

ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT — VOLUNTEER DRIVERS WANTED

Teviot Wheels aims to provide easily accessible transport for community groups and people who use wheelchairs or have mobility difficulties.



Without our volunteer drivers, only a few people would be able to benefit from this service. The more volunteers we have, the more our vehicles can be available to the people of Roxburgh. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with Teviot Wheels or would like more information about the project please call John Chick, Development Worker on 01835 863554 or email: john.chick@ravs.org.uk.

STOP PRESS: Scottish Borders Council has agreed to increase the level of subsidy available for eligible journeys under the social car scheme, by 3p per mile to 30p. They have also suggested that users should contribute 10p per mile under the scheme, an increase of 2p, and this will be put into effect from 1st June. This is the first such increase in many years of operation and means that Teviot Wheels will benefit from an extra 5p per mile, which will be of enormous help in keeping the scheme running in the light of increasing fuel costs.

WELL CONFERENCE 25 MARCH 2006



WELL (Women of Eskdale & Liddesdale Linked) is a partnership project run by Annandale & Eskdale Council for Voluntary Service, RAVS and Network WEST. It aims to tackle issues of rural isolation for the women of Eskdale & Liddesdale by delivering a variety of personal, social and economic development and confidence building courses, linking the two communities of Newcastleton and Langholm.

Around 100 women attended this year's highly successful conference in Newcastleton, where they took part in a range of very enjoyable workshops (fabric crafts, singing, gardening, ceramics, yoga). The inspiring keynote speaker was Superintendent Kate Thompson, Dumfries & Galloway Police and delegates received copies of the new WELL Directory (a women's information guide). To find out more: Phone: 013873 81785 or email: well@aecvs.org.uk

FREE POST FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

The Royal Mail is extending its Articles for the Blind Scheme. There is no charge for sending printed material in 16pt font or larger. Articles for the blind is a free, first class postal service for items designed for blind people. If you have a visual impairment and find it hard to get to a post-box or a Post Office, then just call **08457 740 740** and Royal Mail will come and collect the item.

For information visit : www.royalmail.com

RAVS Charity Shop (Canongate, Jedburgh)
Funds raised from the sale of donated clothes, bric-a-brac, books and toys provide additional income towards various RAVS projects. **DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME!**

DIARY DATE Borders Interactive Gathering

Thursday 25th May 2006
10am - 7pm
Focus Centre, Galashiels

Learning at work day - stalls and information, refreshments FREE
For more information, ring CBAVS on 01896 755370

RAVS COMMUNITY ACCOUNTS

RAVS Community Accounts Officer is available to help your community group when you need it. Private & Confidential help from basic book-keeping to year end accounts and project budgeting. For more information or individual help contact:
Sue Bennett on 01835 863554 or email: sue.bennett@ravs.org.uk



Roxburgh Association
of Voluntary Service

SPRING 2006

ravsnews

www.ravs.org.uk

OFFICIAL OPENING OF JEDBURGH COMMUNITY AND ARTS CENTRE BY HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL



Her Royal Highness unveiled a plaque commemorating the official opening of Jedburgh Community and Arts Centre on 26th April 2006. During her visit, the Princess Royal had lunch in their Butterfield Gallery and spent some time meeting individuals and groups who currently use the Centre.



Jedburgh Community and Arts Centre is housed in St. John's Old School, a listed building designed in 1844 by the nationally important Victorian Architect, William Butterfield. For 150 years it operated as a school for Jedburgh children until it closed in the mid- 20th Century. The building was in great need of refurbishment and renewal so a non-profit making company was set up with a committee of volunteers who took on the lease and management of the premises on behalf of the local population, as a facility for recreational, leisure, cultural and educational pursuits. Since the Centre's establishment as a Charity, much work has been undertaken with over £200,000 raised through a range of funding grants.

BIG LOTTERY NEWS

Over the next 3 years, £257 million will be available through the **Investing in Communities** Programme. The four main themes are:

- **Growing Community Assets** (to enable communities to acquire, develop, improve, manage, understand and sustain environmental and other assets for the benefit of the community)
- **Life transitions** (to help people make transitions in their lives, at different stages and different circumstances)
- **Dynamic inclusive communities** (to help Scotland's voluntary and community sector to be proactive, to champion change and not just to react to it).
- **21st century life** (to provide support to people and communities to deal with the change, improve quality of life and establish connections).

For further information on any of these themes contact RAVS on 01835 863554.

DIARY DATE

RAVS AGM

Wednesday 14th June 2006
7.30 p.m.

Sprouston Coronation Hall

Speaker: Sarah Glendinning,
New Ways Co-ordinator.

**RAVS, your local
Council for Voluntary Service
(CVS), exists to support local
voluntary and community
action.**

WHO'S WHO AT RAVS?

