

What's On

HAWICK ON SHOW

Saturday 15th November 2008
10am - 3pm at Hawick Town Hall

Come and meet the people and organisations behind community activities and services in Hawick – find out what is going on and how they can help you!

Stalls-displays- storytelling. Something for all ages. Refreshments.

Contact **Jacqui** at The Bridge on **01835 863554** for more information or to book a stall for your group.

THE BRIDGE

CHRISTMAS MARKET



for voluntary organisations

SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

10am - 3pm

BURGH HALL, PEEBLES

Presents, Cards, Home-baking

Teas, Coffees, Light lunches

Entrance by donation

THE BIG EVENT

celebrates

the national Learning at Work Day on 14th May 2009

At the Volunteer Hall in Galashiels

The event is **free** to everyone. Does your group/activity want some wide publicity and would welcome an opportunity to take a stand?

For more information about taking a stand contact sheila.richmond1@hotmail.co.uk.

BEDRULE VILLAGE HALL

Bedrule Village Hall committee held a celebration event at the end of October 2008 to mark the completion of their hall refurbishment project. The story began back in 2001 with a project to bring the timber and tin-clad Hall into community ownership. The Village Hall has been at the heart of this small and scattered rural community in the shadow of Ruberslaw for over 80 years. Having bought the Hall (2003) with the aid of grants and significant local fundraising, they moved on to their first renovation work to improve disabled access to the premises (2004).

After a short breather, when they expanded the range of activities on offer, the hard-working management committee set out on another major project (2005-6), this time to completely re-clad the still solid wooden frame of the hall (improving insulation and reducing running

costs) and to install a brand new kitchen. By 2007, a patchwork of funding bids had brought them £47,474 in grants for this third project, supplemented again by a tremendous local fundraising effort. Grants were received from: the Landfill Community Fund, Award for All, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, Hugh Fraser Foundation, the Robertson Trust, the Gannochy Trust and Garfield Weston Foundation; local fundraising included an Auction of Goods and Promises, Gardens Open events, Dog Show and various social events.

Work on the Hall was completed this summer by local contractors, but will the committee take a well-earned rest?? Not likely!! A copy of their Community Newsletter is posted up at The Bridge's office in Jedburgh, listing numerous events and activities for the end of the year and well into 2009.

THE BRIDGE

Issue 5

November 2008



DO YOU KNOW?

The Bridge and **BAVS (Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services)** have a joint agreement to work together to support local community and voluntary action throughout the Borders.

Our aims are:

- Understanding the voluntary sector
- Communicating with the voluntary sector
- Representing the interests of the voluntary sector
- Providing support services
- Promoting good practice
- Growing the voluntary sector

However!

- There are changes ahead for the structure of national and local voluntary sector support

- The Bridge and BAVS, as your local CVS, work in partnership with the wider voluntary sector in the Borders, SBC Community Planning Partnership and others to ensure that the needs and views of the voluntary sector are well known and acknowledged throughout any discussions for the future

Why does this matter to you?

- We hope to ensure that any changes reflect and represent the needs and views of the voluntary and community sector at every opportunity
- Therefore we want your views on the table at all times
- We hope to continue to be able to offer a responsive, supportive, practical service to you so we want to keep you as informed as possible of any changes.

DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

The Bridge, in partnership with Digital UK and Digital Outreach Limited, is operating **Advice Points** in several locations during the actual Digital Switchover. There will be staff on hand to assist you in all aspects of the switchover including the Digital Help Scheme. People found the advice points held over the 5, 6 and 7 November to be very useful.

The advice points will be operating from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm on **Wednesday 19th, Thursday 20th and Friday 21st November** at the following locations:

Hawick	The Evergreen Hall, Dovecote Street
Jedburgh	St. John's Community and Arts Centre, The Friars
Kelso	The Tait Hall, Edenside Road
Duns	Southfield Community Centre, Station Road
Eyemouth	BAVS Charity Shop, 1 North Street
Peebles	The Bridge, Newby Court, School Brae, High Street
Galashiels	Borders Disability Forum, Roxburgh Court, Galashiels

If you are unable to access the advice point you can telephone **Bordercare** on **01896 752111** who will connect you with an advisor.

