

The Volunteer in Denbighshire

September
2008

ARE YOU?



The one that I Want !



Is this publication getting to the right person? Do you still want to receive it? Would you like to be included on an e.mail list to receive news and information in the form of an e.bulletin?

Please complete the enclosed reply slip to tell us - if you haven't already received an e.mail asking you the same thing! (If you don't have the reply slip then please give us a ring on 01824 702441)

Please try to help us to keep our cost down, protect the environment and work more effectively.

ROYAL WELSH SHOW - BUILTH WELLS

Geraint F Roberts, Chair of DVSC and Eurwen H Edwards BEM, Vice Chair of DVSC and Vice Chair of WCVA at the joint WCVA and Wales Association of County Voluntary Councils stand at the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells in July.



DVSC'S AGM and Funders Fair

Funders will include representatives from:
Children in Need, WCVA, Morgan Foundation, Sports Council for Wales, Big Lottery Fund/ Awards for All, Denbighshire County Council, WEFO Transnational Programmes

**10.30 am - 3.30pm Friday 21st November, 2008
MORFA HALL, RHYL**

Keynote Speaker - Lord Barry Jones

Further details from Bronwen Isaac 01824 702441

Denbighshire
Voluntary
Services,
Naylor
Leyland
Centre,
Well Street
Ruthin
LL15 1AF

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702441

Fax: 01824
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e.mail
office@dvsc.co.uk

Newvol -
Company
limited by
guarantee
3132487

Registered
Charity
1054322

Chief Executive
Officer
John Watkin



WHO'S WHO AT DVSC?

John Watkin *Chief Executive Officer*

Suzanne Bradley *Partnership Liaison*

Officer Children & Young People

Carys Edwards *Clerk/Typist*

Jackie Evans *Admin Assistant*

Gerry Frobisher *Volunteer*

Co-ordinator

Lindsay Haveland *Senior Health,
Social Care & Well Being Facilitator*

Bronwen Isaac *Office Supervisor*

Gaynor Jones *Volunteer Centre*

Organiser

Sarah MacLeod *Development Assistant*

Gareth Mawby *Finance Manager*

Lilwen Roberts *Information Officer*

Emyr B Williams *Senior Dev Officer*

JoAnne Williamson *Liaison Support
Assistant*

DVSC Project Staff

**Denbighshire Learning Disability
Forum**

Alan Benbow *Co-ordinator*

01824 707246

**NEWCIS - (North East Wales Carers
Information Service)**

Rhyl Office 0845 6033187

Mold Office 01352 751436



Lloyds TSB Foundation
for England and Wales

**Lloyds TSB
Funding Advice
Surgery at Naylor
Leyland Centre Ruthin**



The Grants Manager for North Wales for the Lloyds TSB Foundation will be at DVSC's Ruthin offices on the 16th of October to meet with local charities who would like to apply to the Foundation for funding for their work.

The mission of the Foundation is **..to help those at greatest disadvantage play a fuller role in their communities..** and it can fund charities with an income of below £1,00,000 whose work or project meets this mission. Funding is for revenue costs, and core costs can be met.

This session is by appointment only to ensure that those that are interested get enough time to discuss their proposals, and we cannot guarantee that those who turn up without an appointment can be seen.

To book an appointment call Cerys Thomas on 07500 787749, before the 14th of October. (if you have difficulty contacting Cerys - as she works part time - please contact Emyr B Williams 01824 702441)

To find out more about the work of the Lloyds TSB Foundation, go to www.lloydstsbfoundation.org.uk

ASSEMBLY CONSULTATION INTO RURAL DEPRIVATION

DVSC, jointly with Anti Poverty Network Cymru and Oxfam, bought together a group of voluntary sector representatives, operating in rural Denbighshire, to discuss a National Assembly Rural Development Sub Committee Scrutiny Inquiry Into Poverty and Deprivation in Rural Areas.

The group met first on 28 February, 2008 and forwarded on to the Assembly a comprehensive response to the consultation. Group members then decided to meet again on Thursday, 5 June, 2008 and invited one of the Sub Committee members to attend.

