

November/December 2011

snvb news

Supporting the voluntary sector in South Northamptonshire

MP PRAISES SNVB FOR 'FANTASTIC JOB'!

MP Andrea Leadsom has praised South Northants Volunteer Bureau (snvb) for their work throughout the last year and encouraged them to do even more!

During a speech at snvb's annual review, held at South Northants Council offices on September 22nd, Mrs Leadsom said "snvb do a really fantastic job" and underlined the importance of organisations that help people into volunteering.

Mrs Leadsom, who was guest speaker at the event, said: "They (snvb) have gone from strength to strength. Everywhere you go you see snvb and it's wonderful to know they are there to call upon when getting involved with a local project. It's incredibly useful and probably not fully realised how good it is to have an organisation that can facilitate volunteering."

"snvb do a really fantastic job and my challenge to them is to do an even more fantastic job as volunteering is on the up and up!"

snvb CEO, Rob Tracey, said: "I would like to thank Andrea for her continued support for snvb and for her encouraging comments. I know everyone within the organisation is looking forward to meeting her challenge."

Mrs Leadsom also presented snvb with their recently achieved Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation Award from Volunteering England, the national volunteering development organisation.

To see and hear Mrs Leadsom's speech in full visit: www.snvb.org.uk/snvbnews



Andrea Leadsom MP with Nicola Shaw (snvb Volunteering Coordinator)

WOW - Wonderful, Original and Wicked!!

The School of Life project recently stepped in to add some extra "va va voom" to an outdoor classroom created from a piece of waste ground at Roade Primary School by SN Homes and VINCI Facilities.

The school children designed a colourful wall mural with an underwater theme, which volunteer project artist Shashi Chana transferred to the wall. With the teachers and volunteers help, the children filled the various fish outlines with paint, being careful to keep within the lines. Model eyes and shells were added later to give the wall a 3-D effect.

Amanda Harris, School of Life project coordinator, said "It was very heart-warming when the children came and thanked everyone for their help. Everyone enjoyed the day and were amazed to see such great results in such a short space of time."

This event brought younger and older people together and the wall mural will benefit generations to come.

If you would like to find out more about School of Life intergenerational activities please contact:
Amanda Harris on 01280 841250 or email amanda@snvb.org.uk



Village Networks Project - update

Since the announcement of our success in winning Big Lottery funding for this exciting new project we have been busy preparing to go live with the delivery of our new activities.

The core of the project is to reduce social isolation by providing activities and support services and through increased community involvement.

We will take out a basic menu of advice, guidance and assistance (home safety, security, benefits and debt advice, job seeker advice, green issues, health etc.) which will provide the basis for connection with the local community. Not all villages have a village hall or other meeting place. Where there is such a facility levels of use are variable some being underused and others almost fully booked.

Therefore to ensure access to all villages we have acquired a mobile display vehicle which will have an exhibition of leaflets, posters etc, together with internet access, telephone and a "confidential area" for private discussions.. In addition we will also acquire a 17 seater minibus to offer a transport service to remote activities. This will serve both to meet the needs of those already using the project and as a tool to attract further people to the project.

The first activities will commence in January 2012, but we will be active in the community prior to this, consulting with individuals and groups to ensure we consider all views and plan our first events to start with a bang!

Introducing NORPIP – Northamptonshire Parent Infant Project

NORPIP was launched in Towcester on September 5th by Andrea Leadsom MP.

The charity was formed to help parents who struggle to form relationships with their baby. If these relationships do not develop properly before the age of two it can have a profound and lifelong negative impact on the child which can result, in among other things anti-social behavior in later life.

NORPIP has one fully qualified clinician in Towcester. Zelinda Adam has over 25 years' experience in working in this field in and around Oxfordshire, at the Sunshine Centre in Banbury and with private clients and is currently working for NORPIP every Wednesday. Zelinda is based in the Brook Health Centre in Towcester and works alongside health professionals to give advice and guidance on bonding and attachment. The longer term plan is to recruit more fully qualified, experienced and trained clinicians over the next few months and to extend our work into Children's Centres across Northamptonshire.



Iain Duncan Smith MP has agreed to be a Patron and will officially launch NORPIP on May 18th 2012 at Silverstone Exhibition Centre.

Volunteers are now being sought to help with an exciting fundraising plan over the next year starting with an inaugural Christmas Carol Concert at St. John's Chapel Brackley at 6pm on December 6th.

Please contact: Vanessa Bird, NORPIP Office, Victoria House, 138 Watling Street East, Towcester NN12 6BT email: info@norpip.org.uk Tel: 01604 924735

Carbon Footprint

Starting with this newsletter, we are distributing via email where we have an address. Paper copies will still be available for those who do not have email and for display in public places etc.

If you receive a paper copy of this newsletter and would prefer email, please let us know.

This move will save snvb considerable costs in addition to the environmental benefits.



Could your organisation use volunteers?

Have you thought about how your organisation could use volunteers? Every year, snvb matches hundreds of volunteers with roles in a variety of organisations. We also offer ongoing support and training in recruiting, retaining and managing volunteers. If you would like to explore how volunteers could fit in with your group contact Nicola Shaw, on 01327 358264 or email nicola@snvb.org.uk

Forthcoming events

LinkUp (The Community Networking Forum)

Thursday 15th December at 1.00pm - 2.00pm
Towcester Volunteer Centre

South Northants VCS Forum

Thursday 19th January 2012 at 2.00pm
South Northamptonshire Council Offices, Springfields, Towcester

Training

CVS Northamptonshire is continuing its programme of delivering low cost, Lottery funded, human resources and associated workforce capacity building training across the county.

Training for November and December includes:

- Project Management
- Health and Safety
- Social Media
- Computer Skills

For more information, contact Pat Taylor on 01604 624121 or email pat@cvsnorthamptonshire.org.uk

Give Your Time This Christmas

Every year more and more people give up a few hours to help others during the season of goodwill. So why not make your time a Christmas gift this year by getting involved in volunteering? Remember, opportunities can take place throughout December leaving Christmas Day free if you prefer.

Last year, volunteer Bill Moore spent Christmas Day helping out at the annual festive dinner in the Chantry House, Towcester, and also volunteered to drive one of the guests home afterwards. He said: "I have never done anything like this before but I saw snvb's advertisement and I decided I would do it. I enjoyed the day and I would say to anyone thinking about volunteering at Christmas to just do it because it's a very satisfying feeling."

Contact Nicola on 01327 358264 or email: nicola@snvb.org.uk if you would like to find out more about volunteering at Christmas or if you have any seasonal volunteering opportunities. Remember some volunteering projects need to be coordinated well ahead of the holiday season so please get in touch now!

volunteering

