

voluntary VOICE



Neath Port Talbot CVS

The magazine for the voluntary sector in Neath Port Talbot

No—59 January 2013



WELCOME

Dates For The Diary

Events

Funding Surgeries

St Mary's Centre, Church Hall,
St Mary's Place, Port Talbot,
SA12 6DZ, 22nd January 2013,
11.00am - 3.00pm

Bridge Project, Pontardawe,
Swansea, SA8 4WN, 1st March
2013, 11.00am - 3.00pm

Training

Introduction to Business Planning

24th January 2013, 10.00am - 4.00pm
at Neath Port Talbot CVS

Employment Law

5th March 2013 , 10.00am - 4.00pm at
Neath Port Talbot CVS

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Front Cover: Neath Port Talbot CVS' AGM 2012

For further information please contact Neath Port Talbot CVS on
01639 631246 or visit our website www.nptcvb.com

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Neath Port Talbot CVS 14th Annual General Meeting



Neath Port Talbot CVS held its 14th Annual General Meeting on the 8th November 2012 at the Aberavon Beach Hotel. The meeting, chaired by Mrs Margaret Thorne CBE DL, was attended by over 200 members of the local community, Third Sector organisations and partners.

Gaynor Richards, MBE, Director of Neath Port Talbot CVS, highlighted that the Annual Report was being presented in a different format, as an Impact Report, to demonstrate the diversity and effectiveness of the work carried out across partnerships, communities and volunteering. Examples of the organisation's work was also shown in a series of pre-recorded interviews with community members who had benefited from projects operated in Neath Port Talbot by Neath Port Talbot CVS.

The keynote address was given by Professor Richard Davies, Vice Chancellor, Swansea University. Professor Davies spoke about the development of a second university campus, incorporating academic and research facilities, which would bring expertise back to local economy. He said that the University was working closely with industry because they wanted to take responsibility for how business uses skills to make wealth and jobs. The campus will be developed on the old BP site at Jersey Marine and is scheduled to be completed by 2015.

The event was closed with a vote of thanks given by Raymond Ciborowski, Chair of Neath Port Talbot Children's Rights Unit.

For a copy of the Impact Report for April 2011 to March 2012 please contact Neath Port Talbot CVS on 01639 631246 or visit the website: www.nptcvs.com



Breath of Fresh Air Awards

Margaret and Doug Barnard went to the Spectrum Centre in Cardiff on 22nd November 2012 to collect their awards at the BoFAAs (Breath of Fresh Air Awards). The certificates were presented by Chris Mulholland, Head of British Lung Foundation Wales for outstanding work in the community in raising awareness of lung disease, support through Breathe Easy and for fundraising. This year Breathe Easy Neath Valley presented British Lung Foundation with a cheque for just over £8,000. Margaret and Doug can be seen at events all over the area, from Port Talbot to Ystradgynlais, at health promotion events, charity fundraisers and of course at their annual abseil event at Dinas Rock in Pontneathvaughan. This is in spite of Margaret living with the results of COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) for the last seven years and needing to use oxygen on a daily basis to help her breathing.



HMRC Real Time Information (RTI) is compulsory and fast approaching. Are you ready?



From April 2013, employers will be legally required to report every PAYE payroll payment in real time. Real Time Information is being introduced to make the PAYE system easier for employers and HMRC to operate. The system will help support the introduction of Universal Credits, will lead to less underpayments and overpayments and will streamline the year end process. RTI will enable payroll information to be submitted electronically each time a payment is made, rather than at the end of the year as they are now. With April 2013 fast approaching it is important to make the relevant preparations now. If you use a payroll service provider ask what you need to do to be ready for RTI. If you run your own payroll system, you need to upgrade your existing software or download HMRC's free Basic PAYE Tools, available to those with nine or fewer employees. Register for PAYE online if you haven't already. Make sure all your employee information (name, date of birth, gender, address and valid National Insurance number) is accurate and up to date. Align your PAYE data with HMRC. More information can be found at www.hmrc.gov.uk/rti/index.htm.

