



Dear Nithsdale CVS Members,

Welcome to this months newsletter which I hope you find useful.

Various members have contacted me this month with their concerns around the lack of clarity about the Fairer Scotland Fund process and the unrealistic timescales for smaller voluntary sector organisations to network and develop partnership contract bids to the Fund to deliver their services.

This issue has also been discussed at the Nithsdale Voluntary Sector Forum and the next meeting is being held on 11th June 2009 at 10.30am in the Oasis Centre, Dumfries. If you would like to attend or would like any issues tabled at the meeting on your behalf please contact Katrina at Nithsdale CVS.

If any members would like information and advice about developing and improving quality assurance systems in their organisation, particularly as funders are increasingly asking for this to be evidenced, Nithsdale CVS would be happy to assist. We are one of only 4 accredited licensed mentors for PQASSO in Scotland (Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations). Please contact me for further information.

Finally a reminder that the next meeting of Nithsdale Local Rural Partnership is on Wednesday, the 5th August at 2.00pm and will be held at Thornhill Community Centre .

Regards,

Karen Lewis - Director – Nithsdale CVS



Clauchrie Woodlands Ballot

Last week the village of Closeburn went to the Poll's. This indeed was not for the European election but to source the communities' views on whether Closeburn Community Council should purchase its own piece of woodland. The opportunity to own these woodlands is part of the National Forest Land Scheme which enables communities to own land assets.

Cathy Head, Chair of Closeburn Community Council says " We would like the community to be able to keep the woodlands the magical place they currently are and to develop more paths and a classroom in the woods that schools, clubs and individuals can use and enjoy in perpetuity."

Members of the Community Council went knocking on doors in Closeburn and dropped off leaflets that provided information about Clauchrie woodlands and the voting process.

Ballot papers were posted out to everyone on the Closeburn electoral roll which had to be returned by 5 pm on 21st May 2009 to Nithsdale CVS.

The ballot was managed and organised by Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Service and the public count of votes took place at 6pm on Thursday 21st May 2009 in Closeburn Primary School. Over 60% of those eligible to vote took part in the ballot and 92% of those voted **for** the purchase of the woodland.

NEW EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

To assist them in helping you
The Dumfries and Galloway Citizens
Advice Service are introducing a
**NEW LATE NIGHT
ADVICE SESSION**
on
THURSDAY EVENINGS
FROM
4p.m. to 7p.m.



Community Service needs your help
Dumfries and Galloway currently have 40 female
offenders undertaking Community Service orders
and unpaid work as a condition of their probation
orders
Criminal Justice Social Work are asking charitable
organisations for information, involvement and their
views in relation to possible placements that are
available in the area that would be delivered in
partnership with the Community Councils and
Community Service team.
If you feel that your organisation has an opportunity
for one of these clients or you would like more
information please contact:
Emma Kerr
Community Service Supervisor - 01387 262409 /
07827886801

If you have any items for the Nithsdale
CVS monthly newsletter or you would like to
promote your organisations activities or up
and coming events please send all
information to:
Katrina at katrina.branney@ncvs.org.uk
Jeanette at jeanette.murray@ncvs.org.uk

"Young Minds"
Introduction to Child and Adolescent Mental
Health
Thursday 18th and Friday 19th June 2009
9am - 4pm both days
Venue: Boardroom, Nithbank, Dumfries
Lunch and Refreshments provided
For further information please contact:
Lindsay Murdoch on 01387 244686 or e-mail
Lindsay.murdoch@nhs.net
Places are limited and early booking is
advised

**NEW BUILD PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITAL
DOING THE ROUNDS**
Please join us at one of the follow up meetings
where we will give you feedback to all the
questions you raised at the events in April.
This is still an opportunity to make your views
heard.

Dumfries - 1st June

12.30-14.30

Dumfries Rugby Club, Park Farm,
Dumfries

Refreshments and sandwiches provided.

Annan - 1st June

16.00-17.30

42 Club, Nursery hall, Nursery Place,
Annan

Refreshments provided

There are also events being held in Stranraer,
Newton Stewart and Castle Douglas.

UCI look forward to meeting you at one of
the venues noted above

If you would like to attend one of these
events or would like more information please
contact:

User and Carer Involvement
81 - 85 Irish Street
Dumfries

Tel: 01387 255330

Alternatively you can e-mail:
userandcarer1@aol.com





CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO COMMUNITY PRIDE FUND

Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership has launched this year's Community Pride Fund and applications open today (Tuesday 5 May).

The fund was set up to recognise DGHP's role in the region's communities and provides funding for a range of projects as diverse as gardening and community clean up projects to local events and the arts.

This year there's £50,000 in the pot and groups can apply for grants of between £100 and £5000 depending on the size of their project or event.

In order to qualify for funds groups or organisations and their projects must fit the criteria listed in full in the guidance notes which are issued with the application forms.

