INVOLVE
VOLUNTARY ACTION IN MID DEVON

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2023

WWW.INVOLVE-MIDDEVON.ORG.UK



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF OFFICER

I am delighted to introduce the second instalment of Involve's revamped newsletter. Once again we are introducing new members to our team. This is an exciting time of expansion for Involve and brings with it various plans for community support and development. We always welcome your ideas and suggestions for what your community needs and how we can help so don't hesitate to contact us.

We will be holding our next AGM in the Autumn together with an opportunity for networking for VCSE organisations in Mid Devon and a special workshop on presentation skills for staff and volunteers to which you are warmly invited. Do get in contact if you would like to take part or have an information stand.
In the meantime enjoy the newsletter.

Katheryn Hope

OUR AIM

Involve aims to help communities in Mid Devon to be more resilient, improving the lives of citizens. We support existing and evolving charities, voluntary organisations, and community groups across Mid Devon

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OUR TEAM IS EXPANDING

We welcome Fran Esau, our new Senior Community Development officer.

Fran says: "I bring a wealth of knowledge of life in Mid Devon to Involve, having lived and participated in communities here for more than 30 years. I know that local people care deeply about the health and wellbeing of their local places, spaces and fellow residents. There are lots of complimentary skills across Mid Devon which were proven during the recent pandemic to assist in providing peer support, advice, information and data and I would like to continue that momentum in community building within this role.

I have previously worked in social housing; retirement and care charities; and in providing community knowledge, grants assistance, and support to individuals and organisations across Devon.

I believe that strong communities involve connections, collaboration and partnerships, plenty of shared spaces, and respect for others. I am looking forward to helping and facilitating groups to achieve their goals.



You can contact Fran at: fran@involve-middevon.org.uk



We also welcome Zoe, our new Wellbeing Coordinator with Culm Valley PCN.

Zoe describes her role: " I support people to access services, support and information in order to better manage their long-term health conditions or current life experiences. I encourage them to identify what matters to them and help them to work towards positive outcomes.

I have two children and spent the last 24 years supporting people with a vast array of additional needs.

I love my job because of the difference I can make to people's lives and see the benefits of the fantastic service we provide."

Referrals to Zoe are made through the local GP practice.

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News

Recognising Quality in Mid Devon's Voluntary Sector

Involve is delighted to be able to offer to voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in Mid Devon the chance to gain a Devon wide Quality Assurance Mark (QAM) led by DeVA (Devon Voluntary Action). It is open to VCSE organisations who provide support, services, and activities to improve the health and wellbeing of people in our communities.

The QAM provides the opportunity to describe how your services are delivered and the relevant policies and practices that your organisation applies to ensure safe, caring, effective, and responsive services. The list (below) illustrates just some of the many types of activities and services offered by the voluntary, community and social enterprise groups and organisations:

- Transport
- Lunch clubs
- Clubs and societies
- Advice and information
- Support with shopping
- Safe at home
- Volunteer opportunities
- Accessing social activities
- Exercise and fitness
- Advocacy and peer support.

Benefits of achieving the mark include;

1. Recognition of the quality of the services you provide.
2. Confidence for people working in health and wellbeing to signpost and make referrals to you.
3. Better promotion of your voluntary services.
4. Achievement of an award to use to support funding applications.
5. A certificate and small award to display.

If you are interested in finding out more or applying for the QA Mark please contact Mike for a chat, application form and guidance on the process.

Mike Atkinson
Volunteer Services Coordinator
Mobile: 07719 068426
Involve office: 01884 210933 Email: michael@involve-middevon.org.uk

Job Opportunity at Involve!

Would you like to make a difference in your local community? Are you a natural networker and do you enjoy working with people?

We are seeking an enthusiastic **Community Builder** based in Crediton to join our expanding team at Involve. This is an exciting part-time position at Involve and you will need a good understanding of and commitment to local communities and be passionate about supporting community development.

Closing date: Sunday 20th August '23. Interviews to be held 23rd August.

For more information and to apply contact:
fran@involve-middevon.org.uk

Meet Jacqui: Service Delivery Support Officer

Each newsletter we introduce one of our team members. This time it is Jacqui who describes her role at Involve:



"My Service Delivery Support role is great. I get involved with lots of Involve's services and projects providing knowledge and practical input. I can be found busy helping to ensure our events run smoothly and that we keep in touch with all the great community groups and organisations across Mid Devon – I am lucky to often be the initial contact for both our groups and for local people looking to help in their community, whether by volunteering or otherwise.

I volunteer in my local community and first joined Involve as a volunteer working in volunteering outreach. I love that there's never a dull moment and I get to be involved in all sorts of amazing community initiatives alongside my colleagues."

You can contact Jacqui at:
office@involve-middevon.org.uk

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New Projects for 2023

Cullompton Youth Community Development

This is an exciting project for Cullompton in response to a lack of regular co-ordinated under 18 youth provision. We are finally able to announce that we are starting up a youth club in Cullompton!

We are delighted to have recruited Sophia Roper as our Senior Community Youth Worker for Cullompton. Based at the John Tallack Youth and Community Centre, she is responsible for Cullompton Youth Club and supporting the development of youth provision within Cullompton. Sophia has been delivering youth work for almost fifteen years and says she truly loves her job! She is passionate about supporting young people's personal, social and educational development and enabling them to develop their voice, influence and place in society.



Sophia*, our Senior Community Youth Worker*



We are now looking for an **Assistant Youth Worker** to support Sophia with the youth club sessions. If you enjoy working with young people, have plenty of ideas and lots of enthusