



Autumn 2011

CAVOS

newsletter

Promote your group through CAVOS!

If you have any events on over the next few months then let CAVOS know!

From weekly activities and special Christmas events to any successful news about your group...we want to hear about it!

Lets end the year on a happy note by telling one and all about your cheery festive activities.

We'll feature details of your activities in the events section of our e-bulletins and even add an article on our website.

Local groups and organisations can advertise their activities through CAVOS absolutely FREE!

What do you have to lose? Ring CAVOS on 01388 811115 or email donna@cavos.org.uk with your information.

CAVOS Christmas Celebration Event

**Thursday 15th December 2011
@ Shildon Civic Centre
7pm—10.30pm**

Join us to celebrate the achievements of the Voluntary & Community Sector in 2011

With a buffet, live entertainment, disco & awards presentation... this event is a must!

Get your nominations in!

Do you know a group or organisation that deserves an award for the work they've done in 2011? Then nominate them for a CAVOS Achievement Award! Contact CAVOS for a nomination form or download one from our website:
www.cavos.org.uk

This event celebrates the achievements of organisations, not individual volunteers

Why not treat this event as your own Christmas party? Get in touch early to book tickets for your group or organisation. But be quick...tickets will go fast!

Please let us know if you would like to attend by contacting our office.

Booking is essential This is a FREE event

If you have any queries relating to this newsletter, or would like an article published in the next issue please contact us:

Tel: 01388 811115 Fax: 01388 817772

Email: enquiries@cavos.org.uk www.cavos.org.uk

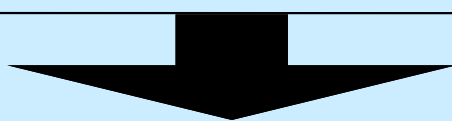
CAVOS Community Buildings Support Project

Last year, in partnership with Community Matters, CAVOS delivered a pilot project working with community buildings across the Spennymoor area. The findings of the project identified that a key issue facing community buildings is lack of promotion and that there could be potential for joint working to address this.

Following the pilot, CAVOS has developed a brand new project and community buildings across the whole of the former Sedgefield Borough area have recently been invited to be included on the new CAVOS Community Buildings website 'South Durham Halls'.

The website aims to link with all community buildings in the former Sedgefield Borough district; supporting centres to connect with their communities and potential hirers, while informing them of what facilities and activities centres have to offer. Through this promotion we aim to increase occupancy levels and use of community buildings to support their ongoing sustainability.

If your centre isn't involved yet, there's still time, simply contact Helen at CAVOS for more information helen@cavos.org.uk or call 01388 811115.



CAVOS Stakeholder and Community Buildings Website Launch Event

**Monday 21st November 2011 10am – 1pm
@ St Pauls Centre, Spennymoor**

As a beneficiary of CAVOS we would be delighted if you would join us for the Annual CAVOS Stakeholder Event. We are looking forward to updating you on our work, our achievements and the services we offer, as well as some presentations on our most exciting projects to date.

Included as part of this event is the launch of the brand new South Durham Halls website. This is a great opportunity to check out the site itself and have a guided tour around all the features that have been developed.

There will be coffee on arrival and a networking lunch.

You will also be invited to share your views and opinions on CAVOS and the services we have provided over the last few years.

Please let us know if you would like to attend by contacting CAVOS on 01388 811115 or emailing donna@cavos.org.uk

Booking is essential This is a FREE event

CAVOS AGM Update

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our AGM and Voluntary Sector Question time Event. The event was very popular and your feedback has been excellent.

The event included our usual AGM official business and our Trustees for the next year are listed in the article below. We always like to add something a little different to our AGM and this year it was a 'Voluntary Sector Question Time' with a knowledgeable and experienced panel including Julia Bowles: CAVOS Chair and Laura Agar Wilson: CAVOS Development Manager. Our panel guest was Jane Cater of VONNE (Voluntary Organisation Network North East) who took part in the thought provoking question & answer session. As usual, we made sure that everyone was well fed!