The Chairman of the Sub Committee, Alun Davies AM, attended this meeting and fed back on the consultation process and issues in general facing rural communities in Wales.

As a result of this process DVSC is planning to establish a Rural Action Network for voluntary and community sector representatives. Further details to follow in future editions of this newsletter.



Alun Davies AM [middle front] with the voluntary sector representatives who attended the meeting on 5 June

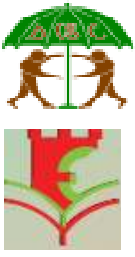


Community Strategy

Denbighshire's Community Strategy is currently being developed. It is the "parent" plan for the three Partnership plans in Denbighshire, which you may have heard of in the last few months (Children and Young People's Single Plan, Healthy Denbighshire, Community Safety Strategy). Like these plans it is a multi-agency plan involving the voluntary sector, health organisations, North Wales Police and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to name a few. The Community Strategy is aimed at improving the way all services are coordinated in Denbighshire, so that residents and businesses have the best possible public service experience.

In order to improve the way we do things, we need to hear your experiences of all public services in Denbighshire and any suggestions you may have. We are

currently organising six "Community Forum" events throughout Denbighshire in **November**, which will be open to the public. Each Forum will contribute to a Local Action Plan. These plans will address the key service issues raised at each event specific to each local area. The Local Action Plans will not be able to support projects which require Council funding, though every effort will be made to identify other potential funding sources which a project may be eligible to apply for. We encourage everyone to take part in these events so that the Local Action Plans reflect a broad range of views and opinions. If you would like to find out more information about the Community Strategy or the Community Forum events please contact Eva.Walters@Denbighshire.gov.uk or the Strategic Policy Unit, County Hall, Ruthin on 01824 706130 or 706161. Dates and venues will be advertised in you local area on notice boards and local newspapers in the next few weeks.



NORTH WALES VOLUNTARY SECTOR LEARNING

Jointly Developed Courses for Communities Cymru
Affordable and accessible learning for voluntary Groups
Delivered by the individual County Voluntary Council (CVC)
Each course costs £20 pp payable to the host CVC
(The courses would cost £100 if not for WAG subsidies)



Trustee & Management Committee Members - Roles & Responsibilities

Thursday 25th September, 1pm - 4pm Naylor Leyland Centre, Ruthin
Trainer: **Emyr Williams (DVSC)** To book contact Bronwen on 01824 702441

By the end of the session you will

- Have an understanding of trustee roles and responsibilities
- Be clear on how aims or legal objects should reflect the organisation's values & mission
- Identify potential liabilities and how to guard against them

Getting Started - What do you want to do and WHO can help you to do this?

Thursday 2nd October, 10am - 4pm Tŷ'r Binwydden, Yr Wyddgrug
Trainer: **Ann Roberts (FLVC)**
To book contact Ann Roberts on 01352 755972

By the end of the session you will

- Know what statistical information is available and where to access it
- Understand different methods of identifying needs and wants
- Be able to design, use and analyse a simple survey
- Understand how to make a case for action
- Know what sources of support are available to them and where to access them

Grants - Fit for Funding

Wednesday 1st October 10am - 3.30pm Naylor Leyland Centre Ruthin
Trainers: **John Watkin / Emyr B Williams (DVSC)**
To book contact Bronwen on 01824 702441

By the end of the session you will

- Have examined all aspects of preparing a funding application
- Have an insight into identifying the most appropriate sources for your organisation

Employing and Managing People - Contract of Employment

Thursday 9th October, 10am - 4pm Naylor Leyland Centre Ruthin
Trainers: **Axis Management**
To book contact Bronwen on 01824 702441

By the end of the session you will

- Have an overview of what should be included in a contract of employment
- Understand the difference between the written particulars of employment and a contract
- Be able to ensure that contracts are accurate and fair, whilst being flexible

Trustees and Management Committee Members - Roles of the Officers

Monday 13th October 10am - 4pm

Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl

Trainer: **Emyr B Williams (DVSC)**

To book contact Bronwen on 01824 702441

By the end of the session you will

- Have identified the individual roles of honorary officers
- Understand the importance and impact of these roles on the organisation
- Have considered the knowledge and skills required to undertake these specific roles

