

Voluntary Matters

Issue Number 67
January 2006



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Voluntary and Community Sector News in Luton



Big Lottery - Big Money

The Big Lottery Fund are planning to give out more than £2.3 billion between 2006-2009. They have now agreed their list of new programmes in England. Details of the new programmes are in the publication "England and UK Programmes 2006-2009".

A copy of the leaflet can be downloaded from their website, where you can also register to be sent update information.

The timescale for the new programmes is as follows:*

Environmental - January 06

Young Peoples Fund - By June 06 (extension to programme)

VCS Infrastructure - Full programme by June 06

Children's Play - Early 06

People's Millions - First Round June 2005, (closed till Spring 2006)

Well-being - By March 06

Community Learning - By June 06

Advice services - By June 06

International - By March 06

Tsunami - By March 06


Research - By March 06

***All dates are subject to change - check website.**


Currently Open Programmes are Awards for All, Do it 4 Real, Fair Share Trust, Living Landmarks and Young People's Fund.

Big Advice Line: **0845 4 10 20 30**

Website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk



Volunteer Centre OUTREACH WORKER



The Volunteer Centre at Voluntary Action Luton is seeking an Outreach Worker to assist with its work, extend its services into the community, and promote the development of quality volunteering opportunities. A sound knowledge of volunteering issues and needs is essential, as is the ability to promote skills and knowledge in local communities.

Short-term contract to October 2006.
Salary £17,922 for a 35 hour week.

For an application pack contact
Voluntary Action Luton,
15 New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA. Tel. 01582 733418.
Closing date for applications
Friday 27th January 2006.

*Voluntary Action Luton is committed to equal opportunities
and welcomes applications from all sectors of society.*



Small Grants Funding - Quick Community Champions Fund

If any of the individuals or voluntary groups you are working with are looking for a small grant - up to £2,000 - now is the time to apply to the Community Champions Fund.

They have just been given additional money (underspend from other regions) to spend in their latest round and so far have only received a few applications.

They need applications ASAP - at the latest to arrive by email or post by **MONDAY 23 JANUARY.**

The grants are available to set up new voluntary groups/projects, to pay for training courses which will benefit the community, for new aspects of an already established project group, equipment (up to £1,000) as long as this is coupled with other elements of the project. It is important to show that the individual who is applying for the grant will be enhancing their learning and skills by taking the lead in carrying out the project/training course, etc.

Grants available: 1) Fast Track - up to £500
2) Mainstream - up to £2,000

Please contact Emma Headley on Tel: **01366 347879**
if you would like to know more information.

Email - emma.heley@cover-east.org

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Luton and Bedfordshire Youth
Association—Presents

Stairway to Stardom

Friday 10th February – Saturday 11th
February 2006, Starting at 7.30pm

Show featuring young singers,

dancers and bands from across Bedfordshire!

The Library Theatre, St George's Square, Luton, Box office
Tel: 01582 547474

Tickets £3.00, Conc £2.00, Special deal for group
bookings A show for all the family.

Luton **Assembly**

**Don't forget - The next Assembly meeting
is on the 30th March 2006.**

Free Training Voluntary Action Luton



Charity Accounts and SORP 2005 'Things You need to know'

This one day course is aimed at all finance staff in small and medium sized charities who are responsible for preparing their organisation's Annual Report and Accounts and want to ensure they comply with the new SORP. It is assumed that those attending will have some understanding of the previous SORP (2000).

The course will examine the changes to charity accounting following the introduction of the SORP. The accounting recommendations of SORP 2005 apply to all charities that prepare their accounts on the accruals basis. In addition, they are recommended as good practice guidelines for all other charities to follow.

The reporting recommendations apply to all registered charities.

Date: 10am - 3pm Wednesday 15th February 2006

Trainer: Peter Fairbairn (Independent Trainer)

Venue: VAL: 15 New Bedford Rd Luton

Team Building and Motivating Staff

The Purpose of this training is to enable managers and/or team leaders to gain knowledge, skills and techniques for developing teams and maintaining staff motivation.

This training is suitable for both new and experienced managers and team leaders who want an opportunity to review their current working practice.

