



THE VALLEY

Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEST VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES

January 2007

Happy New Year from everyone at TVCS!

We would like to wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year. 2006 saw several people come and go from TVCS. In October we lost our longest-serving staff member, Roland Matthews. Roland had managed Andover Advocacy Alliance for 11 years and we wish him good luck as he takes a 'year out' in Australia.

In Andover, Tammy King and Marie Dyke have joined the Advocacy Project. Tammy as Co-ordinator and Marie as an Independent Advocate. Kerry StJohn has joined us as King Arthur's Way Activities Co-ordinator for the Turnaround Project.

In Romsey, Debbie Forder our Administrator left us in August to join Romsey Town Council and Tina Waterman-Roberts our Volunteer Centre Manager left to join the countywide LearningNet Project. Viv Parsons is now Volunteering Officer and Pauline Francis has recently joined us as Administrator. We are also grateful to Sue Murfet and Hannah Dempsey who provided much-needed Admin support during the summer and also to Alison Haddon who worked in our Andover Volunteer Centre as a volunteer.

Jo White and Dionne Westwood continue to give their time as volunteers and we are grateful for their help and support.

2007 presents many challenges to the voluntary sector. We at TVCS will, support and advise any voluntary group and also promote volunteering throughout the community.

Forum dates and other events 2007

**Voluntary Sector Forum
Longstock Village Hall
10am - 12 noon (coffee from 9.30)**

Wednesday 14 February
Wednesday 16 May
Wednesday 3 October
Wednesday 12 December

We shall send specific information about each meeting prior to the event. We are keen though, for voluntary groups to give short updates on their work and will have 3 updates at each forum. If you would like to publicise your work at a forum then please contact Greg Alexander or Dawn Elson on 01264 362600.

TVCS AGM 2007

Our AGM will be held at Longstock Village Hall on Wednesday 7 November. More details will follow.

Deadline dates for Valley Messenger articles

18 March
18 June
18 September

We are happy to accept articles from voluntary groups for our newsletter. Articles should be sent by email to: zoe.bussian@tvcs.org.uk



ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD LOVELL

Richard had been on the board of Test Valley Community Services (TVCS) for seven years and for the past two years he was our Chairman. As the Chief Executive of TVCS I worked closely with Richard during that time. I admired and respected him. I admired his determination to make a contribution to his community. He gave 100% to any organisation that he became involved with. He always took time to read all papers including budgets before meetings. He would then come along and appear to remember everything he had read!

I respected the business knowledge and expertise he was able to bring to TVCS and many other charities in the area. He was very forward thinking and clear about the direction that he wanted the organisation to go. We did not always see eye to eye, but that promoted healthy debate amongst us all, which allowed us to develop and move forward. Over the past four years TVCS has come a long way and is now well respected for the work we do. We will always remember the part that Richard played in our success. His attention to detail will be missed! Well most of the time!

A remarkable man whose counsel I will personally miss. On behalf of the Trustees and Staff at TVCS, thank you, it was a privilege to have known Richard and our lives are richer for it.

Janet Blann
TVCS

TVCS Office Support - Payroll & Auditing

As part of our service to voluntary and community groups we can add staff members to our payroll. This can help groups who only have a small number of employees.

We are also able to audit your annual accounts and provide other financial support if required.

There is a charge for our payroll service and also a 'sliding scale' charge for auditing of accounts. This will be according to the time taken.

For more information or details of charges please contact Patsy McIntyre at our Romsey office on 01794 521004 or email: finance@tvcs.org.uk

Office space in Romsey

At our modern offices in Romsey Town Centre we have desk space available five days a week.

Rent will include

- ! Use of phone
- ! Photocopier
- ! Stationery
- ! Broadband connection
- ! And GREAT COMPANY!!

If any voluntary group would like to 'hot desk' with us please contact Janet Blann on 01794 519998 or email janet@tvcs.org.uk



Free Training Session for Voluntary Groups and Volunteers

Keeping Your Volunteers - Next Course 15 March 2007

How to look after your greatest asset - A one-day training event for organisations who use volunteers, looking at aspects of best practice in attracting, supporting and valuing volunteers.

The course will focus on:

- ! How to recruit volunteers
- ! How can we build and maintain positive relationships with our volunteers?
- ! What about rewards, awards and accreditation?

Volunteers are our greatest asset - let's get the best from them by offering our best.

Course participants will get

- ! Clear informative handouts
- ! An opportunity to share ideas and reflect
- ! A chance to plan how to put ideas into action

TVCS will be facilitating this training at a number of venues throughout Test Valley over the next two years. The courses are free. If you would like more information or to book a place on a forthcoming course please contact Greg Alexander on 01264 362600 or email greg.alexander@tvcs.org.uk

Training for Voluntary & Community Groups

We are happy to find and facilitate short training courses for voluntary groups and volunteers. Recently we have delivered accredited First Aid and Food Hygiene (approx £45 per person). We can also provide short I.T courses including Microsoft Publisher, Excel, Powerpoint etc. We will try to deliver free or low cost quality training. Please let me know any specific needs you or your group have and I will do my best to find courses and hold them in an area convenient to you. Call Greg Alexander on 01264 362600 or email greg.alexander@tvcs.org.uk

Other Training in our area

The following courses are available in the Winchester area. If you would like more information please contact Greg Alexander, 01264 362600, email:

greg.alexander@tvcs.org.uk

Funding Strategies - Tuesday 6 February, 10am-1pm, The Winchester Centre, £20

Volunteers: Exits & Endings - Tuesday 20 February, 10am-1pm, The Winchester Centre, £20

Health & Safety - Wednesday 7 March, 9am-5pm, £40

Office Management - Thursday 15 March, 10am-1pm, £20

Volunteers: Working in Groups - Tuesday 20 March, 10am-1pm, £20

Report Writing - Wednesday 28 March, 10am-4pm, £20

For more information please contact Greg Alexander at TVCS Andover Office

LearningNet



Training and Development for Voluntary Groups - This is a project created by the voluntary sector. Its aim is to identify and meet the learning needs of staff and volunteers working in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

We can offer a **FREE** service to help you identify where the skills gaps are within your organisation and help you to find where you can get low cost training to meet your needs. We are working closely with the CVS' throughout the area.

Mary Whitworth is the Area Development Worker for Test Valley, Winchester and Eastleigh and is based in the offices of Test Valley Community Services, Wessex Chambers, Andover. Contact Mary to find out more about how this project can help your group.

Tel 01264 362600

Mob 07736 806037 or email:

mary.learningnet@tvcs.org.uk

'Community Encouragement'

A TVCS project supporting Voluntary Action in Test Valley

Our Big Lottery funded project has just completed its first year. We have been able to support and advise groups from across Test Valley on many things. Without doubt the two key elements has been funding and increasing the effectiveness of your work.

The highlights of the first year have been:

- ! Helping 28 groups to receive over £220,000 in grants and donations
- ! 37 Voluntary groups have attended training courses
- ! 44 groups have attended our quarterly Voluntary Sector Forum
- ! Held events to promote voluntary groups and volunteering

Funding your work is very important. We have helped projects large and small to bid successfully to: **Awards for All** (Community grants), **The Local Network Fund** (Grants for work with children and young people) and many other sources.

Our approach is to signpost groups to relevant funders and then offer advice and information on how best to target your application. We are happy to meet with groups to discuss their funding issues and offer appropriate help and support.

Training for community groups and volunteers is also very important to you. If we are to rise to the challenges facing the sector it is important that groups have the necessary skills to do so. During the last year we have facilitated or brokered training on: Emergency First Aid, Food Hygiene, Volunteer Management, Minute Taking, Trustee and Governance and many others. Most of our training is accredited and at a reasonable cost



Providing Information is something groups have told us is very important. Our quarterly Forum held at Longstock has been very well attended. We have addressed both local and strategic issues including: Capacity Builders, ChangeUp, Local Area Agreements and Test Valley Local Strategic Partnership. We have also given groups the opportunity to share information on their activities.

Publicising the work of Voluntary Groups and Volunteers is something that you told us was very important. We have held four local events where local groups have put themselves on show to; the public, local health and social care workers, GP's and Health Visitors and other groups.

Feedback from these events has been very positive with groups reporting increased awareness of what they do, new volunteers recruited and new members and service users found.

Our plans for 2007 are to build on the successes achieved to date. We are keen to meet groups and offer any help and support that you may need to increase skills and capacity in your group. If anything in this article is relevant to your work in the community then please contact Greg Alexander on 01264 362600 or email greg.Alexander@tvcs.org.uk

Test Valley Volunteer Centre Recruiting Volunteers for Community Projects

In our Romsey Office potential new volunteers can now see Viv Parsons or Greg Alexander and Dawn Elson in Andover. We are keen to help local voluntary groups find new volunteers. If you would like to register your current volunteering opportunities with us then please contact us and we will send you a registration form. Alternatively forms are available from our website: www.tvcs.org.uk Our new software enables us to post your vacancies onto a national web page (more and more volunteers are found this way) www.do-it.org.uk



Andover Advocacy Alliance

NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGE?!

Here is an exciting opportunity to join one of the most vibrant volunteering organisations in Test Valley. Andover Advocacy Alliance and Winchester District Advocacy Projects are looking for *volunteer advocates*.

With the objective of providing independent support to those unable to speak up for themselves applicants must be positively spirited and passionate about everyone's right to be heard.

To apply you must have common sense, good communication skills and the ability to listen.

In return we offer full training and support, plus the benefits are excellent!

To apply, or for further information, please contact either **Tammy King on 01264 336380, email: andoveradvocacy@freenet.co.uk** or **Dave Capps on 01962 848023, email dcapps@waca.org.uk**

E.VOLve



Is a new web-based community database bringing information about community and voluntary organisations together in one place. e.VOLve will enable the public to find local groups or club at the push of a button. Having all the information in one place will make it clear just how great a contribution our local voluntary and community groups are making. Go to www.e.volve.org.uk or call the e.VOLve team on 01962 854674

TVBC Community Grants

Test Valley Borough Council has a small amount of money remaining in each of the following funding streams. Applications can be accessed by going to www.testvalley.gov.uk/housing and selecting *grants and funding advice option*. Alternatively you can contact Marianne Piggan direct on 01264 368623. Deadline for applications is 25th January 2007.

Funding Information

The Local Network Fund - The Local Network Fund is still running in Hampshire. Grants of up to £7000 are available to voluntary groups who are working with children and young people. In the past we have helped: Mums and Toddler groups, youth clubs, pre schools and many other voluntary activities where children and young people are the beneficiaries. An application pack is available on 0845 1130 161. TVCS can help you with your application - for further details contact Greg Alexander on 01264 362600.



Awards for All - The Awards for All programme is open. Grants of up to £10,000 are now available to local groups and voluntary organisations. Awards for All can fund projects which involve people in their local community, bringing them together to take part in a range of arts, sport, heritage, charitable and other community activities. For an application pack please call 0845 600 20 40 or visit <http://awardsforall.org.uk> TVCS can help you finalise your application, for information please contact Greg Alexander on 01264 362600.



The Big Lottery Fund will give out funding worth over £2.3 billion between now and April 2009.

The following programmes are currently open: Advice Plus, Community Buildings, Community Libraries and Family Learning, Research, International and Changing Spaces. Details for some of these programmes will appear on their website. For the latest information on new programmes visit their Website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk or phone the Big Advice Line on 0845 410 20 30



Community Transport

Need a driver? Why not get a volunteer trained?

Many groups would like to get access to better transport. TVCS's minibuses are available for hire at very reasonable rates.

However we have only a limited number of our own volunteer drivers who can be provided with the minibus.

We want to encourage groups to become self-sufficient. Why not get one of your own members to train as a minibus driver for your needs? Anyone under the age of 70 who passed their test before 1997 should have a driving licence suitable to permit them to drive a minibus. All that is needed is to attend a MiDAS training course to get a Certificate for driving minibuses, a Certificate which lasts four years.

And if you already have a driver, has their MiDAS expired?

Refresher Training is designed to maintain and improve the overall standard of MiDAS. Drivers who have taken MiDAS in the past must renew their MiDAS after four years.

There are always changes to legislation, particularly as it applies to carrying passengers, and it is important that drivers are kept aware of these. A prime example is the constantly changing law on the wearing of safety belts. And attending Refresher training ensures a driver's driving standards remain at the level required by MiDAS.

It is important that groups who have MiDAS drivers keep a record of their MiDAS expiry dates, and ensure drivers attend MiDAS Refresher training at the appropriate time.

TVCS' five minibuses



When and where can I be trained?

TVCS run regular courses both in Andover and Romsey. They can be held during the week, or at weekends (for those volunteer drivers who are in full-time employment). Dates are set to meet the preferences and demands of those who need the training. Charges are set to reflect the duration of the course; Refresher training is at a lower fee than that for first-timers, and there are different charges for Standard and Accessible training.

So don't be stranded without a driver send your existing drivers, and new volunteers, for MiDAS training as soon as necessary! The next courses will be run in February 2007, and there are always places available as new dates are arranged.

For any enquiries about MiDAS, hiring minibuses, or community transport in general, ring Zoe Bussian in the TVCS office in Andover (**01264 362600**), or email transport@tvcs.org.uk.

Dick Hewett, Community Transport Manager

Deadline for articles for the next Valley Messenger

If you would like to submit an article for our Spring Newsletter we need to receive it by 18 March 2007 - send either by post or email (preferred) to our Andover office Zoe.bussian@tvcs.org.uk

ACRE Village Hall Information Sheets

Acre has recently updated two of its Village Hall Information Sheets:

No2 Parish Council help for Village Halls

No3 Village Halls, Children and Young People

These publications are available from Community Action Hampshire: Shirley Whitfield 01962 857351 or shirley.whitfield@action.hants.org.uk

Older People's Social Groups in Rural Areas

TVCS' Community Development Manager, Greg Alexander and Partnership Officer, Dawn Elson will be teaming up with other organisations during the winter and spring to provide help, support and information to older people's social groups.

The work will focus on existing groups and any small group wishing to start providing activities for older people.

The project is aimed at tackling social and rural isolation.

Our plans are to give information and advice to voluntary and community groups on issues they may face and to help overcome any barriers there may be to a group getting started, or expanding.

We will be working with Club Hampshire and other local partners to help meet the needs of rural groups.

We know that in many villages some clubs face closure due to:

- ! Falling membership
- ! Lack of volunteers to help run the club
- ! Lack of funds to keep running
- ! Being unable to find speakers and Activities
- ! Your members or volunteers require some Training

You may have an idea to set up a club but need some help to do it - If any of the things listed are of interest to you then do please contact us.

We are happy to visit you to discuss your group or give a talk on what we do.

Please contact Greg Alexander or Dawn Elson on 01264 362600 or email: greg.alexander@tvcs.org.uk



CAB In the community for Free Advice

Citizens Advice Bureau provides free, impartial and confidential advice. We offer advice on a range of subjects including benefits, money advice, employment, relationships and much more. Andover CAB provides services from their office in South Street, Andover and outreach from the following locations:

- **King Arthurs Way, Andover** Mon 9.30
12.30
- **Whitchurch Town Hall** Tue 10.00
1.00pm
- **Stockbridge Town Hall** Wed 10.00
12.30 (every 1st and 3rd Wednesday)
- **The Junction, Junction Rd, Andover**
Wed 12noon 1.00pm

**You can also call our helpline on
01264 365534**



Treasury Review of the 3rd Sector

This is a major review of the role of the 3rd Sector in social and enterprise based regeneration and its results will inform the 'Comprehensive Spending' in 2007. A number of consultation events have taken place and you can see the Report of that consultation, now sent to the Treasury, on the RAISE Website on www.raise-networks.org.uk

How Voluntary and Community Organisations can help Transform Public Services

The NCVO guide on how the voluntary sector can take on a greater role in public service delivery is available to download from their website on www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy/index.asp?id=2876

Involving the community at King Arthur's Hall, Andover

Kerry St John was appointed Neighbourhood Activities Co-ordinator during the late autumn. The key work of the role is to encourage more use, by the community, of King Arthur's Hall. Already great things are happening. A Big Community Day was held in early December with over 100 people visiting and taking part in activities like: Cracker making, Come and Drum, Face Painting, Christmas Card Making and relaxation sessions. This was a very positive day for the Turn Around Project. We have lots more planned for the future.

