

Inside this issue

"The behaviour of Lancashire County Council is well below the standards we expect". Kevin Curley, Chief Executive, NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action). (See page 3 for more information)

LCVYS CLOSURE UPDATE

We have received many messages of support during the short period since we announced that the LCVYS Board had decided to wind-up LCVYS [both as a Company Limited by Guarantee and as a Charity]. This was not an easy decision to take, but the bleak facts are that we neither have the financial resources to sustain our work nor sufficient support from volunteers to assist with the management of the charity.

At the last meeting of the LCVYS Board we considered the wind-down of the Charity, prior to its closure. We had previously announced that the target date would be 30 June 2008. We now appreciate - having consulted widely, including the Charity Commission and our Auditors - that things are never that simple!

Thus, on 30 June 2008, LCVYS will cease to operate in the form that we currently know it. Our staff will be redundant from that day and we will vacate our offices in Guildhall House, Preston. However personnel will be committed, after that date, to:

- The winding-up of LCVYS both the Company Limited by Guarantee and a Charity.
- The conclusion of one specific piece of work.

Following consultations last week, I can now report that LOLLYTRAD - LCVYS's Trading Arm (and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company/Charity) - has been the subject of a management buy-out. We are now working with Peter Beesley - LOLLYTRAD's Company Secretary - to formalise the transfer of the Company from LCVYS to him.

For details visit the website www.lollytrad.co.uk

Elsewhere in this issue our Company Secretary will provide an update on the challenge to the Compact, which - with one exception - our members (who had been subject to a significant reduction in the strategic grant-in-aid provided by Lancashire County Council) had mandated us to submit on their behalf. From the meetings I have attended, in relation to this matter, I know that this will not be an issue that will be resolved quickly. Already we have been involved in some ground-breaking issues.

Once again, I must acknowledge - publicly - the commitment of our permanent staff for their on-going support during these difficult and challenging times.

If any further information or clarification is needed please do not hesitate to contact either the Company Secretary (ian@lcvys.org.uk) or myself (through the Company Secretary).

Tony Andrews
Chairman, LCVYS

CONGRATULATIONS

In February 2008, Tony Andrews was informed that the Chief Scout, Peter Duncan, had awarded him the Silver Wolf which is the highest award adults in Scouting can achieve.

In the eyes of all who know Tony, including those from many other organisations who deal with young people, this award was richly deserved, and it was fitting recognition that he was invited to the National St George's Day service at Windsor Castle this year to receive his award.

Tony has been involved in Scouting for many years; his adult service alone is in excess of 40 years.

The Scout Association has, on a number of occasions, recognised Tony's service to Scouting and the wider community. In 1976 he was awarded the Medal of Merit, in 1981 "The Silver Acorn" followed in 1993 by The Bar to his Silver Acorn. None of these awards are made lightly, neither are they awarded simply for length of service, they are without doubt for quality of service.

During his time in the movement, Tony has been required to relocate on numerous occasions, due to the fact that he is a serving RAF officer, therefore his talents have been shared by Scout Counties all over the UK.

All his Scouting service has been voluntary; the appointments he has held indicate the breadth of his knowledge and include, Assistant Scout Leader, Venture Scout Leader, Various Assistant District

Commissioner posts, Leader Trainer, later becoming the Scout Association's National Advisor for Creative Activities, a member of the Scout Association's National Governing body, The Committee of the Council.

In 1996 he was appointed the UK National Commissioner for Activities. This was shortly after the Lyme Bay and other disasters involving young people who had been undertaking adventurous activities. During that period until 2001, he was the Association's lead person, dealing with the full range of Scouting activities and coordinating the various meetings and responses with other NGBs in the wake of the Government's AALA legislation. In 2001 he relocated to Lancashire and, before Long, became Deputy County Chairman of West Lancashire Scout County.

Other highlights in Tony's Scouting career include organising large international camps in various parts of the country, leading a major Scouting event "In the Spotlight" held in the Royal Albert Hall, involvement in the National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestras and a very special musical event held in the Natural History Museum which was attended by Government officials, European heads of state and members of Royal families.

LCVYS would like to add its congratulations to Tony on achieving this well deserved award.

IN KIND DIRECT

Argos has donated 20,000 items, ranging from mp3 players to coffee tables, to In Kind Direct to be redistributed to charities. The goods constitute one of the largest donations received by the charity, which works to encourage manufacturers and retailers to donate products for good causes. In Kind Direct re-distributes new goods donated by some of Britain's best-known manufacturers and retailers to hundreds of voluntary organisations working at home and abroad. In Kind Direct has assisted almost 5,000 charities, working with over 750 donor businesses and funders.

