

VANS In-Step Newsletter–Dec 2008–5th Edition

Welcome to the fifth edition of the **In-Step Newsletter** brought to you by Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS). Seasons greetings to you all.

In-Step is a two year programme of activities designed to support the voluntary and community sector in North Somerset. It aims to provide groups with a forum to share ideas as well as take advantage of specific training opportunities. Please feel free to pass the information on to your colleagues or networks.

Are you looking to publicise your group, or perhaps a particular event? Maybe we can help put together a press release and get you some additional exposure. Let us know as we would be glad to help.

This month the newsletter focuses on North Somerset Parish Wildlife Wardens. You can learn more about their important work at the end of the newsletter. If you would like to see your group featured, just let me know.

As well as this ebulletin, we also publish regular communication on three other subjects: funding, children and young people, and health and wellbeing. Please let us know if you would like to be added to any of these distribution lists.

VANS News and Events

Voluntary Action North Somerset are currently looking to recruit a new Chief Executive. You can find full details including an application pack here www.vansweb.org.uk/2008/11/a-new-chief-exec-for-vans.

Voluntary Sector Forum

The aim of the Voluntary Sector Forum is to develop and strengthen the voluntary and community sector by enabling it to address the issues which affect it, create a cohesive voice and work together to achieve effective outcomes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 15th and will take place at Clevedon Community Association, Princes Road, Clevedon. It will be an all-day event, featuring workshops and lunch will be provided. Further information on 01934 410192 or email georgie.bigg@vansmail.org.uk.

In-Step Training

Training dates for your diary.

PC Security and Risk Analysis is the title of our first In-Step network meeting. This event will take place on Wednesday 21st January between 2pm and 5pm, and features a guest speaker on the above topic, followed by an information share/networking opportunity. The event takes place here at the Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-s-Mare.

This event is free of charge, but let us know if you are coming so we can arrange seating accordingly. Do try and make it if you can.

Understanding Financial Reporting will take place on Friday 27th February, also at the Badger Centre. This session takes place between 9-30am and 4-30pm. Book early as places are limited and we have already had strong interest. The attendance fee is just £10.

Further details and booking information from justin.parsons@vansmail.org.uk, or telephone 01934 410196.

Other News and Events

North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Forum are pleased to announce the start of their Drop-In Centre. This will take place every Tuesday at the Badger Centre commencing the 6th January.

Schedule as follows:

9-30am-11-30am- Information & advice coffee morning

Noon-2pm- BME over 50s meeting

2-30pm-4-30pm- Relax & meet families and friends

For more information please phone 01934 414455

Breathe East Weston-s-Mare hold the official launch of their group on Friday 16th January at 2pm at the Scout Hut, Windwhistle Road, Uphill. There will be a host of special guests including John Penrose, M.P., dignitaries from both Town and North Somerset Councils, and also respiratory experts. For further information please

Your North Somerset 2009 is taking place on January 25th 2009 at the Winter Gardens in Weston-s-Mare between Noon and 4pm. The event, which is hosted by North Somerset Council, offers a wide range of activities and entertainments for all the family.

Entertainment is provided by members of North Somerset's diverse community. This year there will also be a Chinese Dragon to help celebrate the Chinese New Year and once again, the opportunity to taste food from around the world.

More info from 01934 634832, or equality@n-somerset.gov.uk.

Governance Pages have a new section on their website devoted to real life stories of trustee life. They are keen for more contributions, which can be submitted in any format you wish, including video. Find out more about it here http://www.governancepages.org.uk/govstories/?page_id=10.

Somerset Faiths and Beliefs Forum have released their latest newsletter. It contains reports on both the representational role of the Forum and on their travelling exhibition, "What's the Difference." You can find out more about their work, and receive copies of their ebulletin by contacting Alistair Beattie on 0117 304 2298 or alistair@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk.

Charity Trustee Networks have launched Trusteefinder, a free online trustee vacancy service. You can use it to either search for a trustee or management committee vacancy, or to post one yourself. All you groups out there in need of new trustees, give it a try. Just click here <http://trusteenet.org.uk/jobs-search>.

Volunteering England have issued a nine-point “Recession Challenge” to the government. The message is one of investment in volunteering to contribute to national and personal economic renewal. Learn more here

<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/News/mediacentre/2008+Press+releases/Recession+Challenge.htm>.

Working For A Charity’s online course for those new to the voluntary and community sector, Effective Voluntary Sector Management is running again in February 2009.

This course is an excellent way to gain an overview of the how the voluntary sector works – and includes units on governance, financial management and fundraising. For more information, visit www.workingforacharity.org.uk.

North Somerset Parish Wildlife Wardens are a local group committed to the future of wildlife, the improvement of local habitat and biodiversity. Membership is open to anybody committed to their aims but the level of involvement is down to you.

The group work throughout the district, but they are particularly looking to generate new membership within Weston-s-Mare. Could you help monitor the wildlife in your immediate local area? The task could commence in your own back garden.

To find out more, visit the website at <http://www.nsww.btik.com>. Alternatively you can contact judith.tranter@virgin.net, or phone her on 01761 462276.



This programme has been brought together by funding received from the ChangeUp programme and delivered through West of England ChangeUp 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.

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

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