

## **VANS In-Step Newsletter–March 2010–20<sup>th</sup> & Final Edition**

Hello everyone. Hard to believe that two years have flown by so quickly and the In-Step programme has reached its conclusion.

I would just like to express my gratitude to the individuals and groups I have met and worked with over the last two years on In-Step and almost four years with VANS overall.

All of VANS other services and programmes are still of course on hand to help individuals looking to volunteer and groups looking for help and advice.

The voluntary and community sector in North Somerset is a great place to work and I wish you all continued success. Best Regards  
Justin

### **Good News! – we can offer some extra training to you due to the new Take Part project. The theme is “Active Citizenship” and the aims are**

- to give people the skills and confidence to play an active role in their community, whether as a volunteer, community group member or as an individual taking action on local issues
- To increase people’s ability to speak up and have their views taken on board by decision-makers

Examples of workshops that you could ask for include:

- Speaking Up ( Being confident and assertive )
- Effective Meetings

- Taking on the role of Chair
- Taking on the role of a Trustee
- Feeling More Confident about Presentations
- Taking Action on Local Problems
- How does the council work?
- What is the role of a councillor?
- Skills training for volunteers
- Leadership training for community activists

If you or your group have need of any training that fits these themes, let us know. Contact Debby Grice on 01934 410192 or email [info@vansmail.org.uk](mailto:info@vansmail.org.uk).

## **VANS Health & Wellbeing Forum**

Paul Baker, Senior Transport Planning Officer, Sustainable Travel Team, North Somerset Council will be speaking on developing a strategy for Community Transport in North Somerset with reference to new documents issued by the Department of Transport entitled – “[Community Transport, Best Practice and Providing Transport in Partnership](#)” and

John Follows, Programme Manager, Capital Developments, North Somerset NHS will talk on the development of the [new Clevedon Community Hospital](#)

10am -12noon  
 Tuesday 23rd March 2010  
 Weston Room  
 The Badger Centre  
 3-6 Wadham Street  
 Weston-super-Mare  
 BS23 1JY

## **Local News and Events**

**North Somerset Crossroads** are hoping you can support a charity bike ride that they are involved in. To find out more on how you can help them out visit

<http://www.facebook.com/l/86269;uk.virginmoneygiving.com/cycleforcharity>.

**The 7th Annual Vision North Somerset Golf Day** takes place on Friday 7th May at Worlebury Golf Club. For information on how you can take part, or help sponsor the event contact Sue Potepa on 01934 419393 or 07549 050 155 or e-mail [sue.potepa@visionns.org.uk](mailto:sue.potepa@visionns.org.uk).

**Community Action are hosting a series of training events:**  
**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 10.00am – 1.00pm - Making Projects Happen**

Course takes place at Winscombe Community Association, Winscombe BS25 1AS. For further details and booking forms please contact; Beverley Crocker – on 01275 333701 or [beverley@community-action.org.uk](mailto:beverley@community-action.org.uk)

**Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am – 1.00pm - Figuring Out Finance**  
Course takes place at Congresbury Old School Rooms, Orchard House, Station Road, Congresbury, Bristol BS49 5DX. For further details and booking forms please contact; Beverley Crocker – on 01275 333701 or [beverley@community-action.org.uk](mailto:beverley@community-action.org.uk)

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am – 1.00pm - Community Engagement**

Course takes place at Jubilee Pavilion, Long Ashton Community Association, Keedwell Hill, Long Ashton, Bristol BS41 9DR. For further details and booking forms please contact; Beverley Crocker – on 01275 333701 or [beverley@community-action.org.uk](mailto:beverley@community-action.org.uk)

**South West Race Equality Forum** inspiration conference takes place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at Somerset College, Taunton. For further details and booking information please contact Diana Blake on 01823 250836 or [diana.blake@equalitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:diana.blake@equalitysouthwest.org.uk).

