

# BEDS-SPREAD

July/August 2006

## At last we have merged!

By now we hope most of you will have received our postcard announcing our merger and giving you the new contact details. If you missed it, then the details are on this page. The email addresses for all staff have changed accordingly as well (see below), so please update your records.

### Membership and Mailing

If you are a voluntary organisation, community group or an individual, you should find enclosed with this mailing a form which you will need to complete if you want to receive future mailings from **CVS**, and if you want to become a member of the new organisation. Please complete and return the form as soon as possible.

### Website

Our new website is still being populated with information, so please forgive us for a slight delay in getting it up and running.

### Community and Voluntary Service Staff

Martin Trinder - Chief Officer  
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Tara Charlton - Finance Administrator  
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## Community & Voluntary Service

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## Anybody Looking for Accommodation in Biggleswade?

**Biggleswade Sea Cadets** have almost completed phase 1 of the major refurbishment programme and have spare daytime capacity in central Biggleswade for community/charity groups to use for meetings, training/conferences etc. There may be spare evening capacity, but this is very limited as Sea Cadets meet most evenings during the week, but do enquire!

Accommodation available comprises:  
First floor suite of three meeting rooms with small kitchen and wc.  
Ground floor, a large meeting hall (capacity about 80 seated), comfortable lounge, dining room and kitchen, wc's.

Can be hired as a whole or by the room(s) or area. Fees as modest as we can realistically make them to cover costs and a little for wear and tear contingency! We are keen to see the building put to good community use and benefit.

Contact **Judith Hagger** on **01462 814693**.

Serving the Voluntary and Community Sector in Mid and North Bedfordshire

Registered Charity: 1091423

## Mid Beds Credit Union Project

At the 2005 Bedfordshire 'Cost of Debt' Conference delegates identified a clear need in Mid Bedfordshire for better access to affordable financial services. There is indeed considerable evidence, both locally and nationally, that credit unions provide one of the best means of addressing financial exclusion. A range of key stakeholders have begun meeting as a '**Mid Beds Credit Union Focus Group**' to progress this exciting new initiative. Their aim is to create a sustainable and vibrant credit union for the district, by securing funding and overseeing the process of setting up a district-wide credit union for all those who live or work in Mid Beds.

These key stakeholders to date include:

- Mid Beds District Council
- Bedfordshire County Council
- Aragon Housing Association
- Money Matters Credit Union (Luton)
- Mid Beds Citizens Advice Bureau
- CVS – Mid & North Beds
- Bedford Credit Union
- The Association of British Credit Unions Limited

At this early stage the **Credit Union Focus Group** is concentrating on:

- An assessment of what would be required to create a '*live or work*' credit union for Mid Beds
- The potential for linking up with existing credit unions (i.e. **Bedford Credit Union** or **Money Matters Credit Union**)
- Examining ways in which the services of a credit union can be delivered to those who most need them
- Raising some modest funding to assist the development work
- Inviting other interested organisations and stakeholders to join or support the **Credit Union Focus Group**

A unique opportunity now exists in the form of a strong partnership in Mid Beds to create a sustainable district-wide '*live or work*' credit union using targeted local partners, experience, and proven development models. If your organisation would like to get involved, please contact **Mark Smith** on **01234 354366** or email: [mark@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk](mailto:mark@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk)

## Resources for Developing your Organisation

Needless to say you can contact **CVS – Mid & North Beds** at any time to discuss any development issues you might have with your organisation. When our new website is launched we will have loads of downloadable resources for your organisation, but there are a number of other extremely useful websites designed to help organisations to develop and grow. Firstly, have a look at any of the six national hubs of expertise:

### Governance Hub

[www.governancehub.org.uk](http://www.governancehub.org.uk)

### ICT Hub

[www.ictconsortium.org.uk](http://www.ictconsortium.org.uk)

### Performance Improvement Hub

[www.performancehub.org.uk](http://www.performancehub.org.uk)

### Workforce Development Hub

[www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk](http://www.ukworkforcehub.org.uk)

### Finance Hub

[www.financehub.org.uk](http://www.financehub.org.uk)

### Volunteering Hub

[www.volunteering.org.uk/aboutus/volunteeringhub](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/aboutus/volunteeringhub)

In addition you may also wish to visit the following to seek out their resources:

**Governance Health Check** - a quick 'health check' to help you determine whether your board's at the top of its game or whether there's room for improvement - [www.govhc.org.uk](http://www.govhc.org.uk)

**VolResource** - information for voluntary and community organisations – with more sample policies - [www.volresource.org.uk](http://www.volresource.org.uk)

Again remember to contact **CVS – Mid and North Beds** for all your development needs.

Contact **Mark Smith** on **01234 354366** or email: [mark@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk](mailto:mark@cvsmidandnorthbeds.org.uk)

## Train To Be A Professional Interpreter!

**Herts Interpreting & Translation Service** - in conjunction with **Bedford Partnership Board** - is currently seeking individuals who would like to train as professional public service interpreters.