Date: 9:30am - 3:30 pm Wed 22nd Feb 2006

Trainer: Linda Small (Independent Trainer)

Venue: VAL: 15 New Bedford Rd Luton

Marsh Farm Training Communication Skills

Learn to speak with confidence to a group, use body language to your advantage and identify your style of communicating.

Date: 10:30am - 3:30 pm Tue 7th February 2006

Trainer: Mike Daligan (Independent Trainer)

Venue: MFCDT Community Enterprise Resource Centre, The Moakes, Marsh Farm, Luton

Protecting Vulnerable Adults

For anyone who works with vulnerable people and would like to find out more about how the abuse of adults occurs and what policies you need to have in place to prevent it.

Date: 10am - 3:30 pm Tues 7th March 2006

Trainer: Valerie Murray

Venue: MFCDT Community Enterprise Resource Centre The Moakes, Marsh Farm, Luton

For booking, further details of all training or to request a training program, please contact

Jennifer Saunders

**Tel: 01582 733418 or Email:
jennifer.saunders@valuton.org.uk
website - www.valuton.org.uk**

News on Voluntary Sector IT



www.crne.org.uk

LAA Bulletin

Government Office in the East of England's Local Area Agreement Team has produced its first regional bulletin which is now available to download for free on their website



www.biginvest.co.uk

BIGinvest encourages business-like responses to social problems by strengthening, growing and telling the stories of the community finance and social enterprise sectors throughout the UK.



**www.rtpi.org.uk/about-the-rtpi/
planning-aid**

Planning Aid - Planning Aid is a voluntary service offering free, independent and professional advice and support on town planning matters to community groups and individuals who cannot afford to employ a planning consultant. .



www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities

HMRC tax repayment claims

Three new forms have been introduced by HM Revenue and Customs for use in nominating those able to reclaim tax (e.g. via Gift Aid) on behalf of charities.



www.refugeeaccess.info

Refugeeaccess.info is a multilingual information website for refugees, established by the Yorkshire and Humberside Consortium for Asylum Seekers and Refugees.



www.probonogroup.org.uk

LawWorks for Community Groups is a referral agency matching community groups with lawyers who will provide free legal advice (not including court or employment tribunal proceedings).



www.ersocietytoday.ac.uk

The Economic and Social Research Council has created a new website giving access to social science research which could help inform policy and campaign activity.



www.bassac.org.uk/info_diversity.htm

The Economic and Social Research Council has created a new website giving access to social science research which could help inform policy and campaign activity.



www.gnn.gov.uk

The Charity Commission has warned charities to protect themselves against internet risks after hackers attacked the online security systems of a Christian charity and stole details of over 2,000 online donors.



Voluntary Action Luton

Voluntary Action Luton (VAL) is an umbrella organisation that supports the growing number of Voluntary and Community Groups in the Luton area (now in excess of 650). The groups form a Community Empowerment Network (CEN) known as Luton Assembly.

Our key role is to raise the sector's profile and gain recognition for the skills and diversity of Voluntary and Community Groups working throughout the area.

VAL provides advice on funding and grant aid; helps groups to set-up; produces a newsletter and a range of other information; and encourages all aspects of volunteering through the Volunteer Bureau.

If you would like to know more about our work please contact us by Email or by telephone 01582 733418.

Executive Director - Anne Laing

anne.laing@valuton.org.uk

Information

mike.halward@valuton.org.uk

Building Services & Finance

maggie.prowse@valuton.org.uk

Community Funding Initiative

jean.myrie@valuton.org.uk

Social Economic Development

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Luton Assembly

lorna.brown@lutonassembly.org.uk

Development

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shaj.choudhury@valuton.org.uk

Volunteer Centre

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Volunteer and Business Resource Project

tabby.adrees@valuton.org.uk

emma.clare@valuton.org.uk

Training

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Patient & Public Involvement in Health

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Caretaker/Cleaner

david.bailey@valuton.org.uk

New Staff at VAL

Hello to you all



My name is Mary Eagle and I have recently started work at VAL as a PPI Forum Support Officer which I see as an interesting and challenging health role. As well as working at VAL, I also work for an Organisation called The Befrienders which is also based in Luton. I work as a Club Organiser running a club for members that suffer or are recovering from Mental Health Disorders.