During term time on a Tuesday afternoon there is a 'Teapot' at the hall. It starts at 1.15pm until 2.45pm. It is a very informal coffee afternoon where you can chat and make friends. There are always activities for the little ones and toys for them to play with. You can drop in and see what you think.

Every other Wednesday we have 'Club Alamein' a social group for over 50's. We meet in the hall and have a drink, cake and a chat. There are a lot of things that you can do, we are keen to have: trips out, speakers to visit and talk to us about things you are interested in, exercise, crafts and entertainment. There is no limit to what we can do but we need more people to come and join in.

Two of the new ventures I want to start in the new year are a youth group for ages 5 up to 11 years and a music and recording workshop for 11 up to 19 year olds. Obviously that is slightly flexible. I am hoping this will be with the help of quite a few organisations, again look out for details coming soon. If you would like to know more about activities at King Arthur's Hall then you can call Kerry on 01264 362600 or 0792 7517764 or email: kerry@tvcs.org.uk



Kelly Gillan and some local youngsters at the Big Community Day!!

Are you a family with children who are babies, teenagers or anywhere in between?

Hampshire Children and Families Forum has a local co-ordinator to help you keep in touch with what's happening in your local area. We hold information of interest to parents and professionals on many subjects and we ensure that the views of parents, childcare providers, employers & other agencies are heard in policy discussion at local, regional or national levels. We also assist community development projects to fulfil identified needs and our local co-ordinator is here to bring together parents & professionals to decide what should be done to improve life for their community & then make it happen! Visit our website for more information: www.hcff.org.uk

Your local HCFF co-ordinators are:

Sharon Goodridge
andover@hcff.org.uk

Nala McRobert
Romsey@hcff.org.uk
Tel: 01794 341759



Need a new PC? Apply to the BT Community Connections Award Scheme

The BT Community Connections Award Scheme is offering voluntary/community organisations the opportunity to apply to win a brand new internet-ready PC. The BT Community Connections Award Scheme connects local community and voluntary groups to the internet. To be in with a chance you must be able to demonstrate how a PC and internet connection will benefit your work and the local community.

This is the second round of the award scheme and applications should be submitted prior to the closing date: Thursday 15 February 2007. To apply simply log on to: <http://www.btcommunityconnections.com>



News from Local groups

WEYHILL ELECTRONIC ORGAN SOCIETY



where the music is melodic, easy listening ... and live!

The Fairground Hall
WEYHILL

Third Thursday every month at 7.30 p.m.

2007

18 January	RYAN EDWARDS
15 February	CHRIS STANBURY
15 March	PHIL BROWN
19 April	PENNY WEEDON
17 May	TIM FLINT
21 June	PETE SHAW
19 July	CHIHO SUNAMOTO
16 August	CHRIS POWELL
20 September	BRETT WALES
18 October *	CLAUDIA HIRSCHFELD
15 November	DARRELL HARVEY
20 December	ANDREW NIX

* being staged at The Lights, Andover

ample free parking refreshments available

Tickets £4.00 (in advance)
from Mimmo, Bridge Street, Andover
Admission at the door: £5.00 (subject to availability)

POSTAL APPLICATIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION
PHONE: 01264 323213

Website: www.communicate.co.uk/hants/weos



British Red Cross Romsey & District Local Office:

Red Cross Centre, Greatwell Drive, Romsey
(Portacabin) (opposite Nightingale Surgery)
Open 10.30am to 12.30pm Monday to
Friday. **Tel: 01794 513202**

Local Contact: Christine Wilkins on 023
80733810 or Wendy Knight on 023
80730843

Medical Loan Service: This is located at the
North Baddesley Health Centre (Room 7) in
Fleming Avenue, North Baddesley and is
open each weekday morning from 10am until
12 noon. Tel: 023 8074 3401.