Finding and Getting Money - Earning

Friday 17th October, 10am - 4pm

Tŷ'r Binwydden, Mold

Trainers: **John Watkin (DVSC) and June Brady (FLVC)**

To book contact June Brady on 01352 755008

By the end of the session you will

- Have assessed potential for trading
- Understand the processes involved in developing a trading idea
- Have assessed potential for contracting
- Understand the processes and requirements of procuring for the delivery of public services
- Be introduced to legal and regulatory framework

Managing Money - Budgeting

Tuesday 21st October, 10am - 4pm

Tŷ'r Binwydden, Mold

Trainers: **Gareth (FLVC), Yvette (FLVC) Kathryn (AVOW)**

To book contact Yvette on 01352 755008

By the end of the session you will

- Understand the difference between budgets and cash flow forecasts
- Examine the principles of budget preparation and the use of forecast information
- Be able to prepare simple budget and cash flow forecasts
- Describe the relationship between budgets and fundraising
- Explain financial information to non financial experts
- Be aware of different options re IT help

Employing and Managing People—Managing Health and Safety in the Workplace

Thursday 23rd October, 10am - 3.30pm

Naylor Leyland Centre, Ruthin

Trainer: **Peninsula Business Services**

To book contact Bronwen on 01824 702441

By the end of the session you will

- Understand health and safety legislation and duty of care
- Know what to include in a health and safety policy
- Be able to undertake a risk assessment
- Be familiar with reporting arrangements

IN ALL, 54 COURSES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED BETWEEN 16th APRIL 2008 AND 28th APRIL 2009. A full booklet of the courses can be obtained by contacting EMYR B WILLIAMS, 01824 702441 or downloading a copy from DVSC'S website www.dvsc.co.uk. Details of further courses will also appear regularly in the Volunteer magazine.

CARE & REPAIR CYMRU ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th September 2008

The Marriott Hotel, Cardiff

The Housing Conference Supporting Older People in Wales

Champions, Commissioners and Care & Repair

Building A Better Future For Older People

For further details and booking arrangements please contact:

Sandie Power Tel: 029 2057 6286 E-Mail: sandie.power@careandrepair.org.uk

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - 10th December at the Naylor Leyland Centre, Ruthin

FREE Project Planning & Management course with an intergenerational focus.

Further details from Amanda Eveleigh Wales Centre For Intergenerational Practice,
University of Glamorgan Tel: 01443 482372 Fax: 01443 483799

Cruse Bereavement Care

If you are bereaved and live in the Rhyl/ Prestatyn area and think you or someone you know who is bereaved may benefit from a bereavement support/social group - Trinity Church, Gronant Road, Prestatyn extend a very warm welcome to you. They hold their meetings on the last Tuesday of every month - the next one being 30th September between 2pm and 4pm.

Christ Church Hall, Water St. Rhyl also hold a bereavement social/ support group on the last Friday of every month between 2pm and 4pm - the next one being 26th September; again, anyone bereaved is most welcome to come along.

If you are bereaved and wish to go along to either of the above, please feel free to attend with a neighbour, friend or member of your family. The groups are non religious and have been set up for mutual support and friendship for people who have lost of a loved one.

If you want further information regarding the above or about Cruse Bereavement Care's free support and counselling services then please contact Trish, the Cruse Administrator, on : 08702 402 758 or e mail: crusenorthwales@btconnect.com



**CROSSROADS NORTH WALES
CARING FOR CARERS**

SEARCH FOR TRUSTEES

Mission: "Crossroads promotes, offers, supports and delivers high quality services for carers and people with care needs"

Crossroads North Wales wish to recruit new Trustees to help them achieve their mission. They are particularly keen on recruiting Carers or ex Carers and individuals with experience in: HR & Employment Law; IT; Marketing; Finance/ Banking

Board meetings take place bi-monthly and are held in Rhyl.
(Unpaid – out of pocket expenses reimbursed)

**Further details: Yveline Hands,
Chief Executive
Tel: 01745-354553**

COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Judging of the Community Competitions arranged by DVSC has now been completed.