Memorandum of Understanding between Community Health Councils and County Voluntary Councils in Wales

On 2nd November 2012, the Memorandum of Understanding between Community Health Councils (CHCs) in Wales and the County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) in Wales was formally signed off by Carol Lamyman-Davies, Director of the Board of CHCs in Wales, and Gaynor Richards, Director of Neath Port Talbot CVS on behalf of CVCs in Wales.

The Memorandum of Understanding sets out the framework that CHCs and CVCs in Wales have agreed for co-operation and joint working. Regular liaison will enable the CHCs and CVCs to have greater understanding of their respective roles, more effective dialogue and ultimately contribute to the care and safety of patients and public in Wales.

The Memorandum will not affect the existing statutory functions or amend any policies or agreements relating to the activities of CHCs or CVCs.



Employment Support Services

The Employment Support Services is a new and innovative project that aims to work with employers to address the impact of drug and alcohol misuse on staff and team performance. Led by West Glamorgan Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea areas, we have over 33 years experience operating in the field of substance misuse.

We can assist in 3 key areas:

Counselling support for individuals experiencing problems in the workplace because of substance misuse either directly or through a loved one.

Bespoke training for Companies of all sizes (we work on or off site and can provide a half, full or 2 day training programme according to the level).

Awareness raising – for all staff (1/2 day).

Effectively managing drug and alcohol in the workplace - for managers (full day).

Introducing Drug and Alcohol policies and procedures in the organisation and support to managers and staff to change working practices.

The service is fully funded so there is no financial cost. For more information email ess@wgcada.org or call 01792 646421 or visit www.wgcada.org.



Two schemes to support young people and businesses

The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (the Coleg) is pleased to announce that not only can they provide financial scholarships to students who choose to study their degrees either partially or wholly through the medium of Welsh, they can also offer a work experience scheme and Welsh Language Skills Certificate to such students. The Welsh Language Skills Certificate is open to all students studying at a university in Wales, so, if you're a student, get in touch!

Employers ...

Do you operate bilingually? Do you want to do more through the medium of Welsh? If you are an employer within the public, private, third sector, or if you're a charitable organisation – contact us to discuss what the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol can offer you!

Dr Gwennan Schiavone, Coleg Secretary and Academic Senior Manager said: "The Coleg is committed to meet the demands for bilingual skills in the workplace, and we are eager to collaborate with a wide range of employers across Wales". The Coleg wants to hear from businesses and organisations from across the country.

Are you keen to be part of a wide network of businesses and organisations that support the Welsh Language Skills Certificate? Can you offer a period of work experience to the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's scholarship students?

The Coleg's officers would like to discuss both schemes with interested employers and students. For further information, please contact Lois Roberts, 01248 833770 / l.roberts@colegcymraeg.ac.uk. Lisa Haf, 02920 870945. For more information about the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol: www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk

Small workplace health award

The small workplace health award is the new national mark of quality for health and well-being in the workplace, for businesses and organisations employing fewer than 50 people. It has three levels of award (bronze, silver and gold) to recognise each development stage achieved.

For further information on the award, and for free support and advice on developing health and well-being initiatives in the workplace, please contact 0845 609 6006 or workplacehealth@wales.nhs.uk.

Glan Afan Silver Surfers.



A Port Talbot intergenerational project has been awarded a grant from the Awards for All scheme – part of the Big Lottery Fund run by the National Lottery. The Glan Afan Silver Surfers project which takes place at Glan Afan Comprehensive School, has received a sum of £4,828, which will be used to provide the senior citizens of Glan Afan's community with a greater range of opportunities to participate in the technological age. The grant money will be used to purchase iPads for the project, and it meets the Awards for All aim of 'extending access and participation'. The project hosts weekly sessions every Monday, after school from 3.30pm until 5pm and is open to anyone in the Glan Afan Community who wants to find out more about computers and the internet.