Public First Aid Training & Other Services:
Tel: 0845 054 7111

**Fundraising Shop at North Baddesley
(behind village hall)**

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday 2pm to 4pm, Tuesday evenings 7pm
to 9pm and Every 3rd Saturday of the Month
10am to 3pm

Open at other times on request.
Tel: 02380 735089 or 02380 730843

Join TVCS' Email Network

Information for Voluntary and Community
Groups.

We now have almost 150 groups receiving
regular emails from us. The email network
provides up to date information relevant to
those working in the Voluntary and
community sector in Test Valley. Groups can
also pass on their news and events to others.

We provide information on : Funding
opportunities, Training, Volunteering,
Community Events and promotion of local
voluntary groups. We will do our very best to
make all information sent topical and
relevant. In the coming months we will be
developing our E-newsletter You will also
receive this.

If you would like to join our growing list of
groups please let us know by sending your
email address and group name to :
greg.alexander@tvcs.org.uk
Greg Alexander, Community Development
Manager 01264 362600

TVCS Annual Report now available

Our Annual Review for 2005-2006 is now
available. If you would like a copy please
contact: TVCS, 2nd Floor, Coopers House,
Horsefair, Romsey, Hampshire. S051 8JZ.
Tel: 01794 519998 or email:
info@tvcs.org.uk

'Organising an Event' is a new step
by Step Guide for Community Groups. The
booklet produced by the Harbourside Active
Citizens Project for the Harbourside
Consortium will help you plan and host a
successful event.

The publication contains practical advice on:
organisation, venues, risk assessment,
publicity and costings. TVCS have a limited
supply of these booklets. If you would like one
please contact TVCS on 01794 519998 or
email: info@tvcs.org.uk

National, Regional and Countywide Information

The Local Government White Paper Strong and Prosperous Communities

The Government's White Paper is to give local people and local communities more influence and power to improve their lives. It is about creating strong, prosperous communities and delivering better public services through a rebalancing of the relationship between central government, local government and local people. To view the summary go to http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/100/StrongandProsperousCommunitiestheLocalGovernmentWhitePaperSummary_id1504100.pdf

Charity Commission reducing the burden on charities This is to let you know that the Commission's 'Simplification Plan' was published on our website last week. This confirms our commitment to reducing the burden of Commission regulation on charities by at least 25% by March 2010. It covers a range of measures that have been taken, including the Charities Act 2006, and also identifies areas in which further reductions can be made. You can find the plan at:

<http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/spr/simplification.asp>

Capacitybuilders consultation

Capacitybuilders has launched a consultation on 'Destination 2014', seeking views on how to deliver the ChangeUp vision for a transformed voluntary and community sector by 2014. The consultation document outlines Capacitybuilders' vision for the third sector and puts forward a strategic framework of activities in three phases: 2006-08; 2008-11; and 2011-14. Capacitybuilders' key objectives are to improve the quality and efficiency of infrastructure support, to encourage extra investment in infrastructure, to ensure infrastructure support reaches diverse groups and to influence policy and practice of other funders in this field. NCVO will be producing a full briefing and beginning a consultation with our members before Christmas. If you would like to be kept informed please call **020 7520 2473**.

Hampshire Voluntary Sector Children and Young People's Alliance

Ian Milsom joined Community Action Hampshire (CAH) as a development worker for this Alliance, which is a channel for communication between statutory organisations and voluntary/community sector on children, young people and family issues. Membership of the Alliance is open to umbrella organisations and service providers with an interest in children and young people that operate in more than one district in Hampshire. For more information go to www.action.hants.org.uk/ECMHamp.html or ring Ian on 01962 857367

Carers Support - Carers Together in Hampshire have a Call line that is available to all Carers for information, Signposting and a listening ear. Open from 9am to 11pm 365 days a year, it is completely independent and impartial. They also have a Chat to a Friend Service now available on the same number for any older person in Hampshire. The number is 08000 323456