You can find brief details of the questions and answers in the Consultation Pages included with the newsletter or you can view the full document via our website www.cavos.org.uk

CAVOS Trustees 2011/12

The CAVOS Board of Director-Trustees for 2011—2012 is as follows:

- ⇒ Julia Bowles (Chair)
- ⇒ Steve Mitton (Vice Chair)
- ⇒ Dave Rutherford (Treasurer)
- ⇒ Ian McLaren (Chair of Personnel)
- ⇒ John Fitzpatrick
- ⇒ Doug Long
- ⇒ Vince Crosby
- ⇒ Jean Thompson
- ⇒ Kevin Burton
- ⇒ Agnes Armstrong
- ⇒ Hazel Rowell Peverley

The CAVOS staff and Trustees would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Bess Robertson and Margaret Hayes who stood down as Trustees at our AGM. Both Bess and Margaret have been assets to our organisation, they've always been hugely supportive of our staff team and will certainly be missed. We wish them the very best and hope to see them at one of our future events!

CAVOS Health Checks & Organisational Files

If you are concerned that your organisation may not have the correct policies or procedures in place....CAVOS can help! There is so much that has to be done just to run a small organisation that it can be a bit of a minefield and it's hard to know where to start and if you have everything you need.

Well, CAVOS has a solution that may help you to decide what you need to do.

The CAVOS 'Group Health Check' is an easy guide to finding out what you *should* have, what you *do* have and what support you *need* to help you get to where you want to be. CAVOS can help your group carry out a 'Health Check' and provide organisational files to complete any gaps you have.

Our simple step-by-step approach couldn't be easier and it's a great way of prioritising the support and information you need.

Contact CAVOS for more information or to arrange an appointment.

Safeguarding Support Packs

CAVOS has developed a pack which supports Voluntary Sector organisations to work in line with best practice regarding safeguarding.

This **Safeguarding Support Pack** is FREE and contains a wealth of valuable information to keep you on track with safeguarding. It contains a wide range of factsheets on topics such as Every Child Matters. It also contains a fantastic Child Protection policy template and a range of our brilliant 'How To' Guides. Contact CAVOS for your FREE support pack

Equality Act 2010 – what is the latest?

The Act, which came into force over a year ago, prohibits discrimination, harassment or victimisation on the grounds of certain 'protected characteristics'. These characteristics are: *age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex & sexual orientation*.

The Charity Commission has published updated guidance on the exceptions in the Equality Act 2010 which allow a charity to restrict who it benefits without being in breach of the Act.

The Charities' Exception— Section 193 of the Act allows a charity to limit its benefits to people who share one of the protected characteristics above, but only if:

The charity's governing document only allows people who share one of the protected characteristics to benefit, *AND* the restriction can be justified as either: tackling a particular disadvantage faced by people who share a protected characteristic, *OR* being a fair and balanced way of achieving a legitimate aim.

Key points in the updated guidance are:

Grant makers – the Commission's view is that making grants in the furtherance of a charity's objects is classed as the provision of a service, and the Act applies to this. This is new and means grant making charities should review their procedures to ensure they are compliant with the Act.

Public benefit – it states that if an organisation cannot give good reason for limiting benefits to people who share a particular protected characteristic, it is unlikely to be able to meet the public benefit test and could *not* therefore become a registered charity.

Other exceptions - The Act also contains other provisions which, while not specific to registered charities, may be relevant for those who seek to target their service to a group of people with a shared protected characteristic. For example, there are provisions in the Act which allow positive action and which allow associations (membership organisations) to restrict membership to people who share a protected characteristic. There are also exceptions for religious organisations. Charities may also hold single-sex fundraising events. The new guidance includes more examples of how these other exceptions may be relevant to charities.

