

# BrAVA News

A newsletter for the voluntary and community sector in Brent

September 2009

## Brent Mental Health Directory Launched

On Tuesday, 1st September 2009 Brent Mind's Contact Service launched the new online Brent Mental Health Directory.

The directory enables Brent residents to easily access the essential information about local organisations and the services that they offer to people in need. The Brent Mental Health Directory will also be a useful tool for local organisations and statutory bodies, thanks to its functionality and ease of use.

John Byrne, a Senior Contact Worker at Brent Mind explains: "It has been apparent across all services within Brent Mind that access to services in Brent can be difficult if you do not have a reference or prior knowledge of who to approach. This will now be simplified and will allow more people to take control and the process of finding help will become less stressful. The directory will be an invaluable tool for both the service users and concerned agencies, public, commercial and voluntary, to access accurate information and approach services simply and directly."

Helen Reed, Development & Communications Officer from Brent Centre for Young People says: "A comprehensive mental health directory of available services in Brent is essential for effectively



[www.brentmind.org.uk/directory](http://www.brentmind.org.uk/directory)

improving the mental wellbeing of people in the local area. It is needed to help best identify the appropriate services for all our clients, as well as making our services more widely known. It will remove one of the most difficult barriers to accessing mental healthcare for everyone."

The Brent Mental Health Directory is a comprehensive list of more than 150 local organisations, with instant sign-posting being the main benefit of the directory.

Julita Kaczmarek, Brent Mind ●

### Brent Citizens' Panel

To get more involved in the workings of Brent Council please visit the Citizens' Panel and Area Consultative Forum pages on Brent Council's website. Brent Council has a duty to inform, consult and involve, putting local people at the heart of service changes. For more information and to join the Citizens' Panel, please contact [consultation@brent.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@brent.gov.uk) or telephone 020 8937 1073.

[www.brent.gov.uk/consultations.nsf/Pages/LBB-33](http://www.brent.gov.uk/consultations.nsf/Pages/LBB-33)

### Total Place goes live

Total Place is a 'whole area' look at what money comes into an area, where it goes, what it delivers and where improvements can be made. Access the new Total Place website and find out how councils can make improvements by changing the way they work with public bodies and Whitehall.

[www.localleadership.gov.uk/totalplace/](http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/totalplace/)

### The Giving Machine

TheGivingMachine facilitates free cash donations for charities and schools every time supporters shop online via this new initiative. The growing, giving community has over 200 top online shops and over 1,400 UK charities and schools participating. Join now for free!

[www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk)

### Local Democracy Week

Monday 12th through Sunday 18th October 2009

2009's Local Democracy Week will take place in the third week of October

Hundreds of councils and thousands of schools up and down the country will be taking part – so make sure you're involved too. Please see the [www.local-democracy.lga.gov.uk/](http://www.local-democracy.lga.gov.uk/) for guides and ideas for activities and events in your area – and case studies of successful events in the past.

And please remember that you can hold these events all year round - not just during the week itself!

*Join Us!*  
*BrAVA's AGM & 10th Anniversary*

22nd October, AGM from 5.00pm  
Celebrations from 6.30pm-8.30pm  
Willesden Green Library Centre

**BrAVA NEWS**

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Please email all items and notices for the next edition to the editor at info@brava.org.uk. For input and to feed back comment and opinion on this edition and our electronic communications please email dan.scrimgeour@brava.org.uk or call 0208 438 1532.

BrAVA's Mission is to enable local people to make a contribution to a just and participatory society by playing a part in their community, by promoting and sustaining local voluntary action, and building partnerships with statutory bodies and other sectors.

**DISCLAIMER:**

The views expressed in BrAVA News are not necessarily the views and should not imply an endorsement of a particular stance by BrAVA. Every care is taken to provide accurate information and to reflect the thinking and views across sectors in Brent but BrAVA would not accept responsibility for views expressed by our contributors.

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# Message in a Bottle

Dear Reader,

Next month sees the Brent Association for Voluntary Action reach its tenth year of serving the local community and voluntary organisations of Brent. We have come a long way since the days of a rented back room in Harlesden Methodist Church and before.

We have seen the organisation grow in terms of both staff and resource, and in the past three years have witnessed the increasingly renowned success of BrAVA's Brent Volunteer Centre, with its strong team and effective projects. BrAVA has also made steady progress in expanding and diversifying its funding, most recently with a half million pound grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

With this we are tasked to deliver accredited training courses and professional organisational development support, as well as to realize the long held objective of a voluntary sector resource centre for Brent through the appointment of a dedicated project manager. Both he and our new development officer start work shortly.

It's been a tumultuous year for everyone, what with the onset of the recession and all that unjustly means for the sector, and in this BrAVA has been no exception. Sadly, we have also witnessed the reduction of our funding from a major source, and the departure of good staff, as well as other setbacks.

But this is merely a sign of the times and already the winds are turning to our favour, as hopefully you will see within the contents of these pages. This will be the 82nd edition of this newsletter, which stands more strongly than ever as a voice for local groups and a conveyor of information, guidance and inspiration.

And with that I will leave you to enjoy your read, though I hope you will join us in celebrating a decade of dedicated community service. That is the message in a bottle.



Keefa Kiwanuka, Chief Executive, BrAVA ●

## BrAVA's Annual General Meeting & 10th Anniversary Celebrations

**Our AGM and 10th Anniversary celebrations are at 5.00 pm, on 22nd October 2009, at the Willesden Green Library. You are cordially invited.**

Please contact us by October 16th if you would like to book a stall for display.

### Can you help us make a difference?

BrAVA will be undergoing significant changes as part of our search for quality mark accreditation and increased competency. A number of our trustees will be stepping down at the next AGM; we are therefore looking for a Chair of the Board of Trustees and a number of new Trustees. You will be actively contributing to the Board of Trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation. We are keen to hear from lawyers, journalists and people with specialists skills in organisational development, financial management, fundraising, campaigning and advocacy and Human Resources management. For role details please visit [brava.org.uk](http://brava.org.uk) or email: [Verona.lynch@brava.org.uk](mailto:Verona.lynch@brava.org.uk) For an informal chat please call Keefa via 020 8438 1520. Deadline 16th October 2009.



## Dear Editor,

In the last edition, your 'Message in a Bottle' piece referred to the Brent Partners Recession Conference.

It was in my view a sober rather than a gloomy event with a key message that while times may be difficult, planning ahead and taking sensible early action will help us to protect key front line services.

Keefa also refers to "Brent Council has to find savings of £50 million, this year, to be able to achieve a balanced budget". I am pleased to say that the £50 million suggested by our Chief Executive is actually just an estimate of what may be needed over a 4 year period - and not in this year.

Some of the savings will be quite painless. I have just said a big thank you to Brent residents for boosting our recycling to record levels. In the last year, since we introduced compulsory recycling, 7000 tonnes of waste has been diverted into recycling. This has helped to save £500,000. The message here is clear - the more Brent residents recycle the more of their money is saved.

While the Brent Council's gross annual capital and revenue expenditure is around £1 billion a large part of this is funded by Grants from Central Government. Our schools for example get around £250 million a year through Government Grant - the money comes to the Council and is passed on to our primary and secondary schools.

The crucial issue is therefore how much Central Government may cut these Grants by - and we may not know this until after the next General Election

We are determined that essential priority services provided by Brent Council are protected. This is why under my Leadership we are embarking on a major efficiency drive - because this is the area where we want the necessary savings to come from. As an example we have already identified our Civic Centre project as a way of reducing the overall cost of Council accommodation we occupy and improving the way the Council will work in the future.

It is certain that Central Government will in future provide less money for local Councils and the public sector generally. In my view our drive for even better efficiency is the only way to protect essential services. The Voluntary Sector faces the same challenge and I urge Brent Organisations to join in the efficiency drive by reviewing the way your organisation delivers its services, talk to other organisations and partners and exploit any opportunities for sharing resources and maximising your joint purchasing power with your suppliers.