Heather Batsch
Development Officer

Geraldine Strickland
Development Worker (Hawick)

Sue Bennett
RAVS Community Accounts
Officer

John Chick
Teviot Wheels Development
Worker

Margaret Urquhart
RAVS Administrator

Liz Calcroft
RAVS Charity Shop
Manager

CONTACTS

Tel: 01835 863554

Fax: 01835 864456

Email: info@ravs.org.uk

Web: www.ravs.org.uk

Visit our main office at

RAVS

1 Veitch's Close,
Jedburgh, TD8 6AY
Hours: Mon-Thurs 9.30am - 1pm
Friday: 9.30am - 12 noon

*And by appointment
outside these hours.*

RAVS (Hawick)

3 Towerdykeside,
Hawick, TD9 9EA
Tel: 01450 379800
Visits: By appointment

*Registered Scottish Charity:
SC010110*



GENERAL

Are We Listening? — A Strategy for Community Engagement & Consultation (Draft)

Scottish Borders Council is preparing a strategy for how it consults and engages with members of the local community and other organisations. The consultation is seeking your views. A few sample suggestions:

- Are groups given enough time to reply to consultations?
- Is the feedback sent out useful/detailed enough?
- How can we get more groups/individuals involved in consultations?

If you have something you would like to contribute or would like a copy of the draft strategy please send your thoughts or request to: Clare Malster, Business Improvement Unit, Scottish Borders Council, FREEPOST GL19. Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0BR. Tel: 01835 826626 or email cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk.

Deadline for responses 31 May 2006.

CHARITY PARKING PERMITS

Charities based in the Borders can obtain free parking permits for any 1 named pay and display car park in the Borders. This allows staff and volunteers to park FREE. Contact: Debbie Bott, Parking Supervisor, Traffic Section, Scottish Borders Council. Tel: 01835 825165

DIARY DATE

Voluntary Sector Conference

Wednesday 14th June 2006 9.30am - 4pm
venue: Tweed Horizons

Launch of Volunteer Charter, Compact update,
workshops on Disclosures, Charity Law changes,
voluntary Health Partnerships.

Further information available from RAVS

NEW DISCLOSURE DEVELOPMENT WORKER

Volunteer Centre Borders has appointed Sandra Wilson to this new post and she is registered as a Trusted Partner with the Central Registered Body in Scotland. This means she can complete the visual ID part of the registration process for groups wishing to sign up a Lead Signatory to carry out disclosures on their volunteers. Contact her on 0845 602 3921 or email her on s.wilson@vcborders.org.uk

CONGRATULATIONS

LLOYDS TSB FOUNDATION FOR SCOTLAND 21st Birthday

Borders Disability Forum were the lucky winners of the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland award of £21,000. The Foundation made 15 awards of £21,000 to groups spread across Scotland to celebrate its 21st birthday. Borders Disability Forum plan to purchase a new specially adapted vehicle for the Gala Wheels project, which provides transport to people throughout Central Borders who are physically disabled or have a sensory impairment.

RAVS would like to take this opportunity to thank all its members who participated in the voting.

LLOYDS TSB FOUNDATION FOR SCOTLAND

Ancrum Village Hall—£2,405 to cover cost of IT equipment and games for youth club

SBC COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

Heiton Public Hall — £5,000 for renovation and extension project

Catholic Church Hawick Hall Users Group — £2,500 for equipment

Hawick Archaeological Society—£1,750

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL RENEWAL SCHEME

Heiton Public Hall—£25,000 for renovation and extension project

THE ROBERTSON TRUST

Heiton Public Hall — £10,000 for renovation and extension project

THE GANNOCHY TRUST

Heiton Public Hall — £10,000 for renovation and extension project

SBC LANDFILL TAX CREDIT FUNDING

Heiton Public Hall — £25,000 for renovation and extension project

THE BIG LOTTERY

Home Basics - £160,000 to set up a new furniture project depot in Hawick creating three new jobs as well as opportunities for volunteering and work experience. The project will collect donated furniture and household goods and make it available at low cost to people in need through a referral process. This grant will provide funding for premises, salary costs and equipment.

Stichill Village Hall - £68,191 to extend the hall, creating a new meeting room and facilities for the disabled.

AWARDS FOR ALL—(Jan—Apr 2006)

Ancrum Public Hall - £3,950 to purchase 60 chairs and equipment.

Catholic Church Hawick Hall Users Group - £5,000—upgrade nappy changing and disabled facilities.

Hawick Congregational Church—£5,000 to create a new entrance and upgrade of toilet facilities.

Hawick Welcome Initiative—£5,000 design, print and distribute costs of brochures, posters and bunting.

The Land The Light The Locals- £1,050 funding for music festival.

Girlguiding Roxburghshire—£5,000 transport costs, venue hire and a contribution towards activities and equipment.

RAVS staff can support your organisation to grow - for more information on committee training, grant funds, help with developing your project or the funding application process, just contact Heather Batsch on 01835 863554 or Geraldine Strickland on 01450 379800 (Hawick only).