THE BRIDGE

www.the-bridge.uk.net

Head Office:

Riverside House, Ladhope Vale, Galashiels, TD1 1BT. ☎ 01896 757342

Executive Officer

morag.walker@the-bridge.uk.net

Area Offices:

Central Borders – 6a Roxburgh Street, Galashiels, TD1 1PF. ☎ 01896 755370

Manager rob.nicholson@the-bridge.uk.net

Open Mon -Thurs 9.30am to 2.30pm

Roxburgh – 1 Veitch's Close, Jedburgh, TD8 6AY. ☎ 01835 863554

Manager heather.batsch@the-bridge.uk.net

Open Mon –Thurs 9.30am to 1pm

Fri 9.30am to 12 noon

Tweeddale - Volunteer Resource Centre, School Brae, High Street, Peebles, EH45 8AL. ☎ 01721 723123

Manager fran.swift@the-bridge.uk.net

Open Mon - Fri 9.30am to 1pm

Projects:

Roxburgh Charity Shop – 18 Canongate, Jedburgh, TD8 6AY. ☎ 07984 971493

Tweeddale Thrift Shop – 15 High Street, Innerleithen, EH44 6HA. ☎ 01896 831427

Tweeddale Community Transport

based in Tweeddale area office

☎ 01721 723123

ellie.breeze@the-bridge.uk.net

Teviot Wheels

based in Roxburgh area office

☎ 01835 863554

john.chick@the-bridge.uk.net

Voluntary Sector Liaison Officer

based at Head Office. ☎ 01896 757342

liz.walthew@the-bridge.uk.net

STOP PRESS

The 12th edition of the **Tweeddale Community Directory** of voluntary organisations has now been published and is available on our website at www.the-bridge.uk.net If you would like a printed copy (free to Bridge members, £7.50 plus p&p to non-members) please contact the Tweeddale Area Office.

FROM THE CHAIR...

Last weekend (as I write this) the clocks went back. The 'dark nights' are now with us, a sure sign that the season is turning again and autumn will soon shade into winter. Speaking personally, I enjoy the variety and change of the seasons, each with its own characteristics and seasonal activities. I would not want to live in a part of the world where there is very little perceptible change in the seasons from one year's end to the next. The change in the seasons is predictable and cyclical. We know roughly what to expect and we know too that the pattern will repeat itself as year follows year. However it's not just the seasons that change. We live in a changing world and we are often required to respond to changes thrust upon us by other people in other places. At the moment that is particularly true of the voluntary sector. We live in a time of economic uncertainty and that is having its effect on many of us in all sorts of different ways. In one way that should create opportunities for voluntary groups which exist to provide help and support in the community. However many of these groups depend for a significant part of their cash on fund-raising, and where money is tight people, even generous people, have less to give away.

Many voluntary organisations, and The Bridge is one, have in the past been part funded by the Scottish Government. Fundamental changes in the way in which that funding is provided and allocated are happening. By 2011 a radically different funding structure will be in place and this is the subject of a great deal of discussion and decision-making. Yes, we in The Bridge, and others, are being given an opportunity to express our view, but in the end decisions will be made, and not by us, which will very significantly affect our future funding. Those organisations which will not just survive but thrive in the new situation will be those which have worked hard to understand the coming changes and who have committed themselves to take best advantage of the emerging new situation. It was in anticipation of the changes that The Bridge came into being. I would not be surprised if further new relationships were to come into being within the voluntary sector in the Borders. Meanwhile I want to pay tribute to our staff and senior staff in particular, and to the members of our Board who are working hard to ensure that The Bridge is well prepared for the new funding arrangements which are now little over two years away.

And talking about changes, Susan Robb, our Children's Change Worker, has moved on to a new post with Scottish Borders Council where she will build on the experience she had gained while working as part of The Bridge. We are grateful to Susan for all she has done as a member of The Bridge staff, and we wish her well for the future.

Bruce Neill

NEW SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND NEW GRANTS

A Borders charity has raised over £600,000 to fund its befriending services aimed at adults and young people with learning disabilities over the next four years.



Interest Link Borders was awarded the **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service** in 2006 and has now secured **£319,000** from the Big Lottery Fund and **£296,000** from Grant-making Trusts and Scottish Borders Council. The money will be spent on its existing 1:1 befriending service for adults and a new group service for young people aged 16-25. The services are needed because although most people with learning disabilities now live in the community, they are still socially excluded as they have no social contacts outside their family or day centre, no experience of making friends and no transport.