What do charities need to do? - Charities should check any restrictions in their governing document. The Commission has indicated that charities whose governing documents contain restrictions which do not fall within any of the exceptions in the Act will need to change their objects. Grant making charities should review their procedures to ensure they are compliant with the Act. Charities should also review the terms of any restricted funding and any restrictions they impose in relation to service provision or membership benefits to ensure that these comply with the Act. The Commission expects trustees to take immediate steps to prevent any illegal discrimination.

For more info, use this shorted web link tinyurl.com/6bs9nzo to view the full document: "Equality Act guidance for charities: Restricting who can benefit from charities"

CAVOS Employers Forum has now been set up!

CAVOS recognised a need to set up an Employers Forum following some Employment Law training held earlier in the year. The first meeting was held in September 2011. If you are interested in being part of the forum but couldn't make the last meeting, it's not too late for you to sign up. To find out more about the forum, contact Laura at CAVOS on 01388 811115 or email laura@cavos.org.uk.

The forum is for local community organisations that employ staff with the aim of sharing latest information on legal changes, policy updates and best practice. As part of the forum, groups thought it would also be useful to include regular Employment Law updates in the newsletter about any issues that are hot topics so we've started the ball rolling...check it out!



Employment Law Update:

This issues focus - REDUNDANCY

What is meant by redundancy?

Redundancy is most commonly understood to be when employees are dismissed because the employer ceases/will cease to carry on the business for the purpose of which the employee was employed or cease to carry on the business in the place where the employee was employed. The main issue for most voluntary and community groups is establishing entitlement to redundancy payments.

How can I deal with redundancies?

Employers normally deal with redundancies in one of the following three ways:

- ⇒ **Ad-hoc approach** - no formally established arrangements, with practice varying according to the circumstances of each redundancy
- ⇒ **Formal policy** - stating the approach to be taken by management when faced with making redundancies (without the agreement of trade union or employee representatives)
- ⇒ **Formal agreement** - stating the procedure to be followed when redundancies have to be considered (as the result of negotiation/agreement with trade union or employee representatives)

How *should* I deal with redundancies?

In the interests of good employment relations and best practice, organisation's should consider having a formal procedure on redundancy, ideally drawn up at a time when redundancies aren't imminent so there's time for consideration of all issues and joint involvement and contribution. Employers should ensure all employees are aware of the procedure perhaps by inclusion in a staff handbook.

What are redundancy payments?

Redundancy payments are due if a worker is an employee with at least 2 years continuous service. For each complete year of service (up to maximum of 20) employees are entitled to:

- ⇒ Half a week's pay for each year of service under age 22
- ⇒ One week's pay for each year of service at age 22 but under 41
- ⇒ One and a half week's pay for each year of service at age 41 or over

What if our organisation cannot pay?

If the employer has cash-flow problems that are so serious that making redundancy payments would damage the business, arrangements can be made by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to pay the employee direct from the National Insurance Fund. The employer is expected to pay back as soon as possible, if necessary in instalments. If the employer is insolvent, the payment is made by BIS and recovered from the organisation's assets.

What notice is required?

You must pay your employees notice pay *on top of* the statutory redundancy pay. The amount of notice you need to give may be stated in the employment contract. Otherwise, you should give the following notice. One week's notice pay for:

- ⇒ employees who have worked for you for at least one month, but less than 2 years.
- ⇒ each full year worked, for employees who have worked for you at least two years.

If any of your employees leave your employment to take another job during the notice period, you may reduce their statutory redundancy pay if you wish. If your employees take industrial action during the notice period, you can ask them to make up the time at the end of their notice period - you may reduce the amount of statutory redundancy pay that you give them if they refuse to make up the time.

Considerations in a cold climate

Be a good neighbour this winter

Do you remember last year's campaign 'Knock Next Door' where people across County Durham and Darlington were encouraged to 'knock next door' and help out friends and neighbours during the bad weather?

Well let's think ahead and prepare before the snow and freezing temperatures arrive!