I have previously worked for this Organisation for the past 11 years and very much enjoy my role that's why I still work there one day a week. Working in the health area at VAL is a new experience for me but one that I am looking forward to help develop. I am look forward to meeting you all.



Hello everyone

My name is Shaj Choudhury and I have recently joined VAL as Community Link worker for Hockwell Ring. I have lately graduated with a Degree in Urban Development where I have studied different aspects of urban regeneration and hope to put my knowledge and past experiences to use in this new role.

I will be holding capacity building sessions at the Hockwell Ring Community Centre every Thursday between 1pm-3pm to support organisations & individuals looking at funding, training and general resources of benefit to the Hockwell Ring community.

In this role I will be attempting to improve communication to the community of Hockwell ring by disseminating information to residents and statutory & community organisations and also try and develop a number of issues highlighted by the development plan for Hockwell Ring.

If you have any issues or concerns that you feel could benefit Hockwell Ring then please contact me on **Email: shaj.choudhury@valuton.org.uk** or **Tel: 01582 733418**

Voluntary Action Luton Voluntary Resource Centre

15 New Bedford Road, Luton, LU1 1SA Tel: 01582 733418 Fax: 01582 733013

Website: www.valuton.org.uk E-mail: info@valuton.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1059287 - Registered Company No: 3275961

LutonAssembly



The Disability Debate

Local Public Service Board

Luton's Public Service Board (LPSB) will be in operation from the 19th January 2006. Its purpose is to align, pool and strategically allocate funding within Luton.

The LPSB is accountable to the Luton Forum and its membership consists of 10 partners including the Assembly Chairperson, Voluntary Action Luton and the public agencies.

Date for your diary

The next Assembly meeting is on the **30th March 2006**. Time, venue and topics to be decided, but you can be sure that the first meeting of the New Year will involve plenty of stimulating debate and excellent networking opportunities.

Full details will be listed in the next edition of Voluntary Matters, but if you can't wait that long details will be posted on the Assembly website from the 19th January. www.lutonassembly.org.uk

The Disability Rights Commission are organising a debate on the obstacles faced by disabled people in interacting with the wider non-disabled community. Contact between different groups in society is one of the best means of challenging prejudice but this does not always happen.

You are invited to consider how we can address this. The question is posed "Disabled people need to do more to integrate into our community" - agree or disagree?

To register on the interactive website and take part in online discussion visit: www.disability.org,

Email: interaction@disabilitydebate.org,
Tel: **0845 333 0303**, text: **07797 882 888**,

Or Write to: The Disability Debate,
Disability Rights Commission,
3rd Floor, Fox Court,
14 Grays Inn Road, London,
WC1X 8HN.



Assembly Representative is awarded an OBE

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Assembly Representative Nazia Khanum on being awarded an OBE for services to community relations and equal opportunities in Luton since 1983.

On receiving congratulations Nazia said "It is thrilling to have such a New Year's gift: but it is also humbling. I share this award not just with the Bangladeshi community, but with all other communities in Luton"



Criminal Records Bureau website

The CRB has launched its new website www.crb.gov.uk which combines the Disclosure and CRB sites. www.disclosure.gov.uk will also now take you to the new website.



Immigration rules

A consolidated version of the current Immigration Rules can be found on the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate website. www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk



Expressing a grievance

Sandy Adirondack's 'Legal Update' reports that recent employment appeal tribunal cases have found that any letter from an employee expressing a complaint - even a resignation letter, and even if it does not say it is a grievance - can be a step one statutory grievance letter. As such it must trigger the statutory grievance procedure.