With best wishes

● Councillor Paul Lorber  
Liberal Democrat Leader of Brent Council

## New Development Staff at BrAVA!

### Great news!

**Atim Abrams** started this month as our new Community Development Officer. She has a long background in community development work and is looking forward to empowering small and emerging groups in the community. She brings with her years of experience of providing organisation development support to groups at Hackney Voluntary Action. She will help people with great ideas to set themselves up and will offer project development and capacity building support to various small voluntary sector organisations, carrying out initial research on what is viable for the group, identifying training courses that will enable them build their human resources and finally mentoring them through getting their organisation off the ground.

For support in developing your own community organisation or project please feel free to contact her directly on **0208 438 1522** or on [atim.abrams@brava.org.uk](mailto:atim.abrams@brava.org.uk).

## From the Wire...

### [Brixton to launch local currency](#)

The UK's first local urban currency, the Brixton pound, was launched on 17th September.

Fifty-five local businesses have signed up to start trading with the currency in the south London suburb.

The Brixton pound is an initiative of Transition Town Brixton, aimed at building resilience and diversity in the local economy.

It will be available at issuing points throughout Brixton and will be used alongside sterling.

Project Manager Tim Nichols hopes traders will pay their employees and local suppliers in Brixton pounds, and that shoppers will be encouraged to visit local independent outlets.

'Local spending is a way of cutting back on carbon in the long-term', he said. 'There's also evidence that stronger local economies help maintain the diversity of high streets.'

The currency, which has the backing of Lambeth Council, will be available in four denominations of £1, £5, £10 and £20, each of which will contain images of local residents. In the running to feature on the notes are singer David Bowie and dub poet Linton Kwesi Johnson.

[www.brixtonpound.org](http://www.brixtonpound.org)

### [Thirdsector.co.uk launches Good Practice page for charity professionals](#)

Third Sector's new-look website includes a better way for users to find tips, expert advice and case studies, using targeted shortcuts.

A new section called Good Practice allows you to do a targeted search of the archive to find articles from the At Work section of the magazine.

"There is a wealth of practical information in our archive, and this offers people a much easier way to find what they need," said Helen Barrett, editor of Thirdsector.co.uk. She said the new design, with wider pages and reorganised content, had been welcomed by readers on Twitter.

On the Good Practice page, users are offered the latest practical articles in the site's five main categories of Fundraising, Finance, Governance, Communications and Management. They are also offered further choices in each category, such as Case Study or Practical Charity Finance. These bring up a string of relevant articles, ordered by date.

[www.thirdsector.co.uk/resources/GoodPractice/](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/resources/GoodPractice/)

## What is the College of North West London and what can it do for you?

As a local organisation working for the community we would like to invite you to the College to listen to how you think we could help you in your role as well as provide a brief overview of what we currently deliver.

We held one of these sessions in July and those who attended found it really useful, as we did. Contacts were shared and ideas exchanged as to how we could help each other.

Our next session will be on:

**8th October 2009 at 12.30 – 2.00pm**  
**or 13th October 2009 at 5.30 – 7.00pm**

**At our Willesden Centre, Dudden Hill Lane, NW10 2XD**

We will provide light refreshments so if you could let us know if you are able to attend by 5th October 09 that would be really helpful. Please let Rachel Gallop know on **020 8208 5105** or [Rachel.gallop@cnwl.ac.uk](mailto:Rachel.gallop@cnwl.ac.uk).

## Volunteer recruitment event

**Wednesday, 4th November, 12-3pm**  
**CNWL Willesden Campus, Dudden Hill Lane**

Book now for this year's Volunteer's Match-Making Event, on Wednesday 4th November. Local organisations are encouraged to book a table, to promote their current volunteer vacancies to potential volunteers. Tables must be booked by the **21st October**.

## Host a Green Communities Training Course

The Energy Saving Trust Green Communities service is giving community groups the opportunity to host their own free Green Communities course. Green Communities will be able to provide your group with a bespoke course enabling you to improve your knowledge of energy and develop a community energy project. For full details and to enquire about holding your own Green Communities Partnership Training course, visit their website.

## A Voice of Their Own - National Youth Conference

**24th October 2009, 10am-4pm**

**Harrow Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2XF**

The Second National Youth Conference, "A Voice of Their Own - Overcoming Boundaries: Crossing Borders" will be held at Harrow Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2XF, on 24th October 2009. The Conference is to be hosted by the RAF Foundation and is organised by youth who have successfully broken the stereotype and tried to make a difference. The Mayor of Harrow and other esteemed dignitaries are attending to honour this event, with speakers from all over England participating. Speakers include many of those actively involved in assisting in the devel-

opment of youths but most importantly, the youths themselves..

The Youth Conference embodies an Empowerment Approach and will hold a series of panel presentations by young people. They will focus on the difficulties faced in dealing with the physical and psychological boundaries imposed by some in society, such as post code borders and gang activities. These boundaries instil fear, create inaction, cause violence, limit freedom of movement and foster a psyche of indifference towards the wider society, thus limiting the potential to achieve

"Empowering young people means creating and supporting the enabling conditions under which they can act on their behalf."

**Dr. Roselle Antoine MBE**

success. The purpose of the Conference is to come together to brainstorm solutions that deal with the root causes of these problems. At the same time, the Conference aims to provide a balanced perspective by show-casing the many excellent and successful working models in the community that have produced young people who can articulate a positive vision for their future and for Britain, despite the odds.

## Community Organisation Healthcare Conference

**29th October 2009, 10am-4pm**

**Wembley Plaza Hotel, Empire Way, Wembley HA9 8DS**

NHS Brent in partnership with Brent Council and BrAVA is planning a series of workshops aimed at third sector organisations (voluntary and community organisations) in Brent who either provide services now, are thinking about expanding next year or have longer term aspirations to provide NHS services in the future.

As a commissioning agency, NHS Brent, working with Brent Association for Voluntary Action (BRAVA) and Brent Council wants to develop and contribute

to a thriving third sector with whom we can commission a wide range of out of hospital and non acute sector services. It is not about new money to invest but moving money to organisations that offer better value for money and improved services to Brent's diverse population. This is particularly important given the future economic climate.

**Who should attend?**

- Voluntary/third sector organisations, Brent Council and partner agencies inter-

ested in third sector provision of local healthcare services.

- Financial and development staff who support local organisations already delivering health and social care services.
- Financial and development staff who support local organisations already delivering health and social care services.

For further information and to book please contact Andy Brown. NHS Brent on **020 8795 6193** or [Andy.Brown@brentpct.nhs.uk](mailto:Andy.Brown@brentpct.nhs.uk).

## Brent LINK Public Launch

Friday 9th October, 2-7pm

Willesden Green Library Centre, Café and Gallery area

The Brent Local Involvement Network (LINK) will be hosting our official Public Launch event on Friday 9th October.

The event will incorporate elements of both Black History Month and World Mental Health Day.

There will be a number of organisations

present as well as stalls, films, speakers, entertainment, a kids area and music.

If you would like to attend please email [brentlink@hestia.org](mailto:brentlink@hestia.org) or for further information please call 0208 965 0309.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## London Third Sector Training

6th October – 10:00am - 4:00pm

Irish Cultural Centre, Blacks Road, Hammersmith, London W6 9DT

The essential event for London's 3rd Sector, run by the sector for the sector and helping you make the right choices for all your training needs.

- Are you working in the third sector, social enterprise or community network?
- Are you a Trustee, Manager, Project Co-ordinator or Supervisor?
- Are you a front line staff member or do you work in a support function such as finance, ICT or administration?
- Are you employed, a volunteer or looking for a career change?

Then this conference is for you!

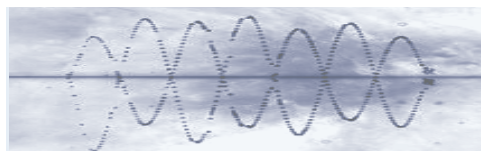
- **Presentations from:** The Skills Funding Agency, National Apprenticeship Service,

London Brokerage Service, Skills - Third Sector, Job Centre Plus

• **Workshops on:** Governance, Training Needs Analysis, Equality & Diversity, Coaching & Mentoring, Workforce Development Strategies, Capability Building

• **Free advice sessions on:** Careers guidance, Job seeking, Leadership & Management grants, Training opportunities in or out of work

To book or for further information please contact Third Age on 020 8748 9898 or [info@thirdage.org.uk](mailto:info@thirdage.org.uk). Or visit the Third Age Foundation website at [www.thirdage.org.uk](http://www.thirdage.org.uk)



### [Financial optimism grows among charity leaders](#)

Charity leaders are slightly more optimistic about the financial situation than they were three months ago, according to the latest Charity Forecast from the NCVO, predicting that staff cuts will be less likely in the months ahead.

In a poll of 139 charity chief executives, senior staff and chairs, carried out in August, the NCVO found that 42 per cent expected their charities' financial situation to worsen in the coming quarter, a fall of five percentage points from the survey carried out in May.

The proportion of charities expecting to cut their paid staffing levels over the next quarter fell from 17 per cent in May to 12 per cent in August. But the proportion of respondents expecting to increase staffing levels over the same period fell three percentage points to 28 per cent.

Eighty-one per cent of respondents expected the sector to face tough economic conditions over the next three months, up from 74 per cent. Forty-two per cent said they planned to increase services - down four percentage points on May - and 40 per cent said they would increase expenditure.

Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the NCVO, said: "It is encouraging that charities are reaching out to even more people in need despite facing tough times."

Third Sector reported earlier this week that a survey of charity interim managers showed that fewer charities were planning job cuts than when the survey was last conducted in April. The figure fell from 74 per cent to 25 per cent.

### [Review demands lifetime learning entitlements](#)

Lifelong learning provision must be radically reshaped to meet the needs of an ageing society and tackle social exclusion, an independent inquiry has warned.

Learning through life proposes rebalancing the current youth-focused 'heavily front-loaded' system. It recommends £3.2bn of the £55bn spent on education and training be released for people over 25, and that learning entitlements are given across all stages of life.

Under the current system many people are left under-equipped to deal with the health, social, technological and economic changes of the different stages of life, the inquiry's report says. As society ages, a lack of skills and knowledge among older generations will not only waste talent but will increase the burden on our health and welfare system.

Expert Tom Schuller, who led the two-year inquiry for the National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (Niace), said: 'Lifelong

## Unity Day

Friday 2nd October 12-6pm,

The Marian Centre, Stafford Road, NW6 5RS

A local Unity Day is being organised by the Vale Consortium, a collection of charities and voluntary organisations within South Kilburn.

The day will allow all of the members of the Vale Consortium to showcase their talents and skills. They are keen to welcome local community leaders, members of the council or other statutory agencies who have a particular interest in funding, community spaces and other capacity building resources, as well as those who believe in the potential of voluntary and community organisations to overcome our challenging economic times.

The aim of the Unity Day is;

- To showcase local groups to the local community.
- To bring together users from a range of local groups in a community cohesion event and
- To showcase local groups in SK to key

agencies across Brent and beyond

The day is organized by the Vale Consortium, which is a partnership in South Kilburn made up of 10 diverse local community and voluntary organizations. Our aim is to work together to improve the quality of life of the local community by sharing knowledge, resources and expertise of local groups and their ability to sustain themselves and attract funding.

If you wish to attend the event or have any questions please feel free to contact Paul Bragman on 0208 442-2379 or e mail [paul@communityregen.net](mailto:paul@communityregen.net).

Confirmed already are Glenda Jackson, MP, and the new Mayor of Brent, Jim O'Sullivan, along with various other councillors.

Your support is welcome, so please get in touch!

## Job Seekers' Allowance on the Rise in Brent

In the past year claims for Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA) in Brent have risen by over 50%, according to Brent Council's latest Economic Bulletin.

Given the recent DWP warnings surrounding the tendency of the JSA claimant count to under-represent unemployment, these figures must be viewed with some caution.

However, JSA is the only proxy measure for unemployment for small areas. Please see [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk) for more information.

Job Seekers' Allowance in Brent's Priority Neighbourhoods				
Area	Number of Claimants in August 09	Claimant rate in August 09	% increase over last quarter	% increase since August 08
Harlesden	699	8.7%	2.8%	37.6%
Stonebridge	427	10.9%	12.1%	55.9%
St Raphael's	342	8.0%	4.6%	23.4%
Church End	654	9.3%	10.3%	38.2%
South Kilburn	438	9.8%	4.0%	22.3%
<b>BRENT</b>	<b>9349</b>	<b>5.15%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>51.0%</b>

## Think tank calls for overhaul of benefits system

The Centre for Social Justice has proposed a radical reform of the welfare system, which would 'end the tangle' of 51 benefits and withdraw benefits more slowly as people move back into work.

In a new report, Dynamic benefits, the Tory-backed think tank proposes a shake-up of the system that, it says, will boost the incomes of the lowest paid by nearly £5bn.

It wants to replace the current 51 benefits with just two and to subsidise those moving into low-paid work.

Under the current system claimants

are often no better off – and sometimes poorer – if they move from benefits to a job earning up to £15,000 a year.

The current 'taper' system sees the highest benefit withdrawal rates in Europe, the report says, with so-called participation and marginal tax rates that can be as high as 90% for every additional pound earned.

The report recommends instead a single 55% rate at which benefits are withdrawn as claimant income rises.

Centre for Social Justice chair, Iain Duncan Smith, called it a 'watershed for

Britain's benefits system'.

'The recommendations hold to the simple principle that work is the sustainable route out of poverty.'

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said the main beneficiaries of the proposals would be the under 25s and part-time and 'mini-job' workers.

IFS sounded a note of caution in attempts to simplify benefits saying, 'complexity exists because the government is trying to achieve complicated things'.

## What does £140bn buy you these days?

Figures recently released by the Office of National Statistics show that so far the government have spent over £140bn bailing out banks.

That massive investment means that there will inevitably be less public money available for things like education and health over the coming years.

Since the poorest rely most on these public services (having no option to purchase them privately), it's clear that the excessive risk taking of the very rich will most affect poor people. This cannot be allowed to go unchallenged.

£140bn is a lot of money, even by public sector standards. It's more than we spend on the entire benefits system, more than the combined spending on health and schools and and twenty times the amount spent on housing.

Investment on that scale usually comes under intense scrutiny, but aside from debate about pay and bonuses, there's been surprisingly little debate about the public benefit this money has delivered.

With the Treasury currently consulting over plans for (very limited) reform on the banking system, we have an opportunity to send a message to politicians of all Parties. The Treasury's banking reform white paper (Reforming Financial Markets) is currently open for consultation until the 30th September.

We have a chance to make a real difference, but only if we do something about it - so please respond, on behalf of an organisation or as an individual or both!

And just in case you need some further food for thought, here are a few facts to chew on:

- 3 million people in the UK do not have a bank account
- The poorest in society spend around 4 times more of their money repaying loans than affluent people
- There are approximately 165,000 users of illegal money lenders in the UK
- US Community Reinvestment legislation has led to \$bns of investment in poor communities and more responsible banking practices
- Poor households pay an estimated £1,000 extra per year for basic essential services like electricity, financial services and telecommunications
- The Banking Reform White Paper mentions 'competition' 100 times but 'fairness' only twice.

Find out how to respond and take action now! Please visit [www.urbanforum.org.uk/act-now/actions-you-can-take](http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/act-now/actions-you-can-take)

## Seriously Investing in Leaders

ACEVO are running a programme called "Investing in Leaders", and we at the Centre for Charity Effectiveness are collaborating.