In addition to this The Glan Afan Silver Surfer Intergenerational Project has recently won an award for 'Best Photo' as part of 'Get Online Week 2012.' The week, in conjunction with UK Online Centres aimed to help thousands of people to find a bigger life online. As a prize for winning the competition, the project won tickets to the X Factor final which took place in Manchester in December 2012.



The weekly sessions are open to senior citizens living in Port Talbot, and more information can be found on their website:-
www.glanafansilversurfers.org.uk.
Alternatively, contact Luke Jenkins on 01639 262262 or Steve Turner on 01639 883964

World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day was celebrated on the 10th October 2012 with an exhibition held at the Aberafan Shopping Centre in Port Talbot. Exhibitors included Neath Port Talbot Carers Service, Mind, Hafal, Gofal, Journeys, Neath Port Talbot CVS and Acorn a new Charity.

Information was available on resources and activities maintaining good mental health and services which are available for people who have mental health problems.

Mental illness is one of the most widespread yet least understood illnesses in the world today. One in four of us will have some degree of mental health problem at some time during our lives. The event aimed to reduce misinformation and stigma about mental health and to publicise those organisations which work to support mental well-being.

World Mental Health Day was also used to launch a much-needed Directory of Mental Health Services within Neath Port Talbot. For copies of the support directory please contact Emma Jones 01639 631246 or email acornnpt@hotmail.co.uk

Actor, Michael Sheen, Patron of local mental health charity Acorn, offered his support to World Mental Health Day saying: *'Stigma about mental illness is still common within our society. I am pleased to be associated with organisations such as Acorn and other charities which are using World Mental Health Day to discuss mental illness in an open and non-judgemental way. I am delighted that Acorn is launching a support directory on this day to help publicise services which can help people to maintain or recover their mental wellbeing'*.



Duffryn Clydach Volunteers

Dyffryn Clydach Volunteers are celebrating 25 years of volunteering. The group was started in 1987 to open up and repair every right of way that was impassable in the Neath Abbey, Dyffryn Clydach area.

The first major project undertaken by the group was the design and construction of the Coed Bach scenic circular walk with disabled access, which included four bridges, this was followed by the green wedge project creating a river walk to Neath Abbey Iron Works.

The group has worked across the Neath Port Talbot and Swansea areas and developed a wide range of projects which have had positive impacts on communities in both counties. Another of these projects was to create a disabled fishing facility at Neath Abbey. The group has had great success in encouraging local volunteers to come out and give something back to their communities, recently a team of 54 volunteers collected 50 bags of rubbish as part of the Keep Wales Tidy project. As a result of the groups hard work, over a quarter of a century, they have received many awards.



South Wales Miners Museum new website

The South Wales Miners' Museum proudly present their new website! Funding from both Collaborative Communities and the Ffynon Oer Benefit Fund have enabled the museum to work with web designers Picseli to develop a state of the art website. Visitors can now benefit from up to date events information and details about education sessions offered. The new website has also allowed the museum to develop their online shop which they hope to expand over the next few months.



Why not visit the new website on www.swmm.co.uk and make sure you sign up for the monthly e-newsletter to keep informed of all the activities and events hosted by the museum.

Local Grants

NPT Youth Fund

NPT Youth Fund is run by young people to provide grants of £50 - £500 to fund young people's activity ideas in their local community of Neath Port Talbot. The NPT Youth Fund Panel meets twice per year to consider applications.

Communities Facilities Activities Programme (CFAP)

This grant scheme targets groups with an income of under £50,000 that provide or intend to provide services that serve or support people living in Neath Port Talbot. The multi-agency Grants Panel meets on a quarterly basis .

Under 8s Small Grant Scheme

The Under 8s Small Grant Scheme provides grants of up to £600 for groups that are not registered with the CSSIW and that work to support the development of children under 8 years. The panel meets every six weeks to consider applications.