Details:

www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm

Your Assembly Representative on Luton Forum Themed Sub-groups

Interest Area	Representative	Representative Email:
A Dynamic & Creative Town	Linda Farrell	snapart@hotmail.com
	Andy Calvert	lubya@ukonline.co.uk
Learning Skills	Linda Farrell	snapart@hotmail.com
	Anjana Parmar	anj@lutonmentor.com
	Pamela Hagley	pam@hightown.org.uk
Business	Rose Davis	melrosedavis@aol.com
	David Oakley-Hill	doh@boltblue.com
Environment & Sustainability	David Oakley-Hill	doh@boltblue.com
	Naseem Mirza	naseemmirza62@hotmail.com
	Dorothy Broomfield	dcompton@dcomptonplus.com
Community Safety	Neville White	whiten@ntlworld.com
	Everton Blake	everton@dalecentre.org
Health & Social Care	Rosaleen Burke	rosaleen.burke@ntlworld.com
	David Oakley-Hill	doh@boltblue.com
Community Cohesion	Dr Nazia Khanum	nkhanum@aol.com
	Anjana Parmar	anj@lutonmentor.com
	Sarita Jain	sarita@dallow.org
	Joycelyn Bullock	jos.bullock@ntlworld.com
	Caroline Stephenson	carolinesthenson7@hotmail.com
	Rose Davis	melrosedavis@aol.com
	Dorothy Broomfield	dcompton@dcomptonplus.com
Mobeen Qureshi Natubhai Solanki	(no email)	
Co-ordinating Group	Jenny Spouge	jenny@lutonfoyer.org.uk

Last updated: 15th December 2005



Patient and Public Involvement

All three Forums hold meetings throughout the year to which the public is Welcome. Members of the Forums are volunteers and we need more.

Just a reminder of the In Public PPI Forum Meetings Of the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) PPI Forum for:

Bedfordshire and Luton Partnership

Thursday, 26 January 2006 at 3.30 pm
St Andrew's Church Hall Bedford

Thursday, 27 April 2006 at 7pm
St Andrew's Church Hall Bedford
Annual General Meeting

Luton (working in partnership with tPCT)

Thursday, 9 February 2006 at 2 pm
Board Room, Voluntary Action Luton

Luton and Dunstable Hospital

Thursday, 20 April 2006 at 2pm
Board Room, Luton and Dunstable Hospital
Annual General Meeting

If you would like more information about PPI Forums and how to become a member, or would just like to come along to a meeting, please contact one of the PPI Team; Iris, Mary, Janet or Christine at Voluntary Action Luton on **Tel: 01582 733418**

We would also like to welcome Mary and Christine to the PPI Team



Supporting People Programme Consultation

Supporting People is a grant programme which provides housing-related support services to vulnerable people. It currently helps more than 1.2 million of society's most vulnerable people live independently, but there remains room for improvement.

A new consultation document has recently been launched and responses from the sector are requested by the end of February 2006. The consultation document is available on the COVER website at www.cover-east.org.



Free 'hands-on' support

Are you a voluntary sector organisation working with families in your local community?

Would your organisation like free 'hands-on' support to develop family learning opportunities? If the answer is yes, the Campaign for Learning may be able to help you.

The Campaign for Learning is starting an exciting new national project, funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, to provide expert support for developing family learning opportunities in your local community.

They can offer help with accessing funding and creating exciting new provision for the families in your local area. To find out about the Campaign for Learning, visit

www.campaignforlearning.org.uk



Social Enterprise Visit Programme

Building a successful business is hard enough without falling into the same traps as others that have gone before you.

The Social Enterprise Visit Programme puts you in touch with other social enterprises whose experience can help you make your business a success.

For more details please Tel: **0870 458 4147** or visit www.socialenterprisevisits.com.



Free Community Care Live Event for 2006:

Community Care Live Adult Care Services is a brand new event for everyone working with adults in social care. It will take place at the Business Design Centre, Islington in London on 26th January 2006.

This free to attend one-day event will provide a valuable opportunity for everyone involved in delivering adult care services to come together to debate the big issues, share best practice and network.

The conference programme will cover all the main client groups: older people, people with learning difficulties, people with disabilities, people experiencing domestic violence, substance misusers, and people suffering with mental health problems. In addition to a full and comprehensive conference programme the event will also host a large exhibition.