The Competition for the Denbighshire Voluntary Youth Initiative of the Year 2008 was sponsored by the Chairman of Denbighshire County Council. First prize was awarded to Prestatyn High School. They will receive a prize of £125.00. In second place, with a prize of £75.00, was Rhyl based Kids Fun Club. Equal third place, with a prize of £50.00 each, was awarded to Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ruthin and Ysgol Dinas Bran, Llangollen.

This year the title of Denbighshire's Senior Citizens Estate of the Year has been awarded to Buxton Court, Rhyl. They will receive a cheque for £150.00. The second prize is shared between Llygadog, Corwen and Llys y Faner, Denbigh. They will both receive a cheque for £75.00. In equal third place with a cheque for £50.00 each are Wynne's Parc, Denbigh and Trem y Castell, Llangollen. Prize money in this category was donated by Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd.



Buxton Court, Rhyl

The title of Denbighshire Village Hall/Community Centre of the Year 2008 has been awarded to Canolfan Cae Cymro, Clawddnewydd, together with a prize of £150.00. In second place, with a prize of £100.00 was Neuadd Carrog. In third place receiving a cheque of £50.00 is Y Ganolfan Llandrillo. This Competition was sponsored by the Clwyd Community Chest.

Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to all those who entered!

Rooms available

Facilities for hire in Denbighshire
The PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH has church buildings in

Denbigh, Prestatyn, Rhyl and Ruthin

Accessible for people with different abilities, kitchens, large/small rooms.

Your group/club could meet here!

For further details please contact
Heather Staniland 01948 770404

heatherstaniland@fsmail.net



WCVA Regional Policy Event

Morfa Hall, Rhyl

10am Thursday 16 October

**The new safeguarding agenda
Independent Safeguarding Authority
and the voluntary sector**

For booking forms and further information
please contact WCVA's Helpdesk on
0800 288 8329 E.mail help@wcva.org.uk

APPOINTMENT TO THE WALES RURAL NETWORK STEERING GROUP

John Watkin, DVSC's Chief Executive Officer has been appointed to the Wales Rural Network Steering Group in addition to being the representative for Wales Association County Voluntary Councils on the Third Sector Rural Affairs Forum that meets with the Welsh Assembly Government's Minister for Rural Affairs. John would welcome any comments on rural issues from voluntary, community, social enterprises, non profit making organisations, so that he can convey these views and ensure that voices are heard at a national level

Resident says thanks for garden money

The AGM of the Clwyd Voluntary Initiative Community Chest was held at Eirianfa, Denbigh on Tuesday 29th July 2008. During the meeting Matthew Whittaker a 17-year-old resident of Greenbank Villas, Flint, a supported living scheme for homeless people, said thank you for the donation of £200 received for their garden make-over. Matthew gave an outline of work that had been done to transform the garden and said it had made a real difference to residents living at Greenbank Villas. He said the garden project had helped residents gain confidence, make new friends, and have fun working alongside new people, and he thanked the Community Chest for all their support.



Inez Hickie, Clwyd Alyn Project Worker; Matthew Whittaker, former Resident of Greenbank Villas - now moved onto the Quay Project; Janet Ryder AM and Mrs E H Edwards, Chair of Clwyd Community Chest and President of the Pennaf Housing Group

The Clwyd Voluntary Initiative Community Chest, is a grant giving registered charity which funds small grants of up to a maximum of £250 to projects and organisations within the former Clwyd County area. Last year the Community Chest donated a total of **£20,376** to various groups.

For a number of years, the administration work of the Chest has been in the capable hands of an extremely hard working volunteer, Mr Glyn Davies from Ruthin, and DVSC would like to acknowledge his valuable contribution to the scheme.

For further details on the Community Chest, application form and criteria, please see DVSC's website: www.dvsc.co.uk under funding.

Network Wales Awards –

Are you inspired by the work of voluntary organisations across Wales?

Do you know of an organisation or group that deserves national recognition for what it does?

Does your organisation or group deserve national

Recognition for what you do?

Nominate them for the *Network Wales Awards 2008!*

Nominations must be received by Friday 19 September 2008 at WCVA, Baltic House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff, (029 2043 1700) using an official nomination form (or a photocopy or downloaded version from www.wcva.org.uk)

Nominated organisations must be based in or work in Wales.