After completing training, interpreters will be eligible to undertake paid sessional work on behalf of Health Trusts and Local Authorities, helping people who are not fluent in English to access information and services. They may also have the opportunity to undertake further training leading to the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting (DPSI) qualification.

Applicants must be aged 18 or over. They should be both fluent and literate in English and at least one other language. **All languages are welcome.** Enthusiasm, the ability to learn, and a proven commitment to helping others is more important than formal qualifications or previous experience.

Our next training course commences on **Friday, September 29th** at Bedford Central Library, Harpur Street, Bedford MK40 1PG.

For more information, please call: **01442 867212**

## Faraday Square Community Centre

Volunteers are needed to form the new **Faraday Square Community Centre** Management Committee. Anybody interested should contact **Maureen Leask**, the Community Centre Support Manager on **01234 221922** or email: [mleask@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:mleask@bedford.gov.uk)

## Have Your Say About Health Care Beds

**Bedfordshire Heartlands Primary Care Trust (PCT)** is keen to hear what you think about its proposals to improve access to intermediate care beds in the community in Mid and South Bedfordshire.

New NHS money to build new community facilities gives the PCT a real opportunity to make a bid to develop better community facilities across Mid and South Bedfordshire, including the potential to redevelop health and social care facilities on the Steppingley site with a range of partners. The PCT is working on that bid now, but there are more immediate and pressing needs that the PCT is addressing. Some people are cared for in one of the PCT's community hospitals in Biggleswade and Steppingley. However, this is costing over £400 per week more per patient at Steppingley – that's about the same as a district nurse.

Although the quality of care at Steppingley is very good, the current poor state of the buildings and layout of the hospital do not provide a care environment that is fit for purpose in a modern health service. Keeping 16 beds at Steppingley, when less than half are needed by local people also prevents the PCT from providing intermediate care beds in South Bedfordshire, where the population grows much faster.

The PCT is consulting widely up to 12 September on proposals to move intermediate care beds off the Steppingley site and reprovide them in a combination of NHS and private nursing homes, still funded by the NHS, across Mid and South Bedfordshire. This would save hundreds of thousands of pounds a year and free up the site for the future redevelopment of new health and social care facilities that is likely to see more beds returning to the site. You can also make your own alternative suggestion, which could, for example, involve continuing to use beds at Steppingley in some way.

The final public consultation meeting is at the Rufus Centre, Flitwick, on 5 September from 7-9pm. The consultation document is on the PCT website [www.bedsheartlandspct.nhs.uk](http://www.bedsheartlandspct.nhs.uk) and consultation leaflets with a freepost reply slip are in public locations such as GP surgeries, pharmacies, libraries and post offices. You can also call **Diana Smolka** on **01525 636845** to request a copy. Please take the time to read it and let the PCT know what you think.

## Snippets

**WRVS** have launched the **Good Neighbours & Home From Home Hospital Support Service** which seeks that people maintain their independence in their homes and communities particularly in later life, by volunteers offering help with transport, providing companionship, giving information, accompanying clients on outings and social activities, collecting shopping, prescriptions and library books, etc.

For more information, contact the Project Co-ordinator, **Laura Charnock** on **07919 991543** or contact her on email at: [bedshfh.gn@wrvs.org.uk](mailto:bedshfh.gn@wrvs.org.uk)

Make it count



**Age Concern Bedfordshire** has launched its new website: [www.ageconcernbeds.com](http://www.ageconcernbeds.com). Find out about the wide range of services available from this countywide charity, including the handyman, the home help, the gardening and the information and advice services.

**Bedford Credit Union** is starting a new drop-in Money Management and Budgeting class at Kempston Library on Thursday 7th. September 2006. The project is funded by the **Bedfordshire County Council** and the **European Social Fund**. To find out more call **David Sparks** on **07976 989867** or **01234 741279**.

### The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2007

The **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service** (formerly known as The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award) is given for outstanding achievement by groups of volunteers who:

- regularly devote their time to helping others in the community
- improve the quality of life and opportunity for others
- provide an outstanding service

In 2006 only one group from Bedfordshire was granted the award, **Hospice at Home Volunteers** (West Mid Beds & Ivel Valley).

Nominations are now being invited for 2007. So if you know of a group of volunteers who make a real difference in your community, by devoting their time to help others, then get your nominations in by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006. You can find out how to make your nomination at:

[www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk](http://www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk) or by ringing **0845 000 2002**

### CO-ORDINATOR

18.5 hours

NJC Scale Points 21-30

(£17,985 - £23,952 pro rata)



We are looking for an enterprising person to participate in promoting our work through training, supporting & enabling women from diverse communities to run support groups & crèches in areas of Bedford and Kempston. Ideally the successful applicant should have experience of working with people from different backgrounds, and a qualification in childcare, NVQ 3 or equivalent. Good communication and teamwork skills are essential, plus the ability to work flexibly.