Details:

www.communitycare.co.uk/ccliveadultcare/index.htm



Local Heritage Initiative

As part of the reforms taking place to the Countryside Agency following the publication of DEFRA's Rural Strategy, it is planned that the Local Heritage Initiative (LHI) Programme will cease in March 2007, and not 2010 as was originally intended.

The programme has successfully enabled over 1,000 community projects to access over £15 million to celebrate their local heritage, gain new skills and develop a greater awareness of the importance of heritage on their doorstep. It is anticipated that the LHI programme will award an additional £10 million to communities in 2005-2007, reaching an estimated total of £25 million over the seven-year life of the programme. More information about the future of the scheme will be available during January 2006.

In the meantime, the programme continues unchanged, and community and voluntary groups in England can continue to apply for grants between £3,000 and £25,000 to preserve their environment, landmarks and traditions. Grants are available for up to 100% of project costs, and applications can be made at any time.

Current grant status - East of England -

Funding is limited in the region but priority will be given to applications that make the best use of community involvement. Applications are particularly welcomed from the Bedfordshire area. Full details see www.lhi.org.uk



Friends Provident Foundation

The Friends Provident Foundation makes grants of up to £200,000 to not-for-profit organisations for projects that address financial exclusion within disadvantaged communities.

The funding is distributed through the New Ideas programme which supports research into financial exclusion as well as seed core funding for new projects, and the Market Models programme which provides funding so that successful projects can be expanded. Details see: www.friendsprovident.com.



The Big Lottery Fund

Summary of All Programmes

The Directory of Social Change have produced a summary of all the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) Programmes

www.dsc.org.uk/charityexchange/blf1205.html

Lottery support for 'Communities of Interest'

BLF's Reaching Communities programme will support projects for work with communities of interest as well as geographic communities.

Because the programme's literature repeatedly states it is for 'local communities' this has been taken by some to mean that it would not support projects to help geographically dispersed groups which have no 'local' communities.

Examples might be support for families or individuals coping with unusual disabilities; or small and dispersed refugee communities.

Happily this is not the case. BLF has confirmed that the programme will indeed consider proposals for work with such geographically dispersed 'communities of interest' or 'communities of need'. These can be cross regional or England wide. The emphasis on 'local communities' in the literature indicates simply that the needs to be met should be "locally identified" (rather than, presumably, arising from a more general or theoretical approach).

UK wide projects for such communities will need to make four 'national' applications but BLF has promised to do all it can to ease this process administratively.

Details: www.biglottery.org.uk



Connected Fund Round 3

The Home Office Connected Fund is designed to support small, locally managed, community groups and organisations tackling gun and knife crime and gang issues in their local areas.

Details: www.governmentfunding.org.uk.



Payroll Giving

The Payroll Giving Grants Programme rewards small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) that set up Payroll Giving with a grant of up to £500.

Details: www.payrollgivinggrants.org.



Big Lottery Boost to Young Social Entrepreneurs

UnLtd, the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs has announced that it will be launching a new £10m funding programme from September 2005. The announcement follows news that the Big Lottery Fund has appointed UnLtd as the lead award partner for its new Big Boost programme. The Big Boost programme will award grants of between £250 and £5,000 to help individuals and small groups of young people, aged 11 to 25, deliver projects in their local areas. Helping individuals develop projects which will make a lasting difference to them and their communities. For more information please visit www.unltd.org.uk.



Awards for All

All voluntary and community groups, schools and town/parish councils should be aware that there is a lot of potential this financial year to obtain a grant from Awards for All, as their budget has been increased by a third to £4.1m. Projects in the field of arts, sport, heritage, community health, education and environment are welcome up to the value of £5,000.

For more information please call **0845 600 2040** or visit www.awardsforall.org.uk.



Adventure Capital Fund

The Adventure Capital Fund is inviting applications under its Investment Programme. They provide loans, funding and some gift capital to fill the gap between traditional grant aid and commercial loans.

In particular they are looking for applications from social and community based enterprises and other similar organisations who feel that they are ready to use their investment as part of a finance package that will enable them to grow and become sustainable.

Details: www.adventurecapitalfund.org.uk.