To be eligible to receive goods you must be registered as an In Kind Direct Charity Partner.

Registration is free. As a partner your organisation will have access to the online catalogue which shows you what goods are available. Goods received through In Kind Direct must be either:

- ◇ used to meet the operational needs of your organisation
- ◇ distributed free of charge in accordance with your organisation's charitable objectives.

Goods received through In Kind Direct cannot be sold, bartered or traded. In other words, they cannot be used for fund-raising activities such as raffles, tombolas, or auctions, or sold in charity shops or markets, or given to staff or volunteers.

For more details visit the website www.inkinddirect.org/

THE ELECTRONIC LOLLY

Please note: The LOLLY newsletter will no longer be available as a hard copy. If you don't already receive the LOLLY, free of charge, by email please sign up, details below

The LOLLY newsletter will now **only** be available electronically. To receive the LOLLY, free of charge, electronically, send an email with the words "subscribe lolly" in the main body of the email to: majordomo@lcvys.org.uk and you will be added to our list and receive confirmation by return email. To receive the latest copy of the LOLLY by email at any time, send a blank email to: latestlolly@lcvys.org.uk within a few seconds the latest edition will be emailed back to you. The LOLLY is also available on the LCVYS website.

COMPACT UPDATE

'Public law and the Compact require that local authorities treat voluntary organisations fairly and reasonably and consult with them in a timely manner especially when funding cuts are proposed. The behaviour of Lancashire County Council is well below the standards we expect. It suggests that there is a long way to go in Lancashire before partnership between the Council and the third sector is one of mutual respect'. Kevin Curley, Chief Executive, NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action).

As readers will be aware from the last issue, LCVYS submitted a complaint of maladministration of Compact against Lancashire County Council over the decision making and communications processes employed by the Authority over the financial years 2007 - 2008 and 2008 - 2009. The complaint was submitted on 2 April 2008. Since then it has attracted national attention with coverage in 3rd Sector, Children and Young People Now and, more locally, the Lancashire Evening Post. Lancashire MPs, Government Departments and national voluntary organisations, NAVCA and NCVYS prominent among them, have also responded positively. A round up will be included in the next edition. Following submission of the complaint a meeting was held with key Lancashire County Council staff on 21 May 2008. Various options aimed at reaching a solution, with the support of an independent mediator, through a process of confidential discussions, were explored. LCVYS has however opted to follow the County Council's formal complaints procedure in the first instance and will report progress on an ongoing basis through the LOLLY.

MILBURN BACKS STATUTORY POWERS FOR THE COMPACT

Former cabinet minister Alan Milburn has called for a Community Empowerment Act to give statutory force to the Compact and consolidate the sector's role in public service delivery. Milburn said the new law should give voluntary organisations the right to bid for any tendered public service, make three years the normal length of contracts and enshrine the right of the sector to campaign.

Speaking at Acevo's Chief Executives Summit on 12 June, Milburn - who was health secretary in Tony Blair's government - said these changes would give substance to good intentions and put public service delivery and community regeneration on a sure footing.

The Government and the Commission for the Compact are reviewing how the Compact works and whether it should be given statutory powers. Chief executives body Acevo is in favour, some sector leaders are not and umbrella body the NCVO thinks it is bound to happen.

Milburn told the conference that politics was changing from top-down paternalism to community empowerment. "This is new political territory that neither the right nor the left has come to terms with," he said. "Whoever does, will win."

Source: Stephen Cook, Third Sector Online, 13 June 2008

CALL TO FIND UK'S CHARITY HERO

The search is on for the £30,000 winner of Gordon Brown's 'Nobel Prize of the Charity World'. The Beacon Fellowship Charitable Trust has put out the call for nominations for the 2008 Beacon Prize. Together with the Government's Cabinet Office, the charity is urging people throughout the UK to nominate individuals who have made a significant charitable contribution in giving time, money or skills to a specific cause.

With awards in five categories and additional regional prizes for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the winners will be invited to attend a gala evening in London where the overall prize winner will receive £30,000 to donate to the charity of their choice.

Do you know someone who deserves a Beacon Prize?

