

BEDS-SPREAD

October 2006

Enclosed with this mailing you will find a briefing on the various **Lottery** Funding opportunities currently available. Please take your time to read the **Lottery** briefing.

Some of the funding opportunities listed are keen to see a smaller number of large, multi-agency applications rather than lots of smaller bids. If you would like to work with others in developing a bid, and you are looking for partners, we can help. Please contact **Maxine** or **Martin** on **01234 354366**.



**Community &
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The Second State of the Borough Event

Saturday 4th November 2006 at The Harpur Suite, Harpur Street, Bedford

The event starts at 9.30am for 10.00am

The Second State of the Borough debate offers all residents from across the borough the chance to express their opinions. The event will begin with an introduction from the Chair, **John Cross**, Chief Executive of **BPHA** and Chair of the **Bedford Partnership Board**, and a keynote speech from **David Russell**, Chief Executive of the **Harpur Trust**. Introductory speeches will cover the following four topics:

- Environment/sustainability
- Parking
- Night-time culture
- Arts, culture and leisure facilities

You will then have the opportunity to join one of the four topical break-out groups to discuss the issues important to you.

You can apply for tickets online at www.bedford.gov.uk/debate, by emailing debate@bedford.gov.uk or by post to **Andrew Robertson**, Room 202, **Bedford Borough Council**, Town Hall, St Paul's Square, Bedford, MK40 1SJ, indicating which break-out group you would like to attend (first and second choice). Entry is by ticket only.

2be1 is a new non-profit organisation looking to offer **personal self-development training** to socially-isolated people in the Bedford area. The training programmes run over a four-week period, one day per week from 10am till 4pm. **2be1** concentrates on motivation, confidence and communication training and combines holistic techniques in combating isolation. They are looking for local community groups who are interested in referring candidates to the programme, especially from groups such as long-term unemployed, lone parents and ethnic minorities. For more information, please contact **Patricia O'Malley** on **08700 423 796**, or email enquiries@2be1.co.uk

Serving the Voluntary and Community Sector in Mid and North Bedfordshire

Registered Charity: 1091423

SNIPPETS

The Local Network Fund Event on Saturday 4th November at Wilstead Village Hall has been cancelled. If you are interested in applying to the **Local Network Fund**, please contact **Maxine** on **01234 354366** or email: **maxine@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk**

Age Concern Bedfordshire (ACB) has launched a new service aimed at older people who cannot get out and about on their own. The **Accompanied Shopping Service** will accompany people anywhere they want to go, within a 7-mile radius of their home (except medical appointments). Leaflets on the service are available from the Bromham Road office, on the website **www.ageconcernbeds.com** or by ringing **01234 346344**. **ACB** also have trained people who can provide information and advice on any Age Discrimination issues concerning the over-50's.

The **1st-8th November** is **National Compact Week**. If you do not know about the **Bedfordshire and Luton Compact**, which aims to develop a close, efficient and more effective equal working partnership between local voluntary and community organisations and statutory agencies, then please take some time to download and read a copy from **www.bedsandlutoncompact.org.uk**.

Bedfordshire Primary Care Trust has now been formed as a result of a merger between **Bedford PCT** and **Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT**. For more information, go to **www.bedfordshirepct.nhs.uk**.

Would you like more information on the importance of **food and nutrition for older people**? If yes, please contact **Laura Osgathorp** at **Bedfordshire PCT** on **01582 864965**.

www.entitledto.co.uk is a website that can help individuals to work out their possible entitlement to benefits and tax credits via an online calculator.

www.direct.gov.uk/Employment/Employees/fs/en is an excellent site for both employees and employers to find guidance on a whole range of employment-related issues, ranging from minimum wage, to maternity leave.

HAPPEN are holding a **Building Creativity Conference** on **8th November** at Shuttleworth Old Warden Park. The Conference (in partnership with **Renaissance Bedford, Arts Council England** and the five local authorities in Bedfordshire) will provide an opportunity for a range of stakeholders to envision what role the Arts might play in the Growth Area. To book a place (there is a fee to attend), or to find out more about the work of **Happen**, visit **www.happen.org.uk**, or phone **01767 626 461**.

This year's **WRG Challenge (WRG:Waste Recycling Group)** has been launched with a **national prize fund of £1 million**, with organisations invited to bid for between £75,000 and £250,000 for capital projects which will make a real difference to their community. Applicants are being encouraged to consider what would improve the community they live in and apply for funding for projects ranging from children's play areas, skate parks and community buildings to nature reserves, sensory gardens and public parks. The **WRG Challenge** aims to breathe life into tired or rundown facilities or provide much-wanted new amenities. Applications need to be submitted by **30th March 2007**. For more information, contact **WREN** who are coordinating the fund on **01953 717165** or visit **www.wren.org.uk**.

Hidden Britain is a new and exciting initiative for Bedfordshire to encourage low-key tourism. Its aim is to encourage people to discover lesser-known areas of the countryside and provide a different and more meaningful experience for the visitor. **Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity** has funding from **DEFRA** to support the creation of six **Hidden Britain Centres** across the county. This is a difficult choice as Bedfordshire is so rich in a variety of attractive places. They are looking for areas to target where they could work with some members of the community to develop a plan that would bring in benefits for everyone concerned. If you feel this might be of interest to you and your community, please contact **Beni Wright** on **01234 832616** or by email at **beniw@bedsrcc.org.uk**.