- ⇒ Be a good neighbour by calling on those living nearby to check if they need anything
- ⇒ Look after the vulnerable by getting in touch with people who are ill, older or on their own and may need a helping hand
- ⇒ Keep drives and footpaths clear by shovelling snow for friends and neighbours if they struggle to do it but need to go out.
- ⇒ When checking on the vulnerable, ensure they are warm, especially at night, and have food and medicines so they don't need to leave the house.
- ⇒ Why not be your neighbour's In Case of Emergency (ICE) contact this winter? It could be as simple as providing your phone number to help during bad weather.

Keep Warm Keep Well

Are you aged over 60? Would you like advice on staying well and healthy during the winter, while taking advantage of the financial help and benefits available to you?

Then a Department of Health advice booklet called 'Keep Warm Keep Well' can help. This booklet provides information and advice on:

- ⇒ heating your home effectively
- ⇒ financial support available
- ⇒ preparing your home for the winter
- ⇒ staying healthy.

To obtain your free copy contact the Dept. Of Health via phone on 020 7210 4850 post to: Customer Service Centre, Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS or find it via their website www.dh.gov.uk Remember:

- ⇒ Heat your home well
- ⇒ Get financial support
- ⇒ Eat well
- ⇒ Get a flu jab
- ⇒ Look after yourself and others

Warm Front Scheme

Groups supporting vulnerable people in the community (particularly those who are elderly or disabled) should be aware of the Warm Front Scheme and the updated eligibility criteria

The scheme installs insulation and heating improvements to make homes more energy efficient. To qualify for Warm Front a person must live in their own home or rent privately and the property must have a **SAP rating of 55 or under** * (this will be assessed at the beginning of a Technical Survey)

A household that is entitled to the Cold Weather Payment should qualify for Warm Front if their property also has a SAP rating of 55 or under. However, the householder or their spouse must be in receipt of certain benefits but please note that anybody claiming Income-related Employment & Support Allowance no longer needs to have any of the other elements attached to be eligible for Warm Front. Find out more ring 0800 316 2814 or visit their website at www.warmfront.co.uk

**The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP), is the government's recommended system for measuring the energy rating of residential properties.*


Useful contacts:

- ⇒ **Highways Action Line:** 0191 370 6000 or HAL@durham.gov.uk (*enquiries about road/path salting*)
- ⇒ **Social Care Direct:** 0845 850 5010 (concerns about someone's welfare)
- ⇒ **For urgent health care:** 111 (only in County Durham and Darlington)
- ⇒ **Warm Homes Team:** 0191 527 0501

Big Society Update

The Big Society is David Cameron's 'big idea' to change the relationship between citizens, the Voluntary and Community Sector and the state. CAVOS continues to provide ongoing updates on the Big Society and how our sector will be affected. Checkout the latest information below.

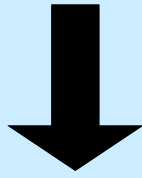
Civil Society



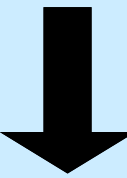
The Minister for Civil Society has reinforced the Government's commitment to the Big Society agenda in an open letter to the voluntary sector. It sets out the priorities for government and the Office for Civil Society and outlines the action that has been taken to improve communities as well as listing the initiatives the Government has begun to deliver this vision, including Big Society Capital and the National Citizen Service. It also sets out the 3 main objectives the department has for the sector 1) making it easier to run a charity or social enterprise 2) making it easier to work with the state 3) getting more resources into the sector. View the full letter via this shortened web link: tinyurl.com/67nc48r

Community Organisers Programme

The next 11 areas to host Community Organisers have been chosen and in the North East, ETEC Development Trust in Sunderland has been chosen as one of the hosts. The programme is a pilot by the Government to spur community action at a neighbourhood level. Community Organisers will be trained individuals who will support and enable people to take action to tackle issues which are important to them. Each organiser will be recruited and supported by a local host organisation while they undergo their 12 month training. Hosts are existing organisations based in communities around the country, with the structure and capacity to recruit, host and support the community organisers while they are trained as well as working to make the roles sustainable once qualified. The programme is still inviting applications from potential local infrastructure host organisations. For more details on how to apply to be a host go to www.cocollaborative.org.uk. Application deadline for the second section of hosts is 4th November.