Perhaps a young person who gives their time and talent to help others? Or a person with energy and originality, and transformed things in their community? Or someone who has used their skills to help transform a charity? Has someone you know created an idea that has changed people's lives? Categories for nomination include Leadership, Community Builder, Creative Giving, New Initiatives and Young Philanthropist.

If you'd like to nominate someone for the Beacon Prize 2008 visit www.beaconfellowship.org.uk for a nomination form. Alternatively email enquiries@beaconfellowship.org.uk or telephone 020 7203 8291. Deadline: 1 July 2008

TACKLING DRUGS CHANGING LIVES AWARDS 2008

Recognising, celebrating and rewarding the unsung heroes who change lives every day. The Tackling Drugs Changing Lives Awards scheme is now in its third year and has been set up to reward an individual and a team who have really made a difference in their local community.

The winners will receive a prize of £10,000 for their project or organisation to spend on the prevention or treatment of drug misuse.

They are looking for people who go the extra mile every day of the week - either working in treatment centres, helping to educate young people about the dangers of drugs or supporting families of service users.

Anyone can nominate a drug worker and/or team for the awards, whether they are colleagues, friends, family members or current or ex-service users. Just complete a nomination form available from the website below.

Full details on website: <http://www.drugs.gov.uk>

CRB FOR VOLUNTEERS GUIDANCE

The Cabinet Office has published new guidance for organisations that make use of volunteers, to clarify when Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks need to be carried out.

The guidance explains how CRB checks work as part of a proper risk management process, and will help cut unnecessary red tape by identifying when checks are **not** necessary.

The guidance is available on the Cabinet Office's website.

Visit www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Draft Legislative Programme

The Cabinet Office is also calling on third sector organisations to express their views on the Draft Legislative Programme, which sets out the government's plans for legislative and key non-legislative action in next year's Parliamentary session.

Visit www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk for more information.

THE PHILIP LAWRENCE AWARDS 2008

You can make a nomination online from the website below.

The Philip Lawrence Awards reward outstanding achievements in good citizenship by young people aged 11 to 20.

The national scheme recognises groups that are making a real contribution to their local community and the lives of others; and groups that promote respect and understanding of faiths, culture and communities internationally. The focus is on exemplary activities - examples of young people working together, promoting citizenship and overcoming the difficult situations some young people face. The Awards were set up in memory of head teacher Philip Lawrence, who was killed in December 1995. Philip Lawrence inspired many young people, and the Awards commemorate his deeply held conviction that all young people are capable of achieving great things.

The closing date for entries is 12 September 2008 Website: <http://www.4children.org.uk/pla/>

QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is equivalent to the MBE and recognises the outstanding contribution that volunteers make to their local communities.

The announcement of the Awards was made on 2nd June with Lancashire having two winners this year. The successful volunteering groups are:

- ◇ Aughton Ormskirk University of the Third Age
- ◇ Callon Kid's Community Club, Preston

If you know of a volunteer group that devotes its time to helping others in your local community and deserves recognition, nominate them for an Award

You can nominate a group (two or more people) if it is based in the UK. The group has to have been volunteering for the benefit of people in the UK or overseas for at least three years. More than half its members must be volunteers who have the right of residence in the UK. Groups solely concerned with fundraising for charitable purposes are not eligible.

Award recipients are entitled to use the Queen's Award emblem on their website, stationery and other printed material.

The Award recognises achievements by volunteer groups.

If you wish to nominate an individual for a national UK honour, you can get further information and a nomination form from the Ceremonial Secretariat at Website: www.honours.gov.uk or by calling Tel: 020 7276 2777

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, c/o Consolidated, 22 Endell Street, London WC2H 9AD
Email: queensaward@consol.co.uk Tel: 020 7781 2397 Website: www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk

FUNDING SCHEME NOW INCLUDES VOLUNTEERS

A government scheme that gives funding to organisations to improve the skills of their workforces has been extended to cover volunteers working with third sector groups.

The 'Train to Gain' initiative, available to paid employees in the third sector, will now be available to volunteers.

Under this scheme, employees contact 'skills brokers', who visit their organisations, free, to provide independent advice and help employers find training programmes that suit their staff.

For more information download the new LSC leaflet, Train to Gain and the Third Sector, <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-traintogainandthethirdsector-jun08.pdf>

which states, training for volunteers would now be subject to the same subsidies as those for paid employees.