For further information about the local grants, please visit www.nptcvs.com or contact Wendy Harris, Grants Administrator, Neath Port Talbot CVS on 01639 641246 or email wendyh@nptcvs.org.uk

Environment Awards

The Environment Awards are now in their fourth year, and go from strength to strength. The annual presentation evening was recently held at the Towers Hotel Jersey Marine, sponsored by CCW and the Environment Agency, with over 150 people attending. The evening was hosted by Iolo Williams, the BBC Wildlife Presenter. Introductory remarks came from the Leader of NPT Council, Councillor Ali Thomas and Alan Underwood of the CCW.

There were 5 categories of award, with 3 finalists in each category. A video, outlining the work being done by each finalist, was shown and then the winner announced. The judging had taken place some 6 weeks previously, with judges being drawn from the Local Authority, Neath Port Talbot CVS, Third Sector Organisations, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency.

Category Winners and Presenters

Green School: Catwg Primary School presented by Karl Napiarella, Director of Education, Leisure, and Lifelong Learning, NPTCBC.

Green Business: Margam Discovery Centre presented by Jonathan Scott Environment Agency

Green Voluntary Sector Group: Forward 4 Fairyland presented by Gaynor Richards, Director, Neath Port Talbot CVS

Green Project : Glynneath Training Centre presented by Jonathan Scott Environment Agency

Wildlife Project : Riverside Centre Pontardawe presented by Councillor Ted Latham

The overall winner chosen from the 5 category winners was the Glynneath Training Centre. This was for the breadth and vision of the work being undertaken, particularly at Rheola, and was presented by Councillor Ali Thomas.



Green Voluntary Sector winners; Forward 4 Fairyland receiving their award.

Youth Volunteer Awards

Inspirational young volunteers aged 11 to 25 from Neath Port Talbot have been rewarded for their tireless work in the community. A prize ceremony at the Aberavon Beach Hotel in Port Talbot, hosted by Kevin Johns saw 10 awards handed out and many more special recognition certificates awarded. There was also entertainment on the night provided by two excellent singers Josh Whitton, 22 and Kathryn Baker, 14. The Youth Volunteer Awards was organised by a small group of young people who were supported by Neath Port Talbot CVS, Neath Port Talbot College and 14 -19 Learning Pathways and showcased the fantastic variety of voluntary work undertaken by young people in Neath Port Talbot.



Amy Williams, 22, who was on the organising committee, said: "We came up with the idea of the youth volunteer awards because we felt it was important to organise an event that recognises the fantastic work young people are doing within Neath Port Talbot but it also challenges the negative stereotypes of young people".

Director of Neath Port Talbot CVS, Gaynor Richards, said they were delighted to be supporting the awards and praised all the young people involved. "It was a fantastic and very humbling experience to hear the volunteering stories of so many young people who regularly make a difference to their local communities," she said. "Events like this highlight the large number of young people who choose to volunteer to make their communities a better place to live, work and have fun and all of the young people who attended thoroughly deserve the recognition they have received."



List of Award Winners:

Neath Chamber of Trade Leadership Award

Special Recognition: Joel Al-Hattab, Mini F.A.Ns

Special Recognition: Freestyle Gymnastics, Neath Afan Gymnastics Club

Winner: Rebecca Lawrie Jones, Cwmdulais Amateur Swimming Club and 1st Blaendulais Brownies and Guides

Alison George Estate Agents Sports Volunteer Award

Special Recognition: Hannah Liggett, Neath Afan Gymnastics Club, Special Recognition:

Chloe Baker, Neath Afan Gymnastics Club, Winner: Bethan Lewis, Neath Afan Gymnastics Club

Neath Port Talbot College Student Volunteer Award

Special Recognition: Cush Tush, Dyffryn Comprehensive School, Special Recognition:

Peer mentors, Llangatwg Community School, Winner: Stephen Williams

Costain Campaigning and Fundraising Award

Special Recognition: NPT Homes Youth Committee, Special Recognition: NPT Youth Council,

Winner: Lindsey Lawrence, Cancer Research UK

Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership Arts and Culture Award

Special Recognition: Mini F.A.Ns Youth Group, Special Recognition: GB3C

Winner: Cwmafan Youth Action Committee.

