

July x-tra

Community Cation

News from High Peak CVS

What's been happening at the CVS?

Here we are, virtually the summer and we've only just noticed we are half way through the year – life at High Peak CVS has been that busy!

The building work is continuing – at the time of writing, the disabled toilet is being installed and we are all putting up with (as best we can) the dust, noise and disruption of doorways being widened, new walls going up and chimneys coming down, knowing that at the end of it we will have a more useable, inclusive building. **Gina and Peter** have been project managing the build, and so are wearing a slightly frazzled look. The work should be completed later in the summer – please bear with us at this rather “grubby” time!

Tony has been working on a variety of projects. The first community newsletter for Gamesley, where we have been funded by the SRB6 programme and are working with local residents, was published early in June. In addition, he is leading two projects for the county voluntary sector infrastructure consortium. One is mapping ICT and information system needs, and the second is a feasibility study into an IT based funding advice solution. These are being carried out in readiness for the main government funded infrastructure programme, designed to help voluntary sector infrastructure build capacity and become more efficient. Call Tony if you would like to know more.

Di and Tony have also been busy co-ordinating our two training projects – one is around Equal Opportunities and the other tailored training for voluntary and community groups in New Mills. If you feel you could benefit from either of these,

give one of them a call on 01663 735 350 to discuss your needs.

Di and Esther are continuing to work on the Carer's Forum, and we will have more information for you in the next newsletter.

The work with groups, as ever, continues to grow, with **Sandy, Di, Esther and Tony** all taking a lead around different areas.

Kevin is continuing the battle to find future funding. Unfortunately, we were not successful with a bid for ESF (European Social Fund), but have won another Learning & Skills contract for training in Gamesley, which runs until Spring 2005. A copy of the report about last year's Gamesley Project can be downloaded from our website.

Www.highpeakcvs.org.uk continues to grow, thanks to **Peter**, and the new e-news network that we have set up has been very popular – we now have 200 subscribers. If you would like to get email updates from us (and we send a MAXIMUM of one a week) please email Tony, tony@highpeakcvs.org.uk. The email contains details of training, local funding, events, and recently a number of local jobs in the community and voluntary sector – all things that don't always make it into our newsletter because of deadlines.

Finally, we would like to say “bon voyage” to the chair of our trustee board, **Sally Cox**, who has stepped down. Sally has put a great deal of hard work into the organisation, which we thank her for. Our new chair is **Chris Woodcock**, who joined the trustees last year. Chris has a wealth of experience of the voluntary sector, locally, regionally and nationally, and will be a great asset.

Big Lottery Fund

Launched on the 1st June, the Big Lottery fund is the new joint operating name for the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund and will be responsible for giving out half of all Lottery funds for good causes. This merger will not affect grants to organisations and it is not expected for organisations to change their publicity material or stationery, though it is required to use the new name on future materials and in new annual reports and accounts. New branding material can be obtained at the end of June 2004. The Big Lottery Fund would like to hear your views on how

it should deliver its programmes. You can send your views via their website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Cerebra New Guide

Cerebra, the charity for Brain Injured Children and Young People, based in Carmarthen has commissioned external experts to write a guide to applying for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) especially for children under 16 with brain related conditions. The guide is free, in plain English, and is designed to give parents and carers confidence in filling out the form. It can be downloaded from the web site www.cerebra.org.uk or you may request a copy be posted (the guide is 62 pages.) Cerebra can be contacted on Freephone 0800 32 81 159 or email at info@cerebra.org.uk.

Environmental volunteering

There will be taster days in October to promote environmental volunteering in the High Peak.

Come along and try your hand at rewarding activities such as habitat creation (monitoring/installing bird and bat boxes), planting trees, community gardening, environmental campaigning etc. Keep an eye out for more publicity!

Improving media links

The Press Association (PA) and the Media Trust have launched a joint initiative which aims to make it as easy as possible for community and voluntary groups who currently have little contact with the media, to make their voice heard. Funded by the Active Community Unit within the Home Office, *The Community Newswire* initiative will:

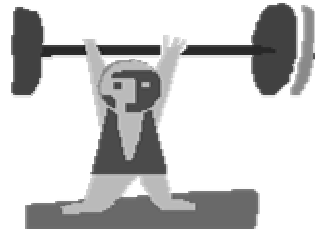
- Deliver community and voluntary sector news direct to the desktops of journalists via PA's regional wire service
- Help community and voluntary sector organisations develop their news stories with online guidance, seminars and volunteer expertise from the Media Trust
- Display the latest stories on a new Community Newswire website (www.communitynewswire.org).

In our next newsletter we will be outlining how best local groups can make the most of this new service to get their local stories to the widest possible audience.

Don't forget In Sickness and in Health

An important event for both the voluntary and statutory organisations.

**Tuesday 13th July
9.15am – 1.30pm
Chatsworth Room,
Cliff College, Calver
(on the A623 between
Baslow and Calver
Sough)**



In Sickness and In Health is to bring together voluntary and statutory organisations and groups whose activities impact on health in anyway.

The event aims to:

- Promote a greater understanding of the essential role played by the voluntary sector in meeting the health and social care needs of individuals.
- Work with statutory partners to identify gaps in service provision and explore ways of overcoming these gaps.
- Identify barriers which prevent

the voluntary sector and the statutory sector working together to meet the needs of the community and seek ways to overcome these barriers.

The morning includes an exciting opportunity to generate development

ideas which could form the basis of a bid to the **Futurebuilders** fund. The investment plan for this fund will be announced on 5th July so full details will be available for consideration.

This event provides a real opportunity for working in partnership for the benefit of the whole community. To book a place please contact Di McIntyre for a form, by email di@highpeakcvs.org.uk or telephone 01663 735 350. You can also print off a booking form from our website www.highpeakcvs.org.uk

The Expert Patient Programme

Are you living with a long-term health problem?

Why not join the local Staying Well Programme and take even better care of yourself?

This is a free six-week programme, run by High Peak & Dales Primary Care Trust, is for anyone who is living with a long-term health problem and would like to be more involved in the day-to-day self-management of their illness. Topics covered include exercise, relaxation techniques, diet, complementary therapies, effective communication skills and much more. Sessions are delivered by tutors who themselves live with

long-term health problems. It recognises that people can develop the skills to deal with the impact of living with a long-term health problem.

The Staying Well Programme is your opportunity to become part of a national programme that can help you to improve the way you manage your condition.

The PCT plan to continue running courses in Bakewell, New Mills and Buxton. Further information can be obtained from Brenda Harper or Alison Sie at Queens Court Day Centre in Buxton 01298 308070