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is a grant-making charity, which supports people in need. Since 1981, we have made grants totalling over £72 million to thousands of individuals and non-Masonic charities. The work of the Charity continues a commitment to charitable support that began nearly 300 years ago in the earliest days of organised Freemasonry.

www.grandcharity.org/pages/nonmasonic_grants.html

V FUNDING FOR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

The v Match Fund brings together private sector partners and charities to create innovative volunteering opportunities. By harnessing the creativity and energy of young people, they can bring communities together and find solutions to society's biggest problems. They can change lives, protect the environment, create safer neighbourhoods, improve the nation's health and, give 16-25 year olds, skills, confidence and experience.

The v Match Fund matches up to 100% of any new investment in youth volunteering - that's double the money, and double the impact of the investment. Private companies, charitable trusts/foundations and individuals are seizing the opportunity to build volunteering initiatives. They want to create opportunities so inspiring that volunteering becomes a valued part of the lives of most 16-25 year olds. They want to reach out to some of England's most disadvantaged and disengaged young people. They want to create real change in communities, tackling the big issues that the nation's youth tell them they're concerned about.

For more information contact: v, 5th Floor, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF Tel: 020 7960 7000

Website: www.wearev.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid=108

SPORT RELIEF 2006-2008

In the UK, Sport Relief aims to support projects that use sport and exercise to strengthen communities and provide opportunities for people who are excluded or disadvantaged. This money is being distributed in two ways.

The Community Foundations Programme

Over the next two years, up to £4million of Sport Relief money is being distributed through Community Foundations focusing on community groups that are using sport and exercise to:

- ◇ increase access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion and isolation
- ◇ help people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives to regain their confidence and self esteem.

These grants are available up to £10,000 and are being distributed by the Community Foundation Network on our behalf.

The UnLtd Sport Relief Awards programme

These grants will support young people aged between 11 and 21 to set up projects that use sport and recreational activities to tackle conflict in their local area and improve community relations.

These grants are available up to £5,000 and are being distributed by UnLtd on their behalf.

The UnLtd Sport Relief Awards will be closing to all applications on the 1st October 2008.

For more information and to apply for a grant, contact UnLtd on 0845 850 1122

Websites: <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk/sport-relief/>

<http://www.unltd.org.uk/template.php?ID=110&PageName=sportrelief>

MYPLACE - ENGLAND

myplace aims to deliver world class youth facilities driven by the active participation of young people and their view and needs.

Funded projects must deliver all the following outcomes: more young people, parents and communities feel that young people have exciting and safe places to go in their leisure time where they can get involved in an attractive range of activities; more young people, particularly the most disadvantaged, participate in positive leisure time activities that support their personal and social development; more young people have access to information, advice and support services from within places they feel comfortable; stronger partnership working between local authorities, third, private and public sector partners to plan, deliver and operate financially sustainable youth facilities with and for young people.

myplace will only fund projects that will deliver on all four of these outcomes and demonstrate evidence of the real participation of young people, particularly disadvantaged young people, in the development, design and future of running of the project.

All projects will need to demonstrate genuine cross-sector partnership between public sector bodies and third and/or private sector organisations.

The fast track will enable early investment in projects that are already well developed and therefore able to submit robust business and capital plans with their application. This will enable final investment decisions to be made on the basis of the single application.

The standard route will provide applicants with an in-principle investment decision prior to providing capacity building support to help them develop their detailed delivery plans.

The deadline for fast track applications is 29 July 2008 and the deadline for the standard route is 30 September 2008.

Full guidance materials and application forms are available from the website.

BIG advice line Tel: 0845 4 10 20 30

Website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_myplace?regioncode=-uk&progStatus=open&country=%20UK&status=theProg&chan=funding&title=myplace

HILTON IN THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Foundation makes grants to a wide range of charities and organisations that meet one of our three chosen areas of focus: Young People - Education; Young People - Health; Disaster Relief and International Fund.

The Foundation aims to support a range of causes helping young people, across the UK and Ireland. There is no limit on the amount of money that a charity can request. However, the Foundation is a small charity and generally will not make awards of over £50,000 (per year). Funding can be requested for up to 3 years for any particular project.

Remaining application deadlines in 2008 are: 4 August for Grants Committee Meeting 3 September 28 October for Grants Committee Meeting 29 November

In response to ongoing demand from charities and good causes, Hilton Hotels agreed to donate a number of accommodation vouchers for use by charities for raffle or auction prizes at their fundraising events. The Foundation manages this process and to enter the monthly draw to receive a voucher, requests should be made by email: info@hilton-foundation.org.uk

Guidance and application forms are available on the website.