Project Co-ordinator Andrew Findlay told the Southern Reporter: "The funding is fantastic news for us and will mean we can continue our existing service and help 275 adults with learning disabilities (formerly called mental handicap) between now and 2012. They will be linked 1:1 with volunteers so they can meet up regularly to do activities such as

going to evening classes. The "links" have an enormous impact on service users' quality of life because volunteers are there out of choice rather than because they are paid or feel an obligation.

"The funding also means we can launch our new service for younger people, who have said they would like to do activities in groups rather than 1:1. We have used the model of the Fairway Project in Ayrshire and will run staff-supervised groups of three young people with learning disabilities and three volunteer mentors of the same age. As well as doing social activities, the groups will meet up for workshops in which the volunteers will act as role models and discuss the choices open to the young people as they move into the adult world. Each of our four branches (based in Duns, Galashiels, Hawick and Peebles) will run 1 or 2 groups each year and we should be able to help over 60 young people over the next four years.

"Our volunteers do a great job and get a lot out of their role. We are looking to recruit more volunteers for both services at the moment and would be keen to hear from anybody who is interested: visit our website at www.interestlink.org.uk or tel **0845 2412170**"

IS YOUR GROUP PLANNING AN ENERGY SAVING PROJECT?

The Energy Saving Scotland advice centre is funded by the Scottish Government to make it easier for householders and communities to reduce their carbon emissions by providing free, impartial advice on energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transport and access to grants.

Our Community Engagement Team offer local community groups help with their energy saving and sustainable living project ideas:

- friendly advice and encouragement
- support in accessing funding
- access to training
- expert knowledge on renewable and energy saving technologies
- project development
- information and links
- local knowledge and sharing of best practice

We aim to provide a point of contact for groups to air their hopes and aspirations and assist in their ability to deliver great projects.

Contact the Energy Saving Scotland advice centre Community Engagement Team on 0800 512012 (Anna Derricourt and Sitar Ramsay)

THE SCOTTISH BORDERS COMPACT

The New Ways Scottish Borders Compact, an agreement between the public and voluntary sector organisations in the Borders, was officially launched at Tweed Horizons on 6 June 2005.

The Compact clearly states what each organisation can expect from the other in the form of a list of principles and commitments, providing a platform for improved co-operation, understanding and respect. It recognises the voluntary sector and their roles and responsibilities.

Scottish Borders is not the only Council that has developed a Compact. Many areas have a Compact between the Council and the voluntary sector; however, in the Borders all the major public sector agencies have signed up to the Compact, one of the few areas in the country where this is the case.

Examples of the commitments made by the Public and Voluntary sectors are given here. It is the responsibility of all employees to ensure that these are met. Details of all the commitments are available in the Scottish Borders Compact document.

Our commitments

Shared Principles

- We believe that by working together and with others we will achieve more for the people and communities of the Scottish Borders.
- We are committed to recognising the importance of stability, continuity and consistency in the planning and provision of services.
- We will be open, honest and truthful in all our dealings with each other.

Public Sector Commitments

- We aim for openness and transparency in our dealings with voluntary and community organisations recognising the need for clear language and avoidance of jargon.
- We will be consistent in the way we manage funding arrangements, monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance, as far as possible within our respective legal and financial constraints.

Voluntary Sector Commitments

- We will make sure that the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged people and groups are positively taken into account and provided for.

- We will meet our legal, reporting and accounting obligations to funders and to service users.

Compact Action Plan

The Compact is supported by an Action Plan which is set to take the Compact forward and help ensure that it is not allowed to become another document that just sits on the shelf.

Completed actions include:

- the establishment of a voluntary and community sector forum which is known as the Voluntary and Community Sector Liaison Group;
- the inclusion of all partners in training opportunities within agencies;
- the development and dissemination a Volunteering Charter for all New Ways partners.

Compact Monitoring & Voluntary Sector Representation

The Compact is monitored by a small multi agency team, the Compact Officers Group, consisting of representatives from Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders, Lothian & Borders Police and the voluntary/community sector.

The Compact Officers Group representatives from the voluntary/community sector are nominated by the Voluntary & Community Sector Liaison Group which meets quarterly to share information and disseminate good practice.