The Older People's Commission for Wales is currently working to develop a new website and would like to involve as many older people as possible in its design. The new website aims to ensure that information about the Commission, such as why it was established and any up and coming events, is readily available as well as ensuring that their contact details are clear so that the public can make contact with them with any issues or comments via a variety of methods.

If you have any ideas or suggestions of how they can improve the website to better serve older people, please contact the Older People's Commission for Wales:

Older People's Commissioner for Wales
Temple Court, 13a Cathedral Road
Cardiff, CF11 9HA

Email: ask@olderpeoplewales.com

Tel: 02920 786579



Systems Advocacy Service

is an independent, confidential and free voluntary service that provides advocacy support to adults who have a learning disability.

We are looking for **committee members** to join our established informal committee. If you are interested in services provided to people with a learning disability, are supportive and committed to valuing people's rights and have a few hours to spare once a month we would like to hear from you.

For more information contact Lynne Lenton on 01352 706245 or Janet Williams on 07931 667158

Denbighshire & Conwy Domestic Abuse Forum Presents the multi-agency training events on **Introduction to Domestic Abuse**

Wednesday 22nd October Canolfan Marl, Llandudno Junction

Tuesday 25th November NSPCC, Warren Drive, Prestatyn

Monday 12th January 2009 Canolfan Marl, Llandudno Junction

Friday 27th February 2009 Education Centre, Middle Lane, Denbigh

For further details contact :-
Alwen Davies
Community Safety Partnership
c/o North Wales Police
Ffordd William Morgan
St Asaph Business Park
St Asaph LL17 0HQ
E-mail:
Alwen.Davies@denbighshire.gov.uk



WALES WOMEN'S NATIONAL COALITION NORTH WALES CONFERENCE 2008

Tuesday 23rd September 2008 – Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon 10.00am- 3.00pm

Gender equality - Are we there yet...?

Wales Women's National Coalition is the umbrella body for women's organisations in Wales, representing the voice of the women of Wales to government at all levels.

Attendance at this event is **FREE** for all delegates. In addition organisations can **exhibit** at the conference which is also free to members and available at a small cost of £20 to non-members.

If you would like to book a place at this conference, please complete the attached booking form and return by e-mail to Suzy Barrett at suzy-barrett@wwnc.org.uk, or fax back to 029 2047 8901 (tel: 029 2047 8918).

NEW FACE FOR HELP THE AGED IN NORTH WALES

Glenys Hughes-Jones is Help the Aged's new Regional Development Officer for North Wales.



The role sees her working to improve the lives of older people in their own communities by delivering two Help the Aged in Wales programmes, namely the Speaking Up for Our Age Programme in Wales and the Community Support Programme. She can also provide information and advice leaflets and other materials to the general public, and is a fountain of knowledge about Help the Aged in Wales campaigns.

For more information, please contact Glenys Hughes-Jones on 01824 790 672 or email Glenys.hughes-jones@helptheaged.org.uk

DVSC UNDER 11'S GRANTS

DVSC is, once again, administering the **Under 11s Small Grants Scheme** on behalf of the **Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership**.

Sustainability Grants are available to support existing childcare and develop new childcare places in Denbighshire.

Small grants of up to £500 are available to voluntary and community groups, as well as registered childminders, **working with children under 11 years of age in Denbighshire**.

Preference is given to applications which come from groups and individuals providing a service to children from **Rhyl**

West, Rhyl South West, Meliden, Bodelwyddan, Upper Denbigh and the most rural areas of the County.

If you haven't already received an application form you can obtain one from:

**Bronwen Isaac, DVSC Naylor Leyland Centre, Well Street, Ruthin LL15 1AF
Tel No 01824 702441**

E-mail: bronwen@dvsc.co.uk

If you need help in completing your application form please contact Emyr B Williams, Senior Development Officer, DVSC on 01824 702441 or e-mail emyr@dvsc.co.uk.

The closing date for applications will be 7 October, 2008.



COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISERS

We are a lottery funded project, which aims to reduce the fear of crime amongst people of 50 years and above. We provide a variety of services, which include:

GROUP TALKS

We are happy to come out to groups to give talks about bogus callers, personal safety and general security (free of charge).

FREE HOME SECURITY SURVEYS

We will come to your home and check the general security, such as doors and windows. We will offer advice on safety concerns and if you are over 55 years old, you may qualify for our free fitting

service along with any security alarms, door chains etc.

FRIENDLY FACE

If you have concerns about crime in your area we can arrange a home visit and try to help reduce the problem.

OTHER ISSUES

We work closely with other organisations and agencies to deal with any other concerns, issues and worries you may have.

If you live in Denbighshire and believe you could benefit from this service and would appreciate peace of mind, or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

S.T.A.R.S. North Wales 01745 360006
Email: office-starsltd@btconnect.com

Canolfan Dewi Sant Centre, Clwyd Buildings, Clwyd Street, Rhyl, Denbighshire LL18 3LA

POLICY

Third Sector Meets with Minister for Rural Affairs

The third sector met with the Minister Elin Jones AM, under the auspices of the National Assembly Voluntary Sector Scheme, on 25 June 2008.

Key topics included:

- **Growing Rural Community Development**
- **Future of Agri-Environment Axis 2 and Agricultural Strategy for Wales**
- **WAG reported on their work on 'deep rural', a commitment in One Wales to work with local authorities to identify and address the particular needs of 'deep rural' areas.**
- **Third sector paper by Anita Myfanwy, Children in Wales, on child and young people's poverty in rural Wales covering the challenges faced by children and young people in rural communities: access to facilities and services; transport; after school activities; sustaining social lives; housing and homelessness; employment and**

higher education opportunities.

- **WAG reported to the third sector on the development of the Rural Affairs departmental action plan under The Third Dimension: A Strategic Action Plan for the Voluntary Sector Scheme.**
- **Recommendations for action within the Carnegie Commission's Charter for Rural Communities**

For a full report of the Ministerial meeting, as it appears in WCVA's Network Wales (6 August, 2008) please go to: http://www.wcva.org.uk/images_client/policy/Rural%20Affairs%20-%20Network%20Wales%20-%20July%202008.doc

If you would like more information on these meetings or rural policy, or to become a member of the Rural Policy Network, please contact Constance Adams, WCVA email: cadams@wcva.org.uk or tel: 01686 611050.

Third Sector Meets with Minister for Economy and Transport

The third sector met with the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, under the auspices of the Voluntary Sector Scheme, on 16 July 2008.

Three key areas were being highlighted by the third sector:

- **Business support for social enterprise**
- **Third sector participation in the**

development of both the National Transport Plan and the regional transport plans

- **The development of the economy and transport departmental action (DE&T) plan on how it works with the third sector.**

To see the full report as it appears in WCVA's Network Wales (6 August, 2008) please go to http://www.wcva.org.uk/images_client/policy/Economy%20and%20Transport%20Ministerial%20Meeting%20-%20Newsletter%20July%202008.doc

If you don't have computer access a paper copy of the above reports can be sent to you by contacting Lilwen Roberts 01824 702441

Volunteer Centre

For further details on volunteering opportunities or issues please contact Gaynor at Ruthin on 01824 702441 or Gerry in the Rhyl office 01745 369973



Zoe Grainger of Corwen, at the Rhyl Base of ChildLine Cymru.

Denbighshire's 800th Millennium Volunteer is 23 year old Zoe Grainger of Corwen, who is a volunteer Telephone Counsellor at the Rhyl Base of ChildLine Cymru. Zoe, who is a Health Care Support Worker with the Probation Service and NHS, has been giving up 5 hours of her time each week for almost twelve months as a fully trained ChildLine Counsellor.

The 800 mark is a milestone in showing just how many young people are committed to volunteering in Denbighshire, and there are many more young people volunteering just as hard in Denbighshire who would benefit greatly from registering as Millennium Volunteers. The 800 young people are involved with just over 150 local organisations and groups who need volunteers.