Strategic Review at

Co-operative Action

Co-operative Action has announced that it is undertaking a strategic review of its grant and loan making programmes. The programme supports the development of co-operative solutions such as self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity to the problems facing many disadvantaged communities.

During the review the grant making programme will be closed, but co-operative, mutual and social enterprises will still be able to apply for loans of between £5,000 and £75,000. Details: www.co-operativeaction.coop.



Prospecting for Gold

Prospecting for Gold offers research services for charities launching capital appeals or looking to identify potential major gift donors.

Details: www.prospectingforgold.co.uk.



£4m fund to open up Workspace

A £4m fund to help community organisations develop incubator and managed workspace for smaller organisations will be delivered by the Adventure Capital Fund.

Sue Peters, chief executive of the ACF said the fund is "about enabling well established organisations to support smaller organisations, while simultaneously providing them with a new source of income."

Contact Adventure Capital Fund on **Tel: 020 7680 1028** or Email: info@adventurecapitalfund.org.uk



Point of diagnosis

Disability Discrimination Act protection for people with serious health conditions came into force on 5 December. A number of charities have got together to provide a new website explaining what this means.

www.pointofdiagnosis.org.uk



ORRION

The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit has launched its Online Race Resource for Improving Outcomes in Neighbourhoods details from www.neighbourhood.gov.uk

ORRION Toolkit: The online race resource for improving outcomes in neighbourhoods is about improving outcomes for BME communities.

The resource will provide practical assistance; information and guidance to help practitioners, partnerships and policy makers deliver improved outcomes for BME communities in deprived areas.

This and a number of other useful toolkits are available free from www.renewal.net



Pandemic Flu

The Health and Safety Executive has issued general guidance for employers and employees.

Pandemic Flu: Workplace Guidance is at www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/diseases/pandemic.pdf



Matrix or Minefield? - Equalities conference

The joint CDX and Community Development Foundation (CDF) equalities conference has now been rescheduled for 2nd March 2006. 'Matrix or Minefield?'

Equalities and empowerment within community development will be an opportunity to celebrate much of the good community development work that is already going on around equalities, but will also create 'safe space' for people to explore some of the more contentious or complex issues that arise when trying to practice in anti-oppressive ways.

www.cdx.org.uk/events/cdxevents.htm#matrix



Free local IT Advice and Support

The Bedfordshire and Luton e-Business Club is a local IT club that provides you with information, advice and support to help improve your organisation's performance through its technology.

Why join the e-Business Club?

Because it's completely FREE and because you want to ensure your organisation is reaching its fullest potential through the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT)!

The club is here for ANY Bedfordshire based concern with an interest in the use of computer technology. As a club member you can enjoy numerous networking opportunities and share your experiences with other organisations in your area. Meetings and seminars are FREE of charge to club members; all you need to do is make sure you reserve your place in time!

Whatever your query relating to ICT in business, whether a simple basic question or more complicated technical advice, we are here to fill in your knowledge gaps and keep you up to date with the ever-evolving technological advances of today. Why not join now FREE of charge and start benefiting from our services. Upon joining, you will be added to the online members directory where other businesses can find your services.

To join please E-mail: itadvice@bl4bl.co.uk or alternatively telephone **0845 355 0355**.



Human Rights Advice

Liberty has set up an advice service on human rights, which aims to help voluntary organisations understand the implications of the Human Rights Act.

General information on the Human Rights Act, answers to frequently asked questions and recent case summaries can be found on the Liberty website and there are also plans to develop an on-line resources on good practice and sharing of experience.

The Human Rights Help-line is on Tel: **0845 122 8621**. www.yourrights.org.uk



Directory of Voluntary & Community Groups

Don't forget to use your voucher to collect your Directory of Voluntary & Community Groups in Luton. This is now available and can be collected from our offices between 9.00 am – 4.00 pm Monday to Friday.

(Please ensure that you bring the voucher to exchange)

Voluntary Organisations can purchase further copies at reduced rate of £15. Statutory, other agencies and companies can purchase copies at £25 per copy (postage is £1.50 per copy) Contact Sue Lovegrove Tel: 01582 733418



VAL's Training & Conference Facilities

The Voluntary Resource Centre training and conference facilities are available for groups to hire. Our town centre location gives easy access to parking, Luton Railway Station and buses.