## **Updates from Preanes Green Resource Centre**

### **Grand Easter Bring and Buy – and Raffle!**

Come along for a real bargain on Saturday 27th March from 9.30 - 12. Lots of books, CDs, DVDs, and general bric a brac, together

with one of our renowned raffles and a chance for a chat over a cup of tea and a cake.

### **Talk 'n' Toast**

Starting the week beginning 12th April we'll be opening up at 8.30 one morning a week – yet to be decided – for anyone to drop in for a light breakfast and a chat. Look out for more details.

### **AGM**

This will be on Tuesday 20th April 2.00pm – the full agenda will be in our forthcoming newsletter and our guest speaker will be Stella Brocklebank from the Pensions service who will also take questions and be able to arrange follow up visits for anyone needing more information.

### **An Ideal Gift for Mothers' Day**

Why not buy Mum a copy of Betty Page's collection of poems – Memories ... Reflections on a Life in Preanes Green. It is a funny and moving collection from our own local poet and at only £2 a copy, you can't go wrong

### **Over 50s' Coffee Club**

We meet every Thursday morning from 10 – 11.30 for a good old chat and a laugh. And thanks to funding from the Quartet Older People's Fund, we're planning a number of outings again this year. So don't miss out. Come along and join us

### **Junior Activity Club**

A brilliant chance for the 8 – 13 year olds to have fun together. This term the club meets every Thursday evening from 5.30 – 7.30 and costs just 75p a session. To find out more, come along with a parent to chat to Abbie, the club leader.

### **Free WiFi**

From 10 – 12 every weekday morning access the internet FREE. Just bring along your wi-fi enabled laptop or mobile and surf away. Or you can use our Broadband connection – only 50p for 30 minutes.

For further information on all Preanes Green activities 11, Feniton, Clovelly Road, Worle, Weston super Mare, BS22 6LN.  
01934 529733 or [preanesgreen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:preanesgreen@tiscali.co.uk).

**The Purple Sheep Centre** are a not-for-profit charity based in Weston super Mare offering competitively priced conferencing facilities. As a charity they are keen to expand the use of their building to the community seven days a week. You could even host a conference while their café is open on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

For more details on availability and pricing email [chris@purplesheepcentre.co.uk](mailto:chris@purplesheepcentre.co.uk) or call 01934 620500.

## Other News and Events

### Have you ever wondered what advisers do?

Ladder4learning have produced a briefing sheet which outlines the role, personal attributes, training, career development, key organisations and further reading. This can be downloaded here along with lots of other links and resources on advice and guidance:

[http://www.ladder4learning.org.uk/resources/advice\\_and\\_information](http://www.ladder4learning.org.uk/resources/advice_and_information)

### New source of finance volunteers

Thousands of finance volunteers are now available through Reach's collaboration with The Institute of Chartered Accountants. What could a qualified accountant do for your organisation? Could they be a grants officer, a treasurer, an accounts manager, a membership co-ordinator, an auditor or a trustee? What about help with budgeting or creating stronger financial controls?

Traditionally voluntary organisations have been told that skilled finance volunteers are hard to come by. Reach's new partnership with the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales (ICAEW) will put an end to this scarcity, creating a whole new resource for the sector.

We can now promote your finance volunteer roles on the ICAEW job board, attracting the interest of the thousands of accountants

registered there. Tell us what role you would like to fill and we will publicise it for you.

A trained chartered accountant could transform your organisation, improving its effectiveness and securing its sustainability. Register your role with us now at [www.reachskills.org.uk](http://www.reachskills.org.uk) or call us on 0207 582 6543 and we'll help you find you the right skilled volunteer for your organisation.

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For more details on any aspect of this project or the contents of this email, please contact:

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This resource has been brought together by funding received from the ChangeUp programme and delivered through West of England Consortium member organisations. ChangeUp is a government initiative, managed by Capacitybuilders, to strengthen the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors by encouraging and enabling the delivery of effective infrastructure services.

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