The programme is specifically designed for people such as yourself, leaders of infrastructure organisations. You have the opportunity to have your own mentor from outside the charity sector, totally free of charge. I attach a checklist on which you can mark those items which are relevant to your wishes.

Drawing on the experience of a senior manager from the public or private sector will give you a fresh perspective.

You will be able to meet up with your mentor in complete privacy and the agenda for your discussions will be up to you.

We will use your completed checklist to help match you with the right mentor. In November we will set up a meeting for you and your mentor to get acquainted; we expect that you will meet on four or

five occasions, at times and places of your choosing.

If you do not wish to have a mentor, another option is to join an action learning set of half a dozen people, a mix between the charity and other sectors. They would meet about every six weeks; an experienced Cass consultant will facilitate the sessions. See the attached note.

There is absolutely no catch about this! No payment of any kind is involved, so it is great value. You can read more about the pilot scheme last year at [www.corporate-citizenship.com/archive/investing-in-leaders](http://www.corporate-citizenship.com/archive/investing-in-leaders).

To take part all you have to do is look at ACEVO's website where you will find an application form; send the completed form and the "seeking a mentor" checklist to the address on the form. Please also send me an e-mail just to let me know your response.

## Our leaders call for responsible banking, but refuse to take action



say the world had changed for the better.

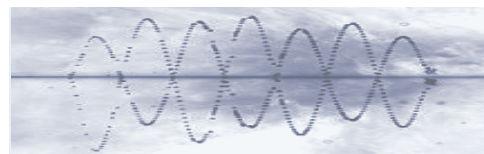
In the US President Obama issued a stark warning to the banks not to ignore the lessons of the past, saying 'we will not go back to the days of reckless behaviour'. Among the interesting comments from financial services experts was an American billionaire fund manager suggesting we'd 'learned the wrong lessons' and that things were actually even worse (for the full commentary please see the BBC website - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/newsnight/8254381.stm>).

As for the alternative? Vince Cable summed it up nicely: 'they will be rubbing their hands with glee...this marks a return to business as usual in the City'.

To find out more about Urban Forum's proposals for bank reform and how to take a stand, please visit [www.urbanforum.org.uk/our-proposals/cr-proposals](http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/our-proposals/cr-proposals).

The prime minister says we need 'more responsible banks'. However the PM seemed to be talking as if his government were passive observers of the financial services sector, not the ones responsible for reforming the way banks operate. If Gordon Brown is so 'appalled' by the bonuses that are returning to the City, why is he so reluctant to take action? One year on what has really changed? Have we learned the lessons to ensure we avoid the same situation arising in the future?

These questions were being asked and no one seemed to be queuing up to



learning is a major issue of public policy. It goes well beyond formal education, into a wide range of social and economic issues.'

He called for the emergence of a 'new mosaic of time' that balances paid and unpaid work, learning and leisure.

### [Charities need 'constructive solutions' to cuts in public spending](#)

The voluntary sector should not "rush to man the barricades" over impending cuts to public spending but instead propose constructive solutions to government, according to Stephen Bubb, head of chief executives body Acevo. He has called for a targeted approach to fund capacity-building.

He said charities should lead the discussion about the support they would like in future. "This means we must seek strategic conversations with politicians and commissioners, and avoid allowing these to descend into arguments about cuts."

Bubb said that capacity-building programmes for the sector had been generic up to now, but in future it would need targeted interventions that were "more tailored to the needs of individual organisations".

He proposed that charities should receive individual budgets from the state and then find support from providers that catered for the specific needs of different organisations.

### [Third Sector has reasons to be optimistic](#)

Third Sector Minister, Angela Smith MP addressed NAVCA's annual Conference in Blackpool, telling 300 delegates how she is inspired by the work of people in the local third sector. She said she felt there were far more reasons to be optimistic than worry but third sector organisations need to not just raise issues with government but be better at raising public awareness and support for their campaigns.

Angela Smith MP went on to explain reasons for optimism in the third sector:

- [The third sector's values and ethos meant third sector organisations should benefit from the government's agenda to put individuals at the heart of public services.](#)
- [The third sector will be helped by changes to local government reform that has introduced National Indicators, Local Area Agreements and Comprehensive Area Assessments.](#)
- [The Compact Refresh demonstrates that the Government is committed to supporting the sector.](#)

Angela also addressed the issue of funding the third sector. She said it was important there was a mix of funding for third sector organisations which meant she is very supportive of both grants and contracts.

# Volunteering News

## Funding hints for Volunteer Programmes

In the current recession, many people are volunteering, including many highly skilled professionals. But organisations need resources to make use of the current abundance of help that is on offer.

The costs of involving volunteers can range from payment of out-of-pocket expenses, to venue hire and refreshments costs for a training session, to salary costs for a volunteer coordinator.

There are four main ways to find funding for a volunteer programme; all four are outline below.

### Specific volunteering funding

From time to time, funding becomes available that is specifically aimed at developing volunteering. Recent examples include the Department of Health's Opportunities for Volunteering scheme and v (the national youth volunteering charity)'s funding of volunteering projects for 16-25 year olds.

However, this funding is few and far between, and is often only available on a temporary basis; there aren't many funders looking to fund volunteering in its own right. Fortunately, there are other ways to fund the cost of volunteers in your organisation.

### Full-cost recovery

Although volunteers may give their time for free, there is still a cost to your organisation. If volunteers are involved in many



different parts of your organisation (for example, in administration, governance and helping at events) then volunteer costs should be included in the budgets of all your funding applications. This will help you to build up a central budget for volunteer expenses, for example.

### Working with specific groups of volunteers

Funding is often targeted at particular groups of people, such as people with learning disabilities, young people, or refugees. If you are already involving these groups as volunteers, or would like to do so, then you may consider applying for this funding, and demonstrating in your funding application how volunteering will help these groups, and what support you can offer. For example, volunteering can help raise confidence and self-esteem; it can help people to make new friends and build social networks; and it can help with skills development. All of these may

be of interest to funders.

### Volunteering and worklessness

And finally, volunteering is recognised as being an important part of a journey back into work for many people who are out of work. Volunteers can gain valuable experience in the workplace, brush up on their skills, learn new ones, and gain a reference for future paid employment.

Funders looking to fund services and support for people who are out of work may be interested in what you can offer to unemployed volunteers within your organisation.

Funding for volunteering may never be easy, but it will help if you consider the range of options available to you: specific funding for volunteering; full-cost recovery of volunteer costs; funding for specific groups of volunteers; and volunteering and worklessness.

### Support from BrAVA

Through our Volunteer Centre and Development Team, we can offer you support if you are developing a funding bid for your volunteer programme. This could range from help with the budget, to advice on volunteering good practice, to signposting you to research about the benefits of volunteering for different groups of people.

Kate Goddard, Manager,  
Brent Volunteer Centre

## Concerns for vulnerable residents

NHS Brent is bracing itself for a high number of swine flu cases in Brent this autumn. There could be as many as 20,000 cases per week in the borough. NHS Brent staff are particularly concerned about people who are isolated or have little or no access to mainstream healthcare.

The voluntary and community sector are being asked to act now, to identify how swine flu may affect their service users this autumn; and what their staff and volunteers will be able to do to help.

### Local groups are being asked to consider:

- Working closely with NHS Brent and Social Services to identify those most likely to need additional support
- Helping NHS Brent to spread key messages about swine flu to hard-to-reach groups in Brent
- Training their volunteers to act as "flu buddies" for vulnerable and isolated service users

### Residents are being asked to consider:

- Volunteering for NHS Brent or Brent Social Services to help out this autumn and winter
- Speaking to the organisation where

they already volunteer to see how they can help with swine flu

NHS Brent's Community Action Event on 10th September brought together Brent's voluntary and community organisations, as well as local residents, to discuss how to work together to protect vulnerable people in Brent. There will be another event soon for anyone who was unable to make it on the 10th.