Since it was set up in 2007 the Community Pride Fund has supported almost 40 schemes to the tune of £100,000.

Groups which have benefited from financial support include the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association Media Bus, Penpont After School Club, Wigtown Youth Forum and the Stranraer Furniture Project.

So why not give it a go?

All you have to do is download the application pack from the DGHP website at www.dghp.org, type in the information, print the application form, sign it and send it to DGHP, Community Pride Fund, Grierson House, the Crichton, Bankend road, Dumfries DG1 4ZS.

Alternatively call the Service Centre on freephone 0800 011 3447 or lo-call 0845 606 3447 and we'll send one out to you.

**The closing date for applications is 5.00pm
Tuesday 30 June 2009.**



The allotment has now been trading for over 6 months, establishing a membership base of over 400 members.

Our team of staff and volunteers continue to provide quality service 9.30-5, Monday-Friday, raising awareness of the importance of a healthy, balanced diet.

Those working within the shop do a fantastic job of ensuring people can receive personal service, advice and a rewarding shopping experience. Allotment members will soon receive their first copy of the "the allotment news" our new, quarterly newsletter packed with additional information, recipes and news of what is new within the allotment.

The allotment stocks fresh, affordable fruit and vegetables and we have been working hard to get the best seasonal produce. We are continuing to ensure that we keep prices as low as possible by using multiple suppliers and searching locally for as much quality produce as possible.

Recently we have dropped prices within our salad range, introduced delicious (but short-seasoned) Jersey and Cornish new potatoes and deliciously sweet, fresh strawberries from Longtown, only about 28 miles from the allotment itself! Throughout the coming months we will continue to have promotions and reduce prices on seasonal produce, ensuring that summery fruit and veg is as affordable as possible.

Breaking News!!

The allotment is also happy to announce that we will be opening a new outlet at the Dumfries Royal Infirmary. Every Wednesday patients, staff and visitors will be able to buy fresh fruit and veg from our outlet, based right inside the front door of the infirmary. There will be same quality, fresh fruit and veg available from 10-4, ensuring everyone at the Infirmary has a helping hand getting their 5-a-day.

Dumfries and Nithsdale Health Improvement Team Ceilidh Dance to Two-Left-Feet!!

Friday the 19th of June 09

7.30pm - Midnight

Easterbrook Hall

Tickets £12.00 including Buffet
(Over 18's only)

Please contact Lindsay on 01387 244686 for tickets and further information



LOCHARBRIGGS FIVE a SIDES

'Caskie Cup'

2009

MONDAY 22nd- FRIDAY 26TH JUNE

LOCHARBRIGGS SCHOOL PLAYING
FIELDS

6.30pm start each evening

GROUP MATCHES PLAYED ON A 'ROUND
ROBIN' LEAGUE BASIS

Monday 22nd -- 12 years and under

Tuesday 23rd -- 14 years and under

Wednesday 24th -- 8 years and under & Girls
Matches



**NCVS Members - NCVS can carry out
Disclosure Checks for the community and
voluntary sector in Nithsdale
on behalf of CRBS
(Criminal Records Bureau Scotland)**

For more information contact:

Suzanne Lafferty

On 01387 269161

suzanne.lafferty@ncvs.org.uk

Welcome to the new Walking Works Co-ordinator Mid and Upper Nithsdale

Now that Graham has moved on, we at NCVS have a new Walking Works Co-ordinator, who will be co-ordinating and participating in the walks in Mid and Upper Nithsdale -Ronnie Johnstone. Ronnie has been with NCVS for some time and may be known to you as the co-ordinator for the Access to Work Project.

If you would like information on any of the walks, suggest new walks in the area or have an interest in becoming a walk leader please contact Ronnie at

Ronnie.johnstone@ncvs.org.uk

Or telephone 01387 269161



Nithsdale CVS board and staff would like to wish Graham Banks - Walking Works Co-ordinator, Mid and Upper Nithsdale the best of luck in his future ventures.

Graham has walked away from NCVS to begin the building of his new bothy in Borgue which we hope will be a much used resting place by cyclists in the region.

Graham was presented with a slate name plaque for his new ' Doon Corner Bothy' by Director Karen Lewis and Chairperson Andy Todman.

Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Service

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Irish Street
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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm (closed 1pm–2pm)

Director: Karen Lewis

Administrator: Suzanne Lafferty

Information & Training Advisor: Katrina Branney

Walking Works Co-ordinator: Vicky Henshall
(Dumfries & Lower Nithsdale)

Walking Works Co-ordinator: Ronnie Johnstone
(Mid and Upper Nithsdale)

Access to Work Co-ordinator: Ronnie Johnstone

Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme: Suzanne Lafferty

Office Support Worker: Jeanette Murray

NCVS is a member of the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and works in partnership with other local CVS. NCVS is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland no: 81362 Charity no: SC008201