Hilton in the Community Foundation, 179-199 Holland Park Avenue, London W11 4UL

Tel: 020 7605 7733 Fax: 020 7605 7736

Email: info@hilton-foundation.org.uk Website: www.hilton-foundation.org.uk

how2fundraise.org

The most comprehensive, FREE on-line resource for the UK's 16 million volunteer fundraisers, from the Institute of Fundraising.

Raising money for good causes is easy and they can show you how. Share what you know and get inspired by others. <http://www.how2fundraise.org>

UK FILM COUNCIL FUNDING

The UK Film Council fund script development, film production, short films, film export and distribution, cinemas, film education, culture and archives, festivals and audience support schemes.

Development Fund - to broaden the quality, range and ambition of film projects being developed in the UK and to build a talent-driven home for writers, directors and producers.

First Feature Film Development Programme - aims to identify and support emerging filmmakers; screenwriters, writer/directors and writer, director, producer teams who have not made a feature film or who have not yet had a feature film released theatrically or broadcast on UK television.

Generally, awards of up to £25,000 will be offered to screenwriters/writer-directors to write and develop a feature film.

Feature Film Development Programme - This programme will make awards to fund several stages of development up to and including pre-production of a project at rates in line with industry norms.

Premiere Fund - aims to invest in talented filmmakers and in commercial films with wide audience appeal in the UK and worldwide. On average the Premiere Fund invests in 8-9 films per annum. The fund also invests in market test screenings of films.

New Cinema Fund - encourages unique ideas, innovative approaches and original voices. It aims to finance films with passion and verve that connect with a broad range of audiences investing £5 million a year.

Prints and Advertising Fund - supports the distribution and marketing strategy of 'specialised' films and has recently launched a UK Film Festivals Fund.

Full details are on website: www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/funding

SITA GREENPRINTS

GreenPrints is an England-wide volunteering programme offering opportunities for you to simply turn up and take part in one or two-day conservation events.

Or, for those that fancy a slightly bigger challenge, GreenPrints offers the opportunity for you to design and deliver your own Flagship project over a longer period of time and have a budget of up to £10,000 to do it.

GreenPrints Flagships can fund your own project lasting up to 12 months. Projects should be designed, created and actively led by volunteers aged 16 - 25. Groups can apply for up to £10,000 and practical support from an experienced GreenPrints Mentor.

Flagship projects should focus on improving an outdoor space which is open to the public. That could be a park, playing field, river, beach or cycle path. The space isn't too important - it's how you improve it that matters.

Download the Flagship project guidance notes from website below. Complete a stage one Flagship application form. Provide as much detail as possible and return the form to SITA Trust

Application Closing dates 22 August 08, 24 October 08

If you have any questions contact: SITA Trust, The Barn, Brinkmarsh Lane, Falfield, South

Gloucestershire GL12 8PT Tel: 01454 262910 Fax: 01454 269090 Email: greenprints@sita.co.uk

Website: <http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/greenprints/apply/flagships>

RED NOSE DAY PROGRAMMES 2005-2008

They are concentrating their funding on 6 programme areas:

Young people - They have three separate programmes:

Young people with mental health problems; Young people with alcohol problems; Young people abused through prostitution and trafficking. You can only apply into one of them. They are all part of their Main Grants programme for funding over £5000. They only fund work with young people aged 11-21 and they do not fund general youth work.

Website: www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk/application/yp-preview.php

Older People - They have two separate programmes: **Promoting older people's advocacy and campaigning; Small grants to tackle isolation and loneliness.** You can only apply into one of them.

Website: <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk/application/op-preview.php>

Mental Health - They have two separate programmes: **Advocacy and campaigning; Small grants for user-led mental health groups.** You can only apply into one of them.

Website: <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk/application/mh-preview.php>

Refugees & Asylum Seekers - They have two separate programmes: **Supporting vulnerable women; Building community links.** You can only apply into one of them. They are both part of their Main Grants programme for funding over £5000.

Website: <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk/application/ra-preview.php>

Domestic Violence - Their new focus will be on young people affected by domestic violence.

Website: <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk/application/dv-preview.php>

Disadvantaged Communities - In this programme, £5000 is the most you can apply for. This programme aims to put the power for change with local people.

Website: <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk/application/dc-preview.php>

Application forms for all these programmes can be downloaded from their website.