Any group or resident with questions about how to get involved should contact BrAVA on 020 8438 1520 or [info@brava.org.uk](mailto:info@brava.org.uk).

## Fighting Injustice

### Over 35 years of legal action for the community

Are you a community organisation or group doing work in the Brent area? Are you an organisation that provides advice to users? If so, we can help!

Brent Community Law Centre (BCLC) is a specialist legal advice agency providing free legal advice services in Brent. It has extensive experience of organisational and advice support to the community and voluntary sector.

BCLC's Voluntary Sector Legal Advice Line is open to Brent based groups and organisations:

Opening hours: 10am to 6pm

Leave a message and we'll call you back

**020 8208 5750**

Please note that this number is strictly NOT for members of the public. BCLC's public advice line is **020 8451 1122**.

## AGM Volunteer Photography Competition!

£100 donation to the voluntary or community organisation pictured in the winning photograph!

Competition open to staff, volunteers and service users of voluntary and community sector groups in Brent. Photographs must showcase the work of the sector in Brent, and must have been taken during 2009.

Deadline for entries: Friday 2nd October 2009. Please contact BrAVA for more details and an entry form on **020 8438 1520 / info@brava.org.uk**

## Sustainable Communities Excellence Network creating sustainable places, improving economic performance, strengthening local communities

The Sustainable Communities Excellence Network is an alliance of publicly funded organisations in the UK working to build sustainable places through skills, knowledge and networking. We provide learning opportunities for professionals directly involved in regeneration and place making to increase their understanding, grow their skills and reach their potential.

Each year, the Sustainable Communities Excellence Network (SCEN) continues

to build a growing community of people directly involved in delivering regeneration and sustainable communities who inspire, challenge and support one another.

Our work covers:

- Creating Sustainable Places
- Improving Economic Performance
- Strengthening Local Communities

To find out more, please visit our website at [www.scen.org.uk](http://www.scen.org.uk).

## Spirituality and Empowerment - Experiencing Inner Power

It is argued that the need of the time lies in experiencing inner power - empowering yourself to become a fully sovereign individual.

So, how can you develop your inner power and how can this give you the sense of protection you need in a world full of challenges? It was a topic that was addressed at a special event hosted by the Brahma Kumaris this month at their Global Co-operation House premises in Brent.

The event focused on a discussion between Sir Gulam Noon, prominent British businessman and Sister Jayanti, Director of the Brahma Kumaris in Europe. It was chaired by Emily Buchanan, world affairs correspondent and presenter for the BBC.

Emily began the event by asking Sister Jayanti to explain the purpose behind the Brahma Kumaris Inner Power and Protection project.

Sister Jayanti said: "People have lost the inner sense of security in knowing there is a protection coming from above. So our

contribution is to make people aware that there is an inner resource and strength that they can draw upon in life."

Turning to Sir Gulam Noon, Emily asked him to share his experiences of being one of the hotel guests caught up in the terrorist attacks in Mumbai last year. He said that there were three separate occasions when he could have been shot, but in his heart, he knew he would survive: "I just kept the thought that I must do my level best to survive. When you are a spiritual person there is clarity."

He went on to reveal the core beliefs and values that he said have acted as the foundation for this life: "Spirituality gives you strength. A spiritual person does not have to fear."

Sister Jayanti further added to this idea that there is a sense of truly understanding oneself that spirituality provides the key to: "When guided by an inner intuition and when there is a connection with 'god' then you will be moving along the right track."

When pressed further on the issue of religion and god, Sister Jayanti shared her experience of using the energy of the divine: "I believe there are many energies - physical, emotional and spiritual. When I can link with the supreme, I can experience god's power around me - the energy of truth, light and goodness. That is what protects me. God's protection also helps to protect me against the evil within - my own anger, greed and so on. A spiritual practice can protect me and extending outwards it protects others around me too."

The audience, which comprised of politicians, community leaders, journalists, businessmen and other professionals, were then given the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences. The event ended with a guided meditation from Sister Jayanti.

For more information on the Inner Power and Protection project and events around the UK and rest of the world, visit: [www.powerandprotection.org](http://www.powerandprotection.org).

Rosemary Turberville, BKWSU ●

"I have learned so much from god that i can no longer call myself a christian, a hindu, a muslim, a buddhist, a jew.

The truth has shed so much of itself with me that i can no longer call myself a man, a woman, an angel, or even pure soul. Love has befriended hafiz so completely, it has turned to ash and freed me of every concept and image my mind has ever known."

Hafiz, 14th Century Persian Sufi poet

# Funding Opportunities

## Progressive Grids for Fundraising and Events

**Cut Costs** – by using email & text messaging rather than expensive postal systems.

**Save Time** – grids are easy & quick to set up.

**Increase Attendance** – by sending out a series of coordinated reminders.

[Remindmenow.com](http://Remindmenow.com) can help you to find new people to support your Charity. We have an inbuilt system that will allow you to promote you charity to other people and organisations. Set up Progressive Grids to request donations.

Membership of [Remindmenow.com](http://Remindmenow.com) is free for Charities.

## New Community Venture

Westminster City Council and A Moveable Feast have teamed up with GLE oneLondon, a Community Development Finance Institution and one of the UK's leading provider of non-bank finance, to create a new business finance fund. The Community Venture Fund will provide finance to new and established businesses located in SW1 that have difficulty accessing it from traditional providers. The Fund will offer start up finance of up to £5,000; growth finance of up to £15,000; and Sharia compliant finance of up to £15,000.

[www.vawcvs.org/modules/news/article.php?storyid=668](http://www.vawcvs.org/modules/news/article.php?storyid=668)

## Performing Arts Fund

The BBC Performing Arts Fund in association with Making Music have launched a funding scheme for choirs and other singing groups. Grants of between £500 and £5,000 are available to adult or youth choirs of 8 or more individual singers, who meet and rehearse towards a live performance. Grants can be used for commissioning new music; training and development; masterclasses; workshops; and projects to attract new members. The deadline for applications is the **30th October**.

[http://extdev.bbc.co.uk/performingartsfund/choral\\_ambition/](http://extdev.bbc.co.uk/performingartsfund/choral_ambition/)

## Brent Grassroots Endowment Challenge Fund

The North West London Community Foundation (NWLCF) is looking for runners to raise money for local causes as part of the Brent Grassroots Endowment Challenge Fund. We now have available a limited number of places for runners who live and work in Brent to participate in the 2010 Virgin Marathon.

The vision is to develop a self sustaining pot of money to support local community groups through the recession and beyond, supporting the development of new services and volunteering opportunities that will improve the quality of lives of local people for years to come.

We have ambitious plans to raise over £300,000 by 2011. For every £1 we raise the government will match it by another £1.

If you are interested, reasonably fit and up to the challenge of raising a minimum of £2,000 please contact Kath Sullivan or Lorraine Osewele at NWLCF on **020 8427 3823** or email [admin@nwlondoncf.org.uk](mailto:admin@nwlondoncf.org.uk).

We will support you all the way.

## Grassroots Grants – Grab your grant!

Last deadline for 2009/10 applications is 30th October

If you are a small volunteer led community organisation or social enterprise, apply for grant for up to £5,000 to run a project or deliver services to benefit your community. Download the application form and guidelines from our website: [www.nwlcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.nwlcommunityfoundation.org.uk) or contact Lorraine Osewele for more information; [lorraine.o@nwlondoncf.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.o@nwlondoncf.org.uk).