Revised Guide to Care at Home

HCC are working on the new wholly revised edition of the Guide to Care at Home which will be published as usual in the Spring and are interested in any new services or impending developments that you are involved with that need to be mentioned in the new Guide in order to make the next edition even more useful to local residents. If you want to refer to the current Guide it is on [Hantsweb at http://www.hants.gov.uk/adult-services/publications/care-at-home-publications.htm#guidetocareathome](http://www.hants.gov.uk/adult-services/publications/care-at-home-publications.htm#guidetocareathome). If you would like to add anything contact Barbara Lowe the HCC Marketing Officer, Adult Services Department on 01962 847203 or e-mail barbara.lowe@hants.gov.uk

Older Persons Well-Being Strategy for Hampshire Summary Document

The summary document and PowerPoint presentations from the workshops held in September and October which formed part of the consultation for developing the Hampshire wide strategy and local action plans for the Older Persons Well-Being Strategy for Hampshire can be viewed on <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/bettertime>

'It's Our Time': A Vision for Andover

Our inspiration for the Vision for Andover came from Charles Landry. Not only had he travelled the world extensively looking at the economic and social issues facing cities, he had a fascinating understanding of the heartbeat of places that help cities adapt and survive.

From here it was a short step to start talking about how we could harness individual, organisational and inter-organisational energy in Andover and start to think about doing things differently.

We needed to develop a philosophy that was uniquely ours. Andover was standing at the cusp of a rare opportunity to build on its past and to create the conditions to transform itself into an energetic and spirited 21st Century market town our ambition was to be able to say in a few years' time, 'this is not good enough for Andover'.

The more we looked at the social, economic, educational, environmental and cultural issues in the town, the more we realised the real 'twist' was to give the town the confidence it needed to lift up people's ambition, motivation, will, desire and ability to collaborate.

We focussed on four key areas:

! Education for all. This is critical in order to be economically competitive and to develop individuals of all ages so that they can fulfil their potential.

! Passionate participation. To create an environment where everyone takes part in something, be it sporting, cultural, volunteering - to put something back into the town.

A Vision for Andover

! Inclusive of everyone. That is the 'way we do things around here', regardless of ability, background, or economic status.

! The impact of health. Cultural, sporting, educational activity would have a key role to play.

.A copy of the draft Vision 'It's Our Time', written by Des Benjamin, was sent to every resident in Andover and key contacts in outlying villages, agencies, the media and anyone else we can think of who might be interested in our town's story. The feedback has been enthusiastic and there have been many offers of support.

There is much more good news to come from this initiative in the coming year.

For further information, contact Claire Chidley, Corporate Director at Test Valley Borough Council on 01264 368113 or e-mail cchidley@testvalley.gov.uk

New Community Champions

Hampshire Action Teams (HATs) are being set up as the eyes and ears of Hampshire County Council and will be the mechanism for getting local people more engaged in identifying issues and priorities within their area that fall under the County Council's remit.

Seven HAT areas have been created within Hampshire and each HAT consists of all the elected county councillors representing that area. For more information on this please visit: more info on www3.hants.gov.uk/hats or the Coordinator for Test Valley area, **Kate Fryatt** kate.fryatt@hants.gov.uk

Deadline for articles for the next Valley Messenger

If you would like to submit an article for our Spring Newsletter we need to receive it by 18 March 2007 - send either by post or email (preferred) to our Andover office

Office Equipment and Other Resources available to Voluntary Groups

TVCS has office equipment and other resources available for voluntary and community groups to loan or hire.

The following are available:

- ! Digital Projector
- ! Portable Projector Screen
- ! Portable Amplification System
- ! Low Cost Photocopying
- ! Electric Comb Binder
- ! Up to A3 size Laminator
- ! Industrial Shredder
- ! Access to computers
- ! Publishing Software

We also have software that can help with funding searches and bid writing: *funderfinder* available at both offices.

To find out more you can contact Greg Alexander at our Andover office or Pauline Francis at our Romsey office, who will explain how you can get to use these new resources.



The Trustees and staff of TVCS would like to thank the following for their support of our work:

Test Valley Borough Council
Hampshire County Council
Primary Care Trusts in Test Valley
Romsey Extra Parish Council
The Big Lottery Fund

Contacting TVCS

Romsey Office

2nd Floor Coopers House
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