If you would like to find out more about the Compact, or to get a copy of it and/or any of its related documents, please contact Liz Walthew on 01890 870336, email

liz.walthew@the-bridge.uk.net

Our Scottish Borders
Your community



ESTABLISHED by the Scottish Government, this fund is aimed at organisations with social missions that address issues of employability, environmental action, and the underlying causes of health inequality.

Key features of SIF are as follows:-

- A total of £30m will be subscribed over a three-year period - £4m in 2008/2009, £10m in 2009/10 and £16m in 2010/11
- SIF is targeted at established, 'investment ready' social enterprises which have been trading successfully, generating income other than grants, for at least three years and which aim to achieve a step change in their activities
- SIF aims to provide a blend of funding solutions including loan finance and non-repayable strategic investments as well as other financial products providing the equivalent of risk capital

Loan funding will be a key element of *all* SIF investment packages.

Note: Organisations unwilling (or unable) to consider loan finance will not be eligible for SIF investment.

Online Appraisal

The website went live on the 1st September 08 when the SIF opened for applications. A key feature of the website is an Online Appraisal model which enables organisations seeking investment to establish firstly, whether or not they meet SIF eligibility criteria, and secondly, the extent to which their activities and social outcomes fit with the investment priorities of the fund. The model covers 3 areas – Eligibility, Investment-readiness and Investment priorities. On completion of all three stages of the online model, organisations seeking investment will be given an initial indication of the likelihood that their proposal will progress to the next stage.

The SIF is managed by **Social Investment Scotland** and further information can be found on the SIF website www.scottishinvestmentfund.co.uk or by phoning **0131 558 7706**.

FUNDING FOR WOMEN FRIENDLY GROUPS!

The Women's Fund for Scotland is looking to distribute awards of up to **£5,000** to projects which support and empower women.

Eligible applicants need to be constituted groups, with an annual income of less than £250,000. The grants are available for support / empowerment projects as well as for funding organisations which are run predominantly by and for women. You'll need to be quick though, the deadline for all applications is **12 December 2008**. Further information can be found at the Scottish Community Foundation's website:

www.scottishcf.org/grantsforwomen

SCOTTISH BORDERS AWARDS Winners Announced

The best of the Borders was showcased at this year's prestigious Scottish Borders Awards as the achievements of many Borderers were recognised. The event is all about celebrating achievement, good work and what the Scottish Borders has to offer.

Seven winners from a diverse range of businesses and organisations were presented with stunning handcrafted trophies made in the Borders by sculptor Sam Wade, and were cheered to the rafters by an audience of over 400 guests at the Springwood Hall, Kelso on Friday, 3 October.

The Award for Best Community Project, sponsored by Sykes Global Solutions went to **Newcastleton Community First Responders**. Artbeat Studios Hawick, The Public Hall Coldingham and GYP Borders were short listed.

Information about all 25 entries to this category can be found in this year's Vibrant Communities Handbook. Copies are available from Jenny Williamson on 01835 824000 extn 5832 or jawilliamson@scotborders.gov.uk

As well as being a good read it might also give you some ideas for your group.

SELKIRK DRY BAR ASSOCIATION

- "there's no room for "aye been" here!"

In my first encounter with Selkirk Dry Bar Association, on a clear spring evening, I was surprised to meet such a diverse group of people so full of enthusiasm and commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and sustainable provision for Selkirk's young people. The management team (and they are a true team) have a positive attitude towards ensuring that their organisation is running smoothly, effectively, and efficiently. Welcoming support from Community Learning and Development at Scottish Borders Council and now support from The Bridge – I started to wonder how this organisation could possibly grow and develop further?

But then it clicked... there's no room for "aye been" here!

The opening of "Rowland's" in the West Port, Selkirk has been a historical struggle for the committee of SDBA. The young people of Selkirk have had a few temporary homes provided by SDBA, but the generosity of local business man Rowland Tait and his family secured the future of SDBA and with significant investment and ongoing support from the Lottery, Selkirk Common Good Fund, and Selkirk Community Council, a permanent purpose designed provision was opened in 2007. The transformation of the traditional ironmongers to a modern youth provision makes the building near unrecognisable bar the proudly displayed photograph of Rowland Tait standing behind his counter, keeping a keen eye on the future of his shop and community.