National Citizen Service (NCS)



The Prime Minister announced that National Citizen Service for 16-year-olds will be tripled in size to offer 90,000 places by 2014. NCS is a voluntary programme that gives 16-year-olds the opportunity to take on new challenges, learn new skills and make a difference in their communities. Young people from different backgrounds are brought together into a team, with a common objective, to achieve something of which they can all be proud. Activities include outdoor team-based challenges; structured tasks to develop personal skills; visiting and helping groups in the local neighbourhood; and designing and delivering a social action project in consultation with local communities. Following the first pilot this summer, up to 30,000 places will be offered in 2012 and 90,000 by 2014. Evaluation of this year's pilot is currently underway and results will inform the NCS future model. Initial evidence is very encouraging. The Challenge Network, the largest pilot provider this year, reported:

- ⇒ over 15,000 young people expressed interest for 3,200 places
- ⇒ nearly 100% attendance rate and 95% retention rate throughout full-time stages of the programme
- ⇒ the social mix reflected communities they worked in – approximately 18% came from low income families, 5% were independently educated indicating a high income family, 1% had attended pupil referral units, 3% had been in care, 5% had a disability and 46% were from BME backgrounds
- ⇒ 66% had no prior experience of voluntary youth programmes or community leadership roles

Don't forget, if you haven't already checked it out, CAVOS has a Big Society Briefing Paper: *How the Big Society agenda may affect the funding climate* available via our website www.cavos.org.uk.

CAVOS will continue to keep you updated with information about the Big Society but you can always contact us to discuss your Big Society issues and concerns direct on 01388 811115

A quarter of charities in the North East say they might close within a year

Voluntary Organisations' Network North East (VONNE) polled 120 organisations, ranging from small neighbourhood organisations to large charities, as part of its "Surviving Not Thriving" study on the economic downturn, conducted every six months since November 2009. 23% of those that responded to the latest poll said they might close in the next 12 months.

Almost half said they expect to close, or are considering closing, a service. 73% of respondents said their funding had decreased over the past 6 months and 64% said they were using reserves.

Almost two-thirds reported a rise in demand for their services. Jo Curry, Chief Executive of VONNE, said marginalised individuals would suffer as services were withdrawn and charities closed. Small amounts of money given to frontline organisations would have as great, if not a greater, effect than they would if given to national charitable schemes, she said. VONNE has sent the information from its report to all the MPs in the North East and to the Office for Civil Society. To view the full article follow this shortened link tinyurl.com/3f625vl

Groups facing difficulties

CAVOS is aware that groups may be starting to struggle with continuing to run their activities whether by lack of funding or a decrease in people involved.

This is the time to remind groups not to wait until they hit crisis point before contacting CAVOS for support and advice as there is usually very little we can do to help them continue once they reach that stage. We can help groups look at the future and sustainability of the group and possibly adapt ways of working as well as other direct support.

The main point is that it is vital for any group to contact CAVOS as soon as they're aware they may be facing future difficulties and not wait until they're on their last reserves to ask for help. If we can support you, we will. Contact CAVOS to discuss anything your group is concerned about or if you would like advice or support on 01388 811115 or donna@cavos.org.uk.

Get to the heart of your community

If you've ever thought "if I was in charge, I'd do this (or that)"? Well now's your chance to do something about it! Everyone living or working in County Durham can help shape their area by joining their local Area Action Partnership (AAP)

The AAP's in County Durham are running a recruitment campaign to encourage more people to get involved in their local community. By joining, you can get to the heart of your community and get involved in a range of activities to improve where you live.