Young Volunteers Honoured for commitment to their community

On Friday 6th June 2008 over 60 Parents and guests attended a STAR SPANGLED "Millennium Volunteer" and "Young Volunteers in Denbighshire" presentation of Certificates and Awards evening at the St Melyd Hall, Meliden, hosted by Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council.

Twenty seven young volunteers from all over Denbighshire received special certificates for their committed volunteering in the community from Rhyl's **James Stone – Semi Finalist in Britain's Got Talent**, and North Wales Assembly Member **Mark Isherwood**.

Gerry Frobisher, the volunteer co-ordinator with the Denbighshire Volunteer Centre said "It was a great turn out of young volunteers, who between them have carried out over **4,200 hours** of volunteering. Nine under 16year olds, called the "Young Volunteers in Denbighshire", received a variety of Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum Certificates for completing up to 200 hours of volunteering".

"Six of the 16 years and over, "Millennium Volunteers" received Certificates for 50 or 100 hours of volunteering, whilst a further twelve received their Awards of Excellence certificates issued by the Welsh Assembly Government and signed by the First Minister Rhodri Morgan AM. They were presented on the First Minister's behalf by Mark Isherwood AM .



GOFAL

In 2004 Denbighshire had a population of 93,000 people and 20.2% of these were over 65. This proportion is the second highest in Wales and highlighted that services needed to be developed to support this older population. Therefore in 2007, the British Red Cross in collaboration with Denbighshire County Council developed and devised a pilot scheme called "Gofal". The scheme was to provide the following benefits.

- To alleviate isolation and loneliness for vulnerable people by promoting companionship and access to community activities and facilities
- To reduce the risk of physical and mental deterioration that arises from isolation, by identifying risks and taking positive action eg. fuel poverty, risk of trips/falls in the home, accessing mental health support services
- To provide advice and support on services available from other agencies and making representations on behalf of the service user
- To provide a link to the outside world in the case of those suffering from a slight impediment or memory loss.

- To provide a telephone befriending service where required.

During the course of the pilot, many lessons have been learnt and we have been able to help a number of people. One man had been on the verge of employing rogue builders. He habitually left his door open and anybody could have come in to the house. He was persuaded to put in a key safe.

It was realised that one lady was eligible for a Women's Land Army medal. The volunteer working with her researched the matter, and the sense of wellbeing and being appreciated was marked.

One service user has requested companionship on short walks. This is despite the fact the service user is partially sighted and needs a high level of support.

We are looking forward to continuing to provide this service for the vulnerable older people of Denbighshire for the next year. If you are interested in volunteering for the British Red Cross, particularly if you live in the south of the county, please contact us on 01745 828349.

Interested in volunteering your time and experience in helping local school children with their reading? RSVP welcomes anyone over 50 who wants to share their years of experience. For further details of this project or any other project that encourage the over 50s please contact Fred Evans, RSVP Schools Project Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01978 356629/01244 546827

Looking after Denbighshire's countryside

Volunteers are needed to help protect and enhance south Denbighshire's breath-taking scenery.

Denbighshire Countryside Service would like to hear from people interested in joining a wide range of activities, from traditional skills such as dry stone walling to coppicing, woodland management and improving rights of way in the area.

These sessions provide an opportunity for individuals to meet other people, keep fit and learn new skills, as well as having fun. All tools will be provided.

Shane Hughes, Countryside Warden for South Denbighshire, said: "We already produce a programme of events that allow people to get into the countryside and help with important activities throughout the county. We are also looking at dedicating one day a week when there will be more opportunities to help manage the unique landscape of south Denbighshire and the rich flora and fauna that it contains".

**PRACTICAL
SERVICES
ALWAYS
AVAILABLE from
DVSC:**

RESOURCES

- Typing - £3.50 per A4 sheet
- Photocopying - 5p per A4 sheet
- Payroll - Highly competitive rates - Please contact Gareth Mawby 01824 702441 for detailed costing
- Translation - from £40.00 per 1,000 words
- Internet Access - Free
- Equipment hire - Display boards, flip charts,
- Conference / Committee Room hire - see page 15 for costs and facility details
- Bi-monthly Newsletter
- Leaflet / Flyer distribution with the Newsletter - please contact Lilwen Roberts 01824 702441 for costs