Bookings 9am – 4.30 pm Monday – Friday

Voluntary Action Luton Members £20 per hour
Voluntary/Community Groups £25 per hour
All other users £30 per hour

Tea, coffee and biscuits and/or lunch can be provided on request at an additional charge. Access for disabled by arrangement. If you would like more information or would like to view the facilities, please contact:

Yasmin Akhtar on 01582 733418

relate Can you help - Relate?

Relate Bedfordshire & Luton is looking for additional premises to run counselling sessions from. We currently see clients in Farley Hill Community Centre, but would like to offer other venues throughout Luton. Our need is for a room with a minimum of three comfortable chairs and privacy.

We currently offer adult relationship counselling, young people's counselling and family counselling, so we need venues which are suited to any or all of these activities, We are very keen to work with agencies who already work with families or young people, as it is important that clients feel comfortable and safe visiting the premises. Our service runs during the day and evenings.

If you have suitable rooms available please contact Lorraine Gunther on **01582 514700** or Email: relate.beds-luton@ntlbusiness.com



New Local Training

The Centre for Youth and Community Development, in partnership with The Dale Centre, will be running the following 1 day courses for adult learners in the New Year.

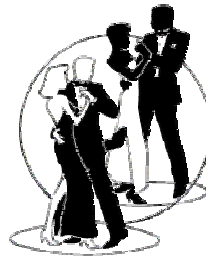
- Asian bridal makeup/beauty
- First Aid
- African/Caribbean Hairstyling
- Child Protection
- Women's and Men's health
- Foundation Certificate in Food Hygiene

All courses will result in a certificate of attendance and achievement. Information will be available prior to each course at the following centres:-

CYCD
The Dale Centre
The Dallow Learning Community Centre
The Women's Centre
Our House

For more information or to enroll on these courses please contact Ruth Gray at CYCD on **01582 401421 / 519500**

Eastern Region Black Women's Network Presents



Valentine's Fundraising Ball

Black tie and evening dress/
traditional African dress on

11th February 2006

8.00 pm – 1.00 am

The Thistle Hotel, Luton

Tickets £45 includes:

3 course Caribbean cuisine 2 bottles of wine per table of 10, Caribbean rum punch Live Entertainment: DJ, Vocalist, Comedienne and **Dancing till Late**

For more tickets and information

Email: erblackwnet@aol.com

or Tel: **01582 452126** or Mobile: **07970689558**



BBC: Getting Going with RaW Workshops

Free half-day workshops for voluntary and community organisations

In the autumn the BBC launched its biggest ever adult literacy campaign. The campaign aims to encourage adults to read more and write better through a series of informal and entertaining events and activities.

NIACE and the BBC have organised a series workshops to support voluntary organisations that wish to get involved. There is **no charge** for the event and refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.

You can find out more about the BBC RaW campaign and how to become a centre by going online at:

www.bbc.co.uk/raw/campaign



Luton Dunstable Partnership and Jobcentre Plus ESF

Capacity Building Project - Networking Event

"Partnerships – and how to make them pay!"

Tuesday 21st February 9.30 am - 2.00 pm

The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine

This Capacity Building Project aims to support Voluntary & Community Groups working with people who are out of work or unemployed by holding networking events, enabling groups to look at key issues, share examples of good practice and to network with other groups from across Bedfordshire and Luton.

This free Event focuses on "Partnerships – and how to make them pay!" and will explore issues around working with other groups and organisations, forming partnerships, partnership agreements and making sure being part of a partnership becomes an opportunity for income into your organisation. For details and booking:

rob.burton@luton-dunstable-partnership.org.uk

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Readers are welcome to use extracts within their own organisation provided its source and Voluntary Matters are credited. Contributions to future issues are welcomed. Next copy deadline, 6th February 2006

Please send copy to the Editor Mike Halward at VAL 15 New Bedford Road Luton LU1 1SA

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