Neath Market Traders Federation Community Award

Special Recognition: Rhys Barfoot, Baglan Youth Forum, Special Recognition: Jo Freeman,

Supporting Families Project, Winner: Gareth McNeil, Port Talbot and Afan Women's Aid

Neath Port Talbot CVS Inspiration Award

Special Recognition: Kiefer Cheasty, Clarewood Neath Foyer,

Winner Annie Hughes, volunteering in Argentina

Careers Wales Volunteer Group of the Year Award

Special Recognition: Disability Gymnastics, Neath Afan

Gymnastics Club, Special Recognition: NPT Youth Service-

Youth Exchange Winner: Baglan Youth Forum



Gaynor Richards and Annie Hughes

Buffoon Film and Media's Under 16 Volunteer of the Year Award

Special Recognition: leaun Paxton, NPT Youth Council ,Winner: Nathan Mann, Playwright.

Nettie Bettie's Coffee Lounge 16-25 Volunteer of the Year Award

Special Recognition: Ffion James-Deane, Stroke Association, Special Recognition:

Alex Protheroe, Port Talbot and Afan Women's Aid, Winner: Peter Bush, Various



Forums

Dates of the next forum meetings:

Social Care Forum - Thursday 31st January 2013

Third Sector Strategic Forum - Tuesday 5th February 2013

Transport Forum - Tuesday 26th February 2013

For further information on any of the above forums or for information on how to join please contact Neath Port Talbot CVS on 01639 631246.

Upcoming Events

February

Pensions and RTI Session

March

PQASSO Session

For further information on the above events please contact Neath Port Talbot CVS on 01639 631246 or info@nptcvs.org.uk.

What can a welshcake do? it can raise some dough!

During the week of St David's Day, from 1st – 8th March 2013 people throughout Wales will Bake for Bobath and raise vital funds to help us to continue to provide our specialist service to children in Wales who have cerebral palsy. It would be fantastic if you could join us this year. Your support is extremely important to Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales, we have raised over £50,000 to date from Bake for Bobath and in 2013 we are hoping to raise £15,000 in just one week.

For further information and a fundraising pack, including a recipe booklet, stickers, balloons, a Welsh Brew tea bag please contact: 029 20522600 or fundraising@bobathwales.org.



Volunteering for Employment

In conjunction with the BIG Volunteering Project, Neath Port Talbot CVS held a Volunteer Fair at the Aberafan Shopping Centre, Port Talbot in October 2012.



The Fair gave organisations a chance to highlight their services and promote the value of volunteering for gaining experience, learning new skills and gaining confidence to improve chances of success when looking for employment. 31 shoppers signed up to volunteer with a variety of organisations.

The next Volunteer Fair is currently being organised and is scheduled to take place in the new year. If your organisation is interested in taking part or you would like to find out about volunteering ring the Neath Port Talbot CVS Volunteer Centre on 01639 631387 or visit www.nptcv.com.



The Enablers Project is one of a number of projects run from Neath Port Talbot CVS Volunteer Centre. The project, run on behalf of the Children & Young People's Partnership, provides support to parents of disabled children and young people through a volunteer befriending scheme using volunteers who have experience of children or young people with disabilities and understand the difficulties that their parents may encounter.

Enablers volunteers are given full training and on-going support and the cost of CRB disclosures and out of pocket expenses are also met.



If you are, or have been, a family member of children or young people with disabilities and would like to find out more ring Neath Port Talbot CVS Volunteer Centre on 01639 631387 or visit www.nptcv.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Neath Port Talbot Physical Activity & Sport Service seeking volunteers for coaching and event organising.

Tenovus – Neath seeking volunteers for charity shop and fundraising. For further details of all opportunities see www.volunteering-wales.net

For more information on volunteering , contact the Volunteer Centre on 01639 631387.

If you would like to have an article published in the next addition of Voluntary Voice, then please contact us on 01639 631246 or info@nptcvs.org.uk The deadline for submissions is the 25th January 2013.

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