FUNDING - contact Emyr B Williams

- Advice and information
- Funderfinder Service
- Identifying funding sources
- Advice on completing funding application

TRAINING

- Training Courses / Information seminars
 - Signposting Low cost training courses for:-
 - Accounting (SORPS)
 - Volunteer Management
 - Legal, Administrative & Commerce Skills
 - Equality Issues
- ETC ETC ETC

VOLUNTEER CENTRE

- Matching Volunteers with volunteering opportunities within organisations in the County
- Millennium Volunteers 16 - 25 years old
- Young Volunteers in Denbighshire - under 16 years

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Mondays/Wednesdays 9.30-12, starting
29.9.08**

WLPAN/BEGINNERS CONTINUATION:

**RUTHIN Naylor Leyland Centre -
Tuesdays/Wednesdays 7-9, starting
16.9.08**

**FOR DETAILS ON A WEALTH OF
FURTHER COURSES & FEES CONTACT**

EIRIAN CONLON on

01352 756080

e.conlon@bangor.ac.uk

**The re-design of acute and community
services, North Wales**

A copy of the comments made at the meeting held on 1st August at DVSC, to discuss the re-design of acute and community health services in North Wales, including the re-design of Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, are available from Lindsay Haveland

Tel: 01824 702441

E.mail: lindsay@dvsc.co.uk



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Welsh families with disabled children go without food and heating

Families with disabled children have been rocked by the soaring cost of living and are going without basic food and heating. These are the findings of Counting the Costs, a survey and report from **Contact a Family**, the charity for families with disabled children.

Key findings include:

- One in six disabled children lives in a household struggling to afford food and heating
- Almost half of families have borrowed money from friends and family, with one in five using the cash to pay their heating bills
- One in 14 children with a disability or medical condition is living under threat of losing their home.

Contact a Family surveyed almost 800 parent carers in the UK about their financial situation in the current economic crisis.

Keith Bowen, Manager of Contact a Family Wales, said: "Our survey findings paint a shocking picture of what these often vulnerable families are experiencing. It isn't right that in Wales today, families can't afford life's essentials.

"Everyone is feeling the pinch. But it costs three times as much to raise a disabled child and as our survey shows, this is putting incredible pressure on these families just to survive in the worsening economic climate."

Karen Leach from Colwyn Bay, mum to Sam who has Down's Syndrome, said: "I'm in arrears with all my bills. Credit cards have been used for food shopping and paying bills. I manage to keep up with the mortgage but utility bills have accumulated. I have now stopped using the gas while I try to get on top of the debts. Other domestic bills are all red letters and each month I negotiate who to pay, depending who is threatening to cut me off.

"I am extremely worried for the future as all my monthly salary seems to be absorbed in paying arrears. Being a single parent adds to the financial stress as the responsibility lies solely with me."

As the housing market slumps, 18% of families with a disabled child are struggling with mortgage and rent payments and have been in arrears in the last 12 months. A quarter of families have approached charities for financial help and one in four has taken out a loan.

Keith Bowen added: "This is a crisis situation for many, but disabled children and their families are at greater risk of poverty and less equipped to cope with soaring living costs. Disability benefits should meet the true cost of raising a disabled child to ensure these families don't face homelessness."

Families concerned about their finances should telephone the Contact a Family freephone helpline 0808 808 3555.



Sarah Keidel – Administrators,
Peter Jones and Hilary
Dugdale – Senior Carer
Supporters.

Wednesday 9.00am -
1.30pm and Friday 9.30am -
12.30pm

We would like to say hello from Crossroads North Wales's new Denbighshire Area Office situated at 33, Vale Street Denbigh LL16 3AH which has replaced our Ruthin and Prestatyn offices. The new office will be operated by the existing staff who are Diana Owen – Care Manager, Helen Fiskin and

We will be continuing to provide respite for carers in the Denbighshire area by our valued team of Carer Support Workers.

The Denbighshire Area Office will be open on:-
Monday, Tuesday and
Thursday 9.00am – 5.30pm

There is also a 24 hour answering machine
Tel: 01745 818866

(Please note that there could be short periods when the office may not be staffed as stated above due to other work commitments)