For grants over £5000 the next deadline is 15th August 2008. For grants under £5000 there is no deadline.

Comic Relief UK, 5th Floor, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP Tel: 020 7820 5555 Fax: 020 7820 5500 Minicom: 020 720 5579 Email: red@comicrelief.org.uk Website: www.comicrelief.com

HEDLEY FOUNDATION

A charitable foundation which supports young people, the disabled and the terminally ill.

The main objective of the Trustees' grant-making is to assist and encourage development and change. It follows that most grants will be of capital or one-off nature, but the Trustees sometimes agree to help fund the introduction of new and innovative projects with a series of up to 3 annual grants. Few grants exceed £5,000 and most of them go to charities where they can make an impact. We do not support large or national appeals.

Within the main objective, the Foundation makes grants according to its published criteria, which are reviewed from time to time.

Applications for grants should be made on their application form which can be downloaded from website below.

The application form should be completed in typescript, printed off and sent by post to Mrs Pauline Barker, The Hedley Foundation, 1-3 College Hill, London EC4R 2RA Email:

pbarker@hedleyfoundation.org.uk and should be accompanied by your email address or a self-addressed envelope (not necessarily stamped).

The Trustees meet six times a year. The closing date for a meeting is three weeks beforehand.

Website: <http://www.hedleyfoundation.org.uk/>

IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY

It's your Community celebrates all the fantastic projects happening up and down the country every week, thanks to their community awards, starting from £100 and up to £1,000.

Awards should be for the benefit of the community, or to build community spirit.

If your idea is any of the following: a physical improvement that you can touch; likely to make real, tangible results that you can see; demonstrates fresh, bold thinking, and is innovative enough to inspire others. Why not apply?

Below are some examples of the types of projects we help out with. This list isn't exhaustive, and they're open to new, ground-breaking suggestions outside these four areas.

Community Places - Improving the places communities share. Revitalising and reinvigorating your community spaces. Maybe you need new swings for your local playground, a better roof for your sports pavilion? Or a lick of paint for your community centre?

Community People - Helping bring people together. To help create a community where people are valued and respected, where there's a real sense of unity and belonging. Whether it's about hosting lunch clubs for older people, theatre groups and sports clubs for the young; or if it's about setting up cultural groups to help understand local issues.

Community Pride - Tackling issues head on and restoring a sense of pride. Helping put the pride back into your community. What changes can you make to help make your community proud? From litter pick ups, to park makeovers, to graffiti removal, to restoring paths or renovating historical buildings.

Community Landscape - Improving communities natural environments. Improving the natural environments where we live. Creating community gardens, planting trees, improving public access to river-banks, or building bridges. .

To apply for an award visit www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk/ApplyForAnAward.aspx

THE GREAT BRITAIN SASAKAWA FOUNDATION

The Foundation's aim is to develop good relations between the UK and Japan by advancing the education of the people of both nations in each other's culture, society and achievements.

It seeks to promote mutual understanding and cooperation through financial support for activities in the following fields: Arts & Culture; Science, Technology and Environment; Humanities and Social Issues; Japanese Language; Medicine & Health; Schools, Education and Youth Exchanges; Sport.

Whilst encouraging applications in each of the above fields, the Foundation particularly wishes to support activities/projects in science & technology; medicine & health; environment & social issues; Japanese studies; and in the Japanese language.

The Foundation's awards are intended to provide "pump-priming" not core funding of projects, but small grants have enabled a wide range of projects to reach fruition, such as: Visits between the UK and Japan by academics, professionals, creative artists, teachers, young people, journalists and representatives of civic and non-governmental organisations; Research and collaborative studies, seminars, workshops, lectures and publications in academic and specialist fields; Teaching and development of Japanese language and cultural studies in schools, Exhibitions, performances and creative productions by artists, musicians, film-makers, writers and theatre groups.

For more information and an application form visit <http://www.gbsf.org.uk/>

The deadlines for 2008 are 31 August and 15th December.

Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, Dilke House, 1 Malet Street, London WC1E 7JN Tel: 020 7436 9042 Email: grants@gbsf.org.uk Website: www.gbsf.org.uk

POSTCARDS FROM THE PARK PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Run by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund, 'Postcards from the Park' is your chance to win £1000 worth of Jessops vouchers. The organisers want you to capture what it is you love about your favourite park. Photos (up to five per person) can be submitted via the website, mobile phone or by post.