## More Than 213 Projects Funded Though The Learning Revolution

The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) has announced that the £20 million Transformation Fund, launched by the Government has offered grants to more than 213 innovative informal adult learning projects in England. The projects will help improve mental health, physical well-being, active citizenship and community cohesion, as well as providing a stepping stone towards further learning, qualifications and employment for many people. Projects include; creative music master classes for people out of work or education; a partnership between Greater Manchester Transport Executive, Merseytravel, Urbis and a National Trust Property which will create 'learning journeys' for young people 19-25, older people living in isolation and people recover-

ing from substance abuse. Each learner will use a free bus pass to take journeys around travel 'lines', including the Engineering Line, the Football Line and the Mersey Beat Line; A project at Tyneside Cinema, in partnership with Newcastle University, to use the cinema's new spaces and facilities to deliver digital technology, moving image, communications and IT learning to a wide range of people from different social backgrounds and develop online learning tools for others to share; A massive campaign, led by Booktrust and delivered through GP surgeries, libraries and Adult Education centres, to inspire thousands of over-60s to take up reading or writing for pleasure.

[www.niace.org.uk/news/20million-investment-kick-starts-the-learning-revolution](http://www.niace.org.uk/news/20million-investment-kick-starts-the-learning-revolution)

## Communitybuilders Fund Opens for Applications

The Adventure Capital Fund (ACF) has announced that the Government's £70m Communitybuilders fund is now open for applications. Communitybuilders provides a mix of loans, grants and mentoring support to community organisations across England to improve their long-term financial stability and away from grant dependency. Communitybuilders has been organised into three investment packages. These are a development package consisting of bespoke business support based on an initial needs assessment and leadership grants of £2,000 for staff development and training; a feasibility package consisting of further business support of up to 5 days and grants of up to £20,000 to

use towards project development of a growth plan. Grants of up to £75,000 and 30 days of support will be available for larger projects; and investment packages tailored for investees who are ready to develop, grow and expand their role within the community. Investment will consist primarily of loans between £50,000 and £2,000,000 offered at 5% for an initial three year period of a ten year loan term. To support the launch of the Fund there will be a number of regional information events to provide potential applicants with more in-depth information about the Communitybuilders Fund and how it can help.

[www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk/](http://www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk/)

## Funding to Support Third Sector Work with Offenders

NAVCA, the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action has announced that it is inviting Local Infrastructure Organisations (LIOs) and sub-regional consortia in England who deliver services that offenders and their families access to make applications for grants of up to £1,000 to support networking or training activities. The grants are being made available from funding received from the Ministry of Justice Infrastructure Grants Programme and aims to support activities that enable

people who work with or could work with offenders and their families to come together with key local probation, prison staff and others who work in this field for a shared learning or networking activity to help to reduce the re-offending rate at a local level. The final date for applications is midday on Thursday 1st October.

[www.navca.org.uk/localvs/supporting-offenders/news/networkinggrants.htm](http://www.navca.org.uk/localvs/supporting-offenders/news/networkinggrants.htm)

## £8.4m to Break the Cycle of Youth Crime and Create Safer Communities

The Ministry of Justice has announced that it is making available an additional £8.4m to reduce youth reoffending and create safer communities through improved resettlement and rehabilitation arrangements for young offenders leaving prison. Designed to ensure that young offenders make a positive contribution to society by developing essential skills and so turn their backs on a life of crime, this youth rehabilitation project will offer funding to help local areas establish and maintain the services necessary to provide practical alternatives to crime. Over the next two years, new programmes will be established across England and

Wales to break the cycle of offending for young people leaving custody each year. As part of the youth rehabilitation project, Youth Offending Teams, alongside local providers of careers, training, education and accommodation advice will be encouraged to come together to develop comprehensive plans that will help these youngsters rebuild their lives. The most innovative, sustainable and effective plans will win part of an £8.4 million pot so that they can implement their ideas.

[www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease010809a.htm](http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease010809a.htm)

## Your Chance, Everybody's Change

### Big Challenge 2009, just days left to apply!

The deadline is 28th September, good luck!

*Many Cultures, Many Individuals.* How can you create unity in your community?

If you are 16-25 and passionate about making your community a better place then visit the Big Challenge website to be in with a chance of winning part of the £65 000 prize fund to implement your project or campaign idea!

Last year 10 fantastic winners won between £2500 and £8000 to set up community based projects that are making a difference to the lives of young people. Now it's your turn. Make the change, let the Big Challenge be your Big Chance.

For further information and to apply check out [www.bigchallenge.org.uk](http://www.bigchallenge.org.uk). Alternatively, you can call us on 0207 5661129 or e-mail [bigchallenge@unltd.org.uk](mailto:bigchallenge@unltd.org.uk) if you have any questions.

## ESRC's Research Grants Scheme

The Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) is offering through their Research Grants Scheme awards ranging from £15,000 to £1.5 million to eligible institutions such as universities, colleges of higher education and independent research institutes, to enable individuals or research teams to undertake anything from a small project through to a large-scale survey and other infrastructure or methodological development. Research grants can be awarded for a period of up to five years and can be for basic, applied or strategic research. The ESRC seeks to ensure that the research it supports will be of general interest and significance and of relevance to an audience wider than that of the host institution. There are two funding streams; Standard Grants Scheme for applications of more than £100,000; Small Grants Scheme for proposals of less than £100,000. There is no application deadline.

[www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/current\\_funding\\_opportunities/research/index.aspx](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/opportunities/current_funding_opportunities/research/index.aspx)

## Barclays Community Finance Fund

As part of Barclays' financial inclusion strategy to improve the capacity of community finance providers such as Credit Unions and Community Development Finance Initiatives (CDFIs) funding is available to support the delivery of affordable credit to those individuals who may otherwise access high cost credit or resort to taking out illegal loans. The objectives of the Barclays Community Finance Fund are to increase the existing community finance providers' capacity to deliver affordable credit to the low income consumers by providing them with short-term direct financial support; and to provide financial support to credit unions and CDFIs that are starting up in areas where public access to affordable credit is restricted. Credit Unions and CDFIs are able to apply for grants of up to £50,000 for a variety of purposes including (but not limited to) marketing, infrastructure, product development, mergers between businesses and the delivery of financial capability or money advice services. The total value of the Community Finance Fund is £250,000 and Barclays' are looking to award a total of 12 grants. The fund is being offered through a nominations process. The deadline for being nominated is 5pm on the **6th November**.

[www.transact.org.uk/page.asp?section=00010001000400260001](http://www.transact.org.uk/page.asp?section=00010001000400260001)

## Sustainable Urban Environment

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has announced that they have between £6 and £8 million through the Sustainable Urban Environment (SUE) programme, to support research activities that are truly forward looking and focussed on the Sustainable Urban Environment of 2050. EPSRC seek to support significant new research directions, by focussing on identifying and addressing the grand challenges associated with integration and connectivity across different spatial and temporal scales within the urban environment to deliver sustainability. The call is open to all UK Higher Education institutions; Research Council institutes; and independent research organisations. The deadline for applications is the **3rd November**.

[www.epsrc.ac.uk/CallsForProposals/sueiascall09.htm](http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/CallsForProposals/sueiascall09.htm)

## SITA's Enriching Nature Programme

Not-for-profit organisations including community groups, parish councils, charities, local authorities and voluntary organisations are being invited to apply to SITA's Enriching Nature Programme for grants of up to £120,000. Enriching Nature supports projects with a focus on a species or habitat that has been identified as a priority by the UK Biodiversity Action Planning Process. The Enriching Nature Programme will run from 2010 to 2012, with 3 funding rounds each year. To be eligible for funding through the Landfill Communities Fund from SITA Trust the project site must be in England, project sites must be located within 10

miles of a licensed landfill site. This can be any landfill site, not just one owned by SITA UK. Examples of projects that will be funded include; the re-creation of a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) listed habitat; restoration / improvements to a BAP listed habitat; physical conservation of a BAP listed habitat; projects to expand the range/population of a BAP species; surveying / monitoring / on-site research/ into a BAP species or habitat at a specified site or sites (provided that this leads to on-site physical conservation work). The next deadline for application is the **4th November**.