**Application pack from: Sue (01234) 309631 or by e-mail to: [isar@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:isar@tinyworld.co.uk)**

Family Groups, a Reg. Charity No. 1045275 and a Co. Ltd by Guarantee No. 2948661.

**Closing date for completed applications: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

This post is subject to a CRB Disclosure Check

*We welcome applications from women from diverse communities*

# Funding

## Sport Relief

Grants for £250 to £1500 with larger sums available for a limited number of projects are available from **Sport Relief** for community groups that use sport and exercise to strengthen communities by:

1. Increasing access to sport and exercise for people who face social exclusion and isolation;
2. Helping people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives to regain self-confidence; or
3. Encouraging people to take part in sporting activities that bring communities together.



The closing date for the next round of applications is **25<sup>th</sup> August 2007**.

Application form and further information available from **Mark West** at the **Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation** on **01525 878142**.

## Big Lottery Community Buildings

The **Big Lottery Fund** have launched their **Community Buildings** programme which will support sustainable buildings that are adaptable to a variety of community needs, have a reduced impact on the environment and can be maintained by the community in the long term. It will also be important for applications to demonstrate accessibility and meaningful involvement of the local community in both use and management of the centre. The programme is open to charities and voluntary and community organisations.



Applications to **Community Buildings** will be assessed in two stages and applicants wanting to apply for a grant must submit their first-stage application form by the **30<sup>th</sup> April 2007**. Application forms and further information available from [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk) or telephone the **Big Advice Line 0845 4102030**

## Big Lottery Fund Advice Plus

The **Advice Plus** programme will fund projects that benefit the people who need advice and the organisations that provide it. They will fund projects that raise awareness of, increase access to, or improve existing advice services. They will also consider funding new advice services or new ways to meet identified needs where no, or limited services exist. The focus of **Advice Plus** is projects that support people in accessing services and benefits they may be entitled to such as housing, education, health services or welfare benefits. This programme is focussing on the voluntary and community sector organisations that have experience in giving advice, or supporting those that do.



The closing date for applications is **30<sup>th</sup> October 2006**. Application forms and further information available from [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk) or telephone the **Big Advice Line 0845 4102030**.

## Home Office Refugee Community Development Fund

**The Refugee Community Development Fund (RCDF)** makes grants available to organisations that work in the UK with refugees and refugee communities, including those that provide services to asylum seekers. Refugees, RCOs, and any other organisations that can demonstrate they are working to provide services mainly for refugees are eligible to apply for RCDF funding. The fund is intended to support Refugee Community Organisations to establish the capacity to enable them to participate in accessing mainstream funding. The deadline for applications is **11th August 2006**. Applications will be acknowledged within 5 days of receipt and notification of grant awards within 12 weeks of the closing date for applications. Application form and further information available from **Refugee Community Development Fund, Immigration and Nationality Directorate, Refugee Integration Section, 6th Floor, Apollo House, 36 Wellesley Road, Croydon CR9 3RR. Tel : 0208 760 8554**

Email: [webmaster.immigration@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:webmaster.immigration@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk>

## The Tudor Trust

**The Tudor Trust** launched its new guidelines in April 2006 and is a charitable trust which supports people and organisations working to achieve lasting change in their communities. **The Tudor Trust** aims to support work which addresses the social, emotional and financial needs of people at the margins of society. They will fund both core costs and revenue costs including capital costs for buildings. There is a two-stage application process. Application form and further information available from **The Tudor Trust, 7 Ladbroke Grove, London W11 3BD**

Tel: 020 7727 8522

Website: [www.tudortrust.org.uk](http://www.tudortrust.org.uk)

## Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales

**Lloyds TSB** is a grant-making foundation and makes grants to recognised charities to help people, especially those who are disadvantaged or disabled. Priorities include charities who work with BME communities, refugees and asylum seekers, people with learning disabilities and older people to enable them to play a fuller role in their communities. They have also launched a themed funding stream in 2006 which will provide support for charities working with ex-prisoners with a focus on the needs of ex-prisoners and an emphasis on their families and mental health issues.

Application form and further information available from **Lloyds TSB Eastern Regional Office, 28 – 34 Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3AH**

Tel: 01284 750168

Email [Sharon.glen@lloydtsbfoundations.org.uk](mailto:Sharon.glen@lloydtsbfoundations.org.uk)

Website [www.lloydtsbfoundations.org.uk](http://www.lloydtsbfoundations.org.uk)



## Community and Voluntary Service is financially supported by:

Bedfordshire County Council, Mid Beds District Council, Bedford Borough Council, The Bedford Charity (The Harpur Trust), ChangeUp and a number of other valued supporters

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