So I knew this group could secure funding and were clearly driven and supported by the wider Selkirk community – so where did The Bridge fit? With the organisation managed and provision delivered by a huge volunteer team, Scottish Borders Council had provided the support of Avril Nairn, Youth Development Worker to co-ordinate and support the volunteers. However this 'on loan' arrangement was not sustainable and so the committee went back to their

comfy chairs (always a bonus) to think about how staffing and volunteer management could be secured. With hard work from 'money man' David Bethune the cheques began rolling in to "Rowland's". Funding was secured from the *Moffat Charitable Trust* and *Scottish Borders Children and Young People's Partnership* to allow the committee to employ Avril for 15 hours per week. Great, I thought, the committee are really taking ownership of their service... but then a few weeks passed and an email appears to tell me that David has secured a further sum of money from *Cashback for Communities* and there were now 30 hours per week of staffing hours – and the committee would have two employees!

Becoming employers was not going to happen overnight, but the committee were prepared for the challenge ahead, and we considered the need for employment policies, contracts, expenses, agreed terms and conditions, a pay roll system, and pensions – the list was long but that did not deter the committee and suddenly the priorities of the committee and the role of The Bridge matched.

Avril too recognised that the development of policies and an employment handbook was needed, and was a necessity for staff and volunteers; however the committee needed to identify someone to work through this process with The Bridge. Jim Smith came to the rescue and became SDBA's 'policy man' and the process began: developing over 30 policies from *Alcohol and Drug Use* to *Training and Development with Equal Opportunities* and *Recruitment* in between! Throughout the summer emails flew, drafts appeared, biscuits were eaten, and coffee was drunk – we were working to an August deadline. In three months a comprehensive Employment Handbook had been written from nothing. On 1st September Avril became the first employee of Selkirk Dry Bar Association and is now the Project Facilitator, and within a short period of time

Jenni Saunders was on board as Development Worker.

The SDBA team are lead by Chairperson Graham Easton whose 'can do' attitude enthuses and motivates committee, staff, volunteers, and young people. Graham has been in the Chair (always the comfy one) for a year and the achievements of the organisation under his leadership have been a testament to his commitment to the young people of Selkirk. The dedication of all the committee is a reflection of the ethos of the organisation where fun is had whilst simultaneously supporting young people in their development into adulthood. The volunteer hours of SDBA exceed 45 hours per week, and it comes as no surprise that Graham is requesting a PA to manage his busy diary!

A new era has begun for SDBA – they have a staff team to complement their core of volunteers, and the organisation has a firm vision for the future to ensure that a sustainable provision is available to young people in Selkirk. The work of the committee does not stop now: they are now employers and will embrace that responsibility; they have also begun the process of becoming a Charitable Company to ensure protection for volunteers, trustees, and staff; and are looking to write a long-term strategy for the development of provision. The Bridge will work to support SDBA in their growth and development.

For further information about Selkirk Dry Bar Association and "Rowland's" please contact **Jenni Saunders**:

email rowlands.sdba@googlemail.com or tel **01750 21222**

The Bridge can support new, developing, or established organisation to review their existing policies, procedures, and practices to ensure 'best practice' and strengthening of organisations. Please contact your local Bridge office for further information 01896 755370 (Galashiels); 01721 723123 (Peebles); 01835 863554 (Jedburgh).

Thanks to the committee and staff of SDBA (pictured below): Graham Easton, Dave Wilson, David Bethune, Jim Smith, Viv Hutchinson, Elma Hendrie, Stacey Grieve, Leigh Oliver, Avril Nairn, and Jenni Saunders.



ADULT LEARNERS AWARDS

Borders Adult Learning and Achievement Group (BALAG) is a partnership of the public, private and voluntary sector, but led by The Bridge. It organises **Adult Learners Awards (ALA)** and the **Borders Interactive Gathering (The Big Event)** and is actively seeking participation from the voluntary sector:

ALA is 10 in 2009 and will be celebrating in style. Do you know anyone who has made a significant contribution to their lives and the lives of others through volunteering and whom you would like to nominate for an Adult Learners Award? The whole of life is a learning curve and there is no need for the learning to be through conventional means - so why not recognise the path along which one of your volunteers has travelled? The only requirement is that they are over the age of 16 and that they live within the Borders region.

More information and forms can be obtained from Veronica Blackwood: VBLAC@borderscollege.ac.uk

Nominations close on **16th February** and the presentations take place on 31st March 2009.