[www.sitatrust.org.uk/nature-funding](http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/nature-funding)

## J Paul Getty Junior Charitable Trust

Following a review and revision of its funding guidelines, the J Paul Getty Junior Charitable Trust has re-opened for grant applications. Under the new guidelines the Trust will make grants of up to £250,000 in the areas of social welfare as well as the arts and heritage. In particular, the trust is seeking to support projects in the areas of reducing re-offending; improving the prospects of young people, refugees and asylum seekers; integrating different social and ethnic groups; tackling substance misuse and homelessness; preserving heritage; and sustaining the arts. The Trust will usu-

ally only support registered charities in England, although applications may sometimes be considered from other parts of the United Kingdom if the project is likely to be of nationwide significance. Occasionally, the Trust will fund organisations of comparable charitable status, such as Industrial Provident Societies or Community Interest Companies, but only where there is a very strong connection with one or more of the Trust's current funding priorities. Applications can be made at any time.

[www.jpgettytrust.org.uk/index.html](http://www.jpgettytrust.org.uk/index.html)

## Funding to Combat Fuel Poverty

The Scottish Power Energy People Trust has announced that the next application deadline for applications is the **13th October**. The Trust can provide funds for not-for-profit organisations and groups (such as children's charities, local community groups, support organisations, housing associations, local authorities and others) who work with or represent the vulnerable and fuel poor to help those most in need. Priority will be given to projects aimed at helping families with young children and young people. The Scottish Power Energy People Trust will award grant funding up to a maximum of £100,000 for projects lasting for up to three years. Previous projects supported include; the Greater Manchester North

Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, which received a grant of £20,5000 to deliver training to front line home visiting staff to identify the fuel poor and then provide a system to allow the easy triggering of a range of intervention measures including Warm Front/EE grants, benefits checks and credit union services etc ; and the Granton Information Centre which received a grant of £29,866 to tackle fuel poverty by increasing household disposable income by raising awareness of welfare benefit, pension credit and tax credit entitlement. Organisations wishing to apply need to submit the Trust's online application form.

[www.energypeopletrust.co.uk/](http://www.energypeopletrust.co.uk/)

## Funding for Youth Engagement

Registered charities working with young people aged 11 to 25 are eligible to apply for grants through the Joanies Trust. Each year, the Trust makes approximately 30 grants with an average value of £1,000 to support projects that offer intensive support to young people as well as those that promote preventative work, and especially those that are designed to lead to individual development through integration, work opportunities or accreditation. In particular the Trust is looking to support projects that show innovation and imagination as well as evidence of close con-

sultation with young people in developing their project. Grants awarded by the Trust include the Trinity Sailing Trust to use offshore sail training on traditional vessels as a way of engaging disadvantaged and disaffected young people; and the Derby Playhouse to fund a scheme, which distributes tickets to members of the community who may never have a chance to see a live performance due to financial circumstances or to social exclusion. The next deadline for applications is the **31st December**.

[www.joaniestrust.org.uk/index.htm](http://www.joaniestrust.org.uk/index.htm)

## Funding for Joint Vocational Projects

FE colleges and secondary school in England that offer vocational options can apply for funding from the British Council to work collaboratively with a French partner (lycée professionnel). Funding of up to £4,000 is available for a series of work placements in industry in collaboration with your partner school and joint curriculum projects, based around a specific project theme, linked to the curricula of both institutions. Please note that the grant only covers the costs incurred by the English school does not cover preparatory visits / risk assessment visits. French

schools must enquire at the office of their DAREIC at the local académie for funding. All applications must be written collaboratively with the partner school, with a clear outline of agreed aims and objectives and applications should show how this project will impact the entire school community as well as an element of partnership sustainability. The deadline for receipt of applications is the **9th October 2009** for visits to France that take place before the 31st March 2010.

[www.britishcouncil.org/school-partnerships-france-vocational-partnerships.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/school-partnerships-france-vocational-partnerships.htm)

## Funding for the Exchange of Ideas between Artists

Artists' groups and networks within the UK can apply for awards of up to £500 through the Go & See bursaries scheme. The scheme which is provided by a-n The Artists Information Company and managed by the Networking Artist's Network aims to support exchange between artists' groups and networks in the UK and beyond in order to explore new projects and provide a focus for critical exchange. NAN defines artists' groups as two or more artists working together or engaged in collective activity who consider themselves to be a group or network. Previous winners have included the Basement Art Project, a contemporary art network led by London based artist Yu-

Chen Wang with a group of international artists, curators and researchers, who will travel to the Netherlands to visit four artist-run spaces and the Worcester Contemporary Art (WCA), a newly formed artist-led initiative in Worcestershire, who will travel to Cumbria to visit organizations and individuals in order to explore research ethos, network methodology, art in rural setting and engaged practice in other provincial areas and develop a viable contemporary networking model for Worcestershire artists. There are a number of application deadlines throughout the year and the next deadline is 6pm on the **1st December**.

<http://www.a-n.co.uk/nan/topic/473133>

## Partnerships for Public Engagement

The Engineering and Physical Science Research Council has announced a new call for proposals under its Partnerships for Public Engagement (PPE) Scheme. Under this scheme, funding is available to researchers to engage with the public, including young people in order to communicate the excitement of fundamental and applied research in science and engineering. Past projects have included; displays in public places such as shopping centres; interactive exhibits in science centres; competitions in schools; curriculum resources; videos; and Public debates. This call is for researchers with previous public engagement experience, including those with previous PPE awards. There is no limit to the scale of the project or the amount of funding that can be applied for. However, the vast majority of projects funded in the past have been in the range from £20,000 to 120,000. The closing date for applications is 4 pm on the **11th November**.

[www.epsrc.ac.uk/CallsForProposals/ppe14.htm](http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/CallsForProposals/ppe14.htm)

## London Grant Fund

A grant is available to London based voluntary and community organisations and individuals wishing to develop a community based project or activity.

The grant fund aims to support, promote and improve vibrant London communities and is available specifically for small local organisations and individuals wishing to develop a community based project or activity. It is to be used primarily for small projects and activities, which are otherwise difficult to fund, rather than as a small contribution to a larger project.

The Grant Fund is funded through the Community (Lottery) Fund, which is operated by Community Money CIC, a non-profit micro finance company dedicated to addressing London based poverty. Community Money provides money solutions to people, businesses and communities, including money and debt advice and community based advisers with an affordable loan fund launching later this year.

[www.communitymoney.co.uk/grants](http://www.communitymoney.co.uk/grants)

## Age-Link - Trips and Tea Parties

Age-Link is a registered charity, established in 1975 with the aim of bringing comfort to those elderly persons who may be lonely for any number of reasons.

They have sixteen groups covering twenty three areas in Greater London, and are very keen to extend our activities to other areas in order to help as many as possible.

Currently, Age-Link help approximately 400 disadvantaged pensioners, with the aid of 500 volunteers. 100 of these dedicated volunteers have been with Age-Link for more than thirty years. They also work with organisations such as Rotary and Lions clubs, Sai Centres, schools, Girl Guide groups and other organisations.

The main activities in which Age-Link regularly engages include:

- Tea parties
- Monthly Sightseeing trips
- Theatre trips
- Summer trips to the Seaside
- Summer Boat trips
- Christmas parties

Elderly guests do not incur any expense from accessing Age-Link services. For more information please contact Charu Jasani on 020 8451 2220 (3pm to 6pm) or via [cjagelink@googlemail.com](mailto:cjagelink@googlemail.com).

## Mother Teresa Albanian Union Gains Funding

The Mother Teresa Albanian Union is a local community organisation with a large membership, set up in January 2009 as a voluntary organisation.

Their activities in Brent aim to integrate Albanian ethnicities into British Society whilst keeping their culture and traditions alive.

In July the Union launched the **Time to Change** project, with the objective of providing housebound women (some of whom suffering from PTSD) with IT classes, ESL and English lessons.

Alongside education, health and wellbeing is another primary focus of the Union, with funding still needed to develop their strategy.