There are 14 AAP's covering the whole of County Durham, and people are being invited to get involved. You can download a postcard to join your AAP from www.durham.gov.uk, you can call 0191 383 4964 for more info or email your details to aap@durham.gov.uk

Think Rubbish! Community Waste Management in County Durham

Durham County Council's Strategic Waste Management Team is keen to help and support anyone interested in setting up their own community waste management projects within County Durham.

There are already a number of projects within the County including community compost schemes, furniture reuse projects, community repaint schemes, and education projects. Whatever your idea the Team would like to hear from you, whether you want to set up a bicycle reuse project, computer recycling or run junk swaps! They already coordinate a Furniture Forum with furniture schemes from across the County. In the Sedgefield area, the project is:

⇒ County Durham Furniture Help Scheme – tel: 01388 721 509

The team can offer projects help with: support accessing funding; networking; marketing & publicity; business development and raising the profile of projects. For more information contact: Ruth Smith on 0191 383 5674 or ruth.smith@durham.gov.uk

Trustee Week 31st October—6th November 2011

There are just over 180,000 charities in England and Wales and each one is different, but one thing the majority of them have in common is their reliance on their team of Trustees.

Trustees are vital and it is very important for any charity to have Trustees who are committed to their role and who have skills, knowledge and experience that the charity needs. Trustees play a vital role in the governance of charities and have a lot to contribute to their success.

It's very important that charities consider the need for diversity on their Trustee boards. Having a range of people from different backgrounds and with a variety of skills and experience will lead to more effectively-run charities. As charities are increasingly called upon to provide a greater range of services to a wider range of people, this is more important than ever.

The second time out for Trustees' Week will run from 31st October to 6th November, celebrating the work of charity trustees and promoting opportunities for people from all walks of life to get involved and make a real difference. Organised by the Charity Commission in partnership with various sector bodies. Check the website for updates at www.trusteesweek.org.uk

CAVOS can provide informal, bespoke training for your Trustees to allow them to find out more about being a Trustee and the responsibilities involved. If you would like to know more or register for this training please contact CAVOS

Updates to the Microsoft Software Donation Programme

The CTX Programme offers donated technology products from Partners such as Microsoft to eligible Registered Charities. Microsoft's software donations programme has increased the number of titles eligible groups can request to 10 per 2-year cycle, instead of 6, and requests can be made as needed, rather than only once a year. The type of charities covered has also been widened with amateur sports and recreational organisations now included. For more details visit the Charity Technology Exchange website www.ctxchange.org (check out the Microsoft page) or contact CTX on 0845 456 8305 or customerservice@ctxchange.org

All such donations will incur an admin charge

Licenses and Permits for Christmas Events

- ⇒ Are you planning to hold an activity or event over the festive season?
- ⇒ Have you checked if you need any specific licenses or permits?

It's so easy to get enthusiastic about having a great event for the community and overlook the less exciting things like licenses and permits needed to run your activities legally. Contact CAVOS for advice

Gospenny.com

A brand new website for Spennymoor! ... and a free webpage for Spennymoor groups.

Gospenny.com is a new website that is being developed by Spennymoor AAP and funded by the North East Empowerment Partnership. The website is due to go live soon and is packed full of information on what's going on in and around Spennymoor plus details of local activities & news.

As part of the website, local community groups and organisations in Spennymoor are being offered the unique opportunity to have their own web page on the site. So if you're a group in Spennymoor and you haven't taken up this great opportunity yet, contact CAVOS to find out more.

Having your own web page is completely free and you can update it yourself or someone from the AAP or CAVOS can update it for you if you aren't familiar with the internet.

This is a fantastic way to get your group online without having to pay a penny or worrying about the difficulties of maintaining a costly and complicated website. What have you got to lose? By having a web page for your group, you will be adding some important information on one of the best things Spennymoor has to offer.... details of your group!

