm, friendly atmosphere
 - ◆ Make new friends
- ◆ Enjoy morning and afternoon refreshments
 - ◆ Lunch
 - ◆ Activities

Only £3 per person - limited places available.

For further information please call:

01670 366 035



The Claremont Centre Lunch Club is a partnership between St Cuthberts Care and the parish of Our Lady and St Wilfrid.

Disclaimer:

The information in this newsletter, as far as we can ascertain, is accurate at the time of publishing.

CVABV cannot take any responsibility for subsequent changes or for the quality of information or services provided by other organisations.

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CVA Blyth Valley

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Email: info@cvabv.org.uk Web: www.cvabv.org.uk

Opening Times: Mon–Thurs 9:00 am – 5:00 pm / Fri 9:00 am - 4:30 pm