For the moment, raising awareness on health issues and medical conditions, as well as on environmental issues and recycling are part of the Union's initial programme.

All Albanian people living in Brent are welcome to join Mother Teresa Albanian Union, based at **108 Willesden High Road**. For more information please contact Zamira Ruspi on [zamirar@yahoo.com](mailto:zamirar@yahoo.com) or via 0208 208 2008.

## St Luke's Hospice - Serving the Communities of Brent

St Luke's Hospice is an independent charity serving the community of Harrow and North Brent. The hospice is unique in the area, providing all their services completely free of charge to all and relying heavily on voluntary contributions from the community to ensure they remain open (we currently receive under one third of our funding from the Government).

### Our Mission Statement

To provide specialist palliative care free of charge to people with advanced, progressive illnesses, which addresses their physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs thus enhancing their quality of life and supporting their families and carers.

### St Luke's Volunteer and Community strategy

No hospice could function without its network of volunteers and their extraordinary commitment. St Luke's is no exception to this.

Our project commenced in March 2008 and aims to:

- Enhance our communication with our local communities.

We hope to raise awareness of the serv-

ices provided by St Luke's and improve understanding of Hospice care to people from all cultures and backgrounds. We have increased our number of talks by staff and volunteers to community groups, schools and will be extending the schools programme to tertiary colleges. We are recruiting more Brent schools that would like to hear more about the work of St Luke's Hospice.

Expanding our range of community links: Highlights of 2008 have been the Swaminaryan Temple walk, which raised over £33,000 to support our complementary therapy services, our expanded 'Light up a Life' programme which included a Shraad Bhajan. A community links meeting is held every three months; the next meeting is to be held in September.

Our aim is to reach out to Communities who are not aware of St Luke's and to encourage dialogue, ownership and increased participation through volunteering and new sources of funding and fundraising activities. In June 2009, we had 1000 participants in the Ladies Midnight Walk, reflective of Brent and Harrow.

- Develop our volunteer strategy.

Our highly skilled, professional staff are

supported by 700 volunteers in a range of roles for example, as shop volunteers, fundraising volunteers, Day Care and In-Patient volunteers. We hope to analyse and develop the role of volunteers and the opportunities available for volunteering at the Hospice. This will help us provide a relevant service, which can adapt over time to changing cultural, economic and social needs. The strategy also aims to change the culture of St Luke's to ensure our staff and volunteers are better integrated leading to an enhanced service.

On-going Shops Volunteer Recruitment Campaign: The Hospice Shops have benefited from much-needed volunteer skill sets that contribute to maintaining hospice services. We have implemented the NVQ level 2 in Customer Service in our charity shops; Wembley and Kingsbury located on the high road are recruiting volunteers.

If you would like us to talk to your community group please contact Mingma Norman on [mnorman@stlukes-hospice.org](mailto:mnorman@stlukes-hospice.org) or visit [www.stlukes-hospice.org](http://www.stlukes-hospice.org) for further information.

Mingma Norman, StLuke's ●

# Rebuilding Lives, Developing Communities

On a sunny September day I went along to the brand new community resource centre at [Cricklewood Homeless Concern \(CHC\)](#) to find out more about their work. Danny Maher, CHC's director, was kind enough to give me a full tour whilst describing the services that CHC provides to get people back on their feet and reintegrate them into their communities.

Established in 1983 as a volunteer-run soup kitchen with an open door policy, CHC has come a very long way and now has a policy of personal responsibility, placing the onus on the individual to rebuild their life with the '51% rule' – CHC will support people in genuine need in the best ways they can, but equally the individual has to commit to supporting themselves, take responsibility and dedicate their efforts towards personal self-improvement and bettering their situation. CHC wants to eradicate the negative stereotypes of disadvantaged people by offering its services to these and local residents, all sharing the same space as they individually work towards their own goals.

This new approach has proved considerably more effective in turning people around; CHC currently has a customer-base of around 600, with roughly 200 of these being active cases and of which 60 have moved on in the past year. Danny stressed that each case is handled depending on the capacity of each individual customer to take the lead on their own recovery.

CHC's impressive £4m development was completed last year, with the President of Ireland attending its inauguration. Employing 17 staff engaged in its core services, CHC also has extensive partnerships in place with Local Residents Associations, community groups, statutory agencies and businesses that enable a comprehensive array of services for the most disadvantaged of our localities to all be offered under one roof: a kind of 'one-stop-shop' for the disadvantaged, including health advisory and care services, accommodation referral, therapy sessions, careers advice, personal development services and skills training. CHC is re-creating itself as a 'community beacon', a place that encourages and enables local residents to lead on ensuring a community that is safe and welcoming.

Danny thought it best to introduce

"We will do everything in our power to enable vulnerable people to live independently within the community"

**Danny Maher, Director, CHC**



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

me to CHC's approach through a run-through of the new building from the perspective of a new 'customer'. He emphasised that I could be anyone in need of help and need not necessarily be homeless – they cater to the isolated elderly, disaffected youth and refugee and traveller demographics too, as well as local residents who may need anything from advice to a training course. However, on coming to CHC the first thing I could expect would be a raft of questions to determine my situation and how CHC might best be able to help.

The centre's layout is based on Maslow's 'Hierarchy of Needs', a psychological theory that specifies four levels of needs to be met in order to actualise a fulfilled and independent life, these being: physiological needs (food, sanitation), safety and security needs (shelter, stability), emotional needs (love, a sense of belonging) and intellectual needs (self-esteem, skills). So, we started in the basement where the first level of needs is



Danny Maher and Charlotte Curren with Irish President McAleese last year

met, with showers and a donated clothes room, leading on to the cafeteria half a level up. Interview rooms to determine and meet one's safety and security needs are on the ground floor behind reception. Customers start on their journey at whatever level they are on at the time and are then supported through it towards independence.

On the higher levels services catering to the higher needs are accommodated, with rooms available for dedicated psychotherapy sessions, careers advice and training services. There is even a secondary entrance leading straight onto the first floor for 'graduates' – individuals who have managed to turn things around and are on their way up – a simple yet effective symbol of progress. Many of these rooms are multi-purpose, and CHC is now in the process of opening them up for other community purposes. We concluded the tour and I left feeling uplifted by just how far CHC has come, thinking here is an organisation that makes a real difference.

In the words of the Irish President McAleese, "The story of CHC is one that lifts our hearts and gives us pride and hope in the goodness of humanity for it took a lot of heavy lifting to raise the funds, to get the partnerships, to interest the sponsors, to build the team and to develop and sustain really good services."

For more information please visit the CHC website at [www.chc.org.uk](http://www.chc.org.uk), or email Danny directly on [danny@chc-mail.org](mailto:danny@chc-mail.org).

**Dan Scrimgeour, BrAVA** ●

## Words of Wisdom

"Our ignorance is not so vast as our failure to use what we know."

**M. King Hubbert**

"We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about."

**Charles Kingsley**

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

**African Proverb**

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

**Howard Thurman**

# MEET THE FUNDERS

## 7th Funders' Fair in Brent

Thursday 8th October 2009 – 10.00 am - 4.00 pm  
Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre

### Admission Free

@ Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre, Brentfield,  
Harlesden NW10 0RG

**Nearest Underground Station :** Stonebridge Park – Bakerloo & Silverlink Lines

**Bus Routes :** 18, 112, N18, PR2, 440, 611

A popular event giving local community and voluntary organisations a chance to meet face-to-face with funders and other support service providers, to see how they can best support your needs.

Features one2one surgeries, funders' exhibition stalls, a number of presentations by funders including City Bridge Trust, City Parochial, Heritage Lottery Fund, Prince's Trust and many others.

**If you would like to attend presentations, workshops or a one2one surgery, please contact Grace Adok on 020 8438 1520 or [grace.adok@brava.org.uk](mailto:grace.adok@brava.org.uk)**

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