For more information on Gospenny.com and how your group can make the most of the site to advertise your group, contact CAVOS on 01388 811115 or email enquiries@cavos.org.uk

Networking Page

DAFT Exhibition

Running until Friday 18th November @ Shildon Locomotion Museum

Durham Amateur Football Trust (DAFT) are holding an exhibition on the life of local football hero Jim McMillan who played football with Crook Town AFC from 1951-1967. He was a member of Crook's four post-war FA Amateur Cup winning teams, giving him the unique record of four winners' medals.

Durham Amateur Football Trust was formed in 2006 with the aim to gather, collate and preserve amateur football memorabilia from the game's beginning to the present day, arrange exhibitions and displays, and promote the importance of football in the life of local communities.

For more information, contact the Trust via office.thedaft@btconnect.com on 01388 772524 or www.thedaft.org.uk

The exhibition is open during the Museum's normal opening hours and admission to the exhibition is free.

"Talking About Cancer"

The "Talking About Cancer" team is looking for volunteers. They are especially interested in people who would be comfortable working in community venues such as libraries, community centres, pubs and clubs and who would also be good at promoting the service to established groups, for example, male and female church forums, WI's, bingo clubs etc.

The "Talking About Cancer" team is part of the Cancer Information and Support Service and the Team's aim is to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer, encourage the uptake of screening programmes signposting people to their GP if signs or symptoms are experienced.

They are looking for people who are familiar with the Sedgefield area especially the villages around Newton Aycliffe, Shildon, Chilton, Ferryhill and Dean Bank as well as people from Fishburn and Trimdon Areas if possible.

For more information contact the Health Improvement Practitioner (Cancer Prevention) Karen Moore on 01915692894, 07500122324 or email k.moore2@nhs.net

Award Winning Gardens!

Well done to Trimdon Community Gardens who have successfully won the Durham County Council Environment Award 2011. They group are very proud of their trophy and certificate and we're sure that you'll all agree that the award is very well deserved indeed! The group is a previous winner of the CAVOS Organisation of the Year Award....so they're no strangers to award success!

We'd like to formally offer a huge congratulations from everyone on the CAVOS Team who are great fans of the work that Green-fingered goddesses Mary and Stella (and the rest of the gang) do at the Community Gardens. Well done! Roll on 2012!

Aycliffe Village Local History Society

AGM and Social Evening on Wednesday 14th December 2011

Aycliffe Village Local History Society is open to anyone interested in local history, especially that of the Great Aycliffe area. Meetings are usually held Wednesdays at 7pm at Aycliffe Village Hall.

The Society has informative speakers who come along to share details stories and information throughout the year. If you would like to know more contact Brian Gargate on 01325 312090 or gib8868@googlemail.com or visit the website www.aycliffehistory.org.uk

The Society is always looking for historical memorabilia, especially material to copy and put onto the website. If you have anything that you think may be of interest to the Society, please contact them using the details above or ring their chairman, Harry Moses, on 01325 321773 or you can simply give your information and findings to any society member.

Networking Page

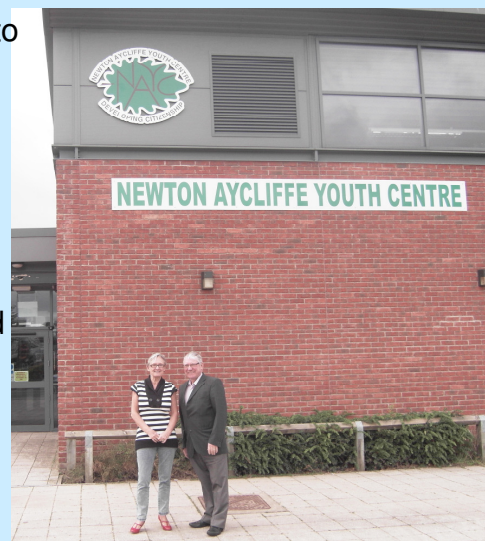
Feature Organisation - Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre

Who we are: The Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre aims to promote good citizenship in young people by giving them the opportunity to plan and participate in programmes which support personal and social development through informal learning which is self determined, challenging and fun.

What we do: We seek to provide an environment where young people feel safe, supported and can gain confidence. The centre works in close partnership with other agencies and offers adult learning opportunities for the communities

Why we are needed: Not only do we have staff who support and care for young people, we are also committed to involving young people in planning and reviewing curriculum activities.

Where we are: The Youth Centre is located opposite to the Tesco store in Burn Lane, towards the centre of Newton Aycliffe.



How you can get involved: We have a range of rooms that are available to the local community to use for a variety of events. This includes a couple of meeting rooms, a fully equipped training room as well as a computer room. However, if studying or working is not what you are looking for we also have a full size gymnasium, a kitchen, a social room and a pool room. The centre also has a main hall which can accommodate approx 60 people and if more room is needed, we can pull back the dividing wall between the pool room and the social room. The premises are big enough for birthday parties, fetes, craft fayres, wedding fayres, conferences, exhibitions, training sessions and much more.

'Young Aycliffe's Got Talent'

The Centre's committee are also hosting Newton Aycliffe's first 'Young Aycliffe's Got Talent'. The event will take place in the Youth Centre. Registration was open until the end of September with all entries under 19 years of age. Heats will be held during October, quarter and semi-final heats are during November. Finals will take place the week beginning 5th December with cash prizes for the top 3 acts. A talented panel of local celebrities will judge the events. Friends and family are welcome along to watch the shows. Heats are £1.50. Quarter and Semi finals will cost £2 per person. The Grand Final will cost £2.50. Children under 7 free. Refreshments available.

How to contact us: Call 01325 307522 or pop into the centre

Top class Kurlers!

We are very pleased to announce that the Fishburn Kurling Club has won the British Kurling Club Championships! The team was Tom Stubbs, Brenda Stubbs, Bert Draycott and Bob Waller

As an icing on the cake, Tom Stubbs also came 2nd in the Singles Championships. Congratulations Champions!



The CAVOS Team

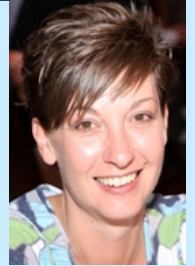


← Gillian Fortune - Chief Officer

Gillian represents CAVOS at a strategic level, working closely with the Board of Directors and is the one who brings in the money! Gillian also delivers training and provides development advice, guidance and support to the Sector.

Sharon Vasey - Volunteer Centre Manager →

Sharon's role is to manage all aspects of the Volunteer Centre's services. Each year, Sharon works with hundreds of volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations to provide advice, guidance, information and training.

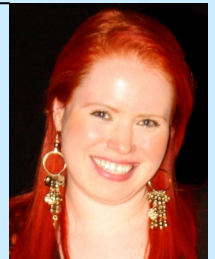


← Laura Agar Wilson - Development Manager

Laura's role is to ensure delivery of the 'CAVOS Support and Development Programme', manage and deliver all Development Team services, deliver training, coordinate forums and provide development advice and support to the sector

Michelle Fortune - Organisational Development Officer →

Michelle's role is to ensure provision of the admin and support service, develop CAVOS as an effective organisation, manage CAVOS events, coordinate in-house systems, marketing and CRB Disclosure Service.



← Donna Zepernick - Information & Communications Officer

Part of the Development Team, Donna's role is to establish communication links, develop information materials for use in CAVOS services, conduct health checks, promote training and provide development advice and support to the sector.

Helen Brown—Projects Officer →

Helen leads on the CAVOS Community Buildings Support Project which includes the development of a website to promote community buildings throughout the area as well as the development of a new volunteering project.



← Tracy Bowman - Finance Officer

Tracy's role is to manage all finances and CAVOS accounts. A qualified and experienced accountant, Tracy works with CAVOS on a part-time basis.