There will also be a finalist and runner-up for each country and region across the UK, who will have their photographs curated for a national exhibition and turned into postcards. To send your photo via the website visit www.postcardsfromthepark.org.uk To send from your phone text PARKS, your name and where you took the photo to 07803 851600. Or post your entry to Postcards from the Park, GreenSpace, Caversham Court, Church Road, Reading, RG4 7AD.

Closing date 1 August 2008

YOUTH MUSIC - PROGRAMMES

Youth Music works alongside the formal and community-based sectors to support music-making and training. Their funding complements music in the national curriculum by supporting activities held mainly outside of school hours and delivered by non-profit making organisations.

Youth Music also aims to support wider aspects of music-making through funding training for music leaders, as well as working strategically to bring together partnership organisations from across the music, education and social sectors.

All the necessary information on each programme can be found on their website.

Current open programmes:

First Steps - to encourage and support regular creative music-making activities for children between 0 and 5 years, especially those who would otherwise lack the chance to take part.

Make It Sound - focuses on music-making for 5-18 year olds who otherwise lack the chance to take part.

Vocalise! - to encourage opportunities for children and young people to sing, particularly those who would otherwise lack the chance to take part. Through Vocalise! they want to support proposals where the voice is the principal means of making music. This can be through a range of vocal styles, not only traditional choral singing, for example beatboxing, rapping, any popular music styles with or without microphones, scat singing, musical theatre, opera, gospel, chant and all other vocal traditions from around the world.

These programmes are subject to Youth Music's funding being confirmed by Arts Council England beyond March 31, 2009.

Youth Music, One America Street London, SE1 ONE Tel: 020 7902 1060

Email: info@youthmusic.org.uk Website: www.youthmusic.org.uk/looking_for_funding.jsp

WREN SMALL GRANT SCHEME

The scheme has been designed for projects with a total cost of under £50,000 and grants can be awarded between £2,000 and £15,000. Projects suitable under the WREN scheme may include village halls or community centres, skates parks and play areas, footpaths or towpaths, cycleways or museums.

To find out more about how the WREN small grants scheme could benefit your project either contact WREN Tel: 01953 717165 or visit the WREN small grant scheme section on their website:

www.wren.org.uk/how-to-apply/small-grants

For more information on WRG visit www.wrg.co.uk

BIG - REACHING COMMUNITIES - ENGLAND

Communities are at the heart of Reaching Communities. They want to fund projects that respond to needs identified by communities, and actively involve them. They want to fund projects that help those most in need including those people or groups who are hard to reach. They will give support to those projects they think best meet their communities' needs.

Currently there is no closing date announced but it is due to close later this year and will run until all available funds have been allocated.

Reaching Communities will give grants of more than £10,000 and up to £500,000, including a maximum of £50,000 for capital grants. They have set a maximum overall project size of £750,000 and £200,000 for the total capital element within a project. They will fund projects for up to five years.

They want to bring about the following changes as a result of their funding through this programme: people having better chances in life, including being able to get better access to training and development to improve their life skills; strong communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems; improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy; healthier and more active people and communities.

You can apply to Reaching Communities if you are: a registered charity; a voluntary or community group; a statutory body; a charitable or not-for-profit company; a social enterprise - a business that is chiefly run for social objectives, whose profits are reinvested in the business rather than going to shareholders and owners.

If you have any queries contact the BIG Advice Line on 0845 4 10 20 30 where you can also obtain an application pack and guidance notes.

Alternatively you can download the pack and guidance notes from website:

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities

JOANIES TRUST

The Joanies Trust considers grants for applications that cover projects supporting young people. They welcome applications from organisations working with young people aged 11 to 25.

Applications will benefit by showing how a project supports this particular age group. They want to support projects that offer intensive support as well as those that promote preventative work, and specially those that are designed to lead to individual development through integration, work opportunities or accreditation.

They are looking for excellence, innovation and imagination. They will look for strong evidence of how closely applicants consult young people in developing their service, and for any community involvement or local financial support.

You are welcome to reapply 12 months after the first application.

They will only fund organisations that are registered charities.

They will give grants for running costs, both project and core costs, and capital costs.

Deadline: 31st August. For full details and to download application forms visit website:

www.joaniestrust.org.uk/pages/Joaniesguidelines.htm

Administrator, The Joanies Trust, PO Box 42, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1WH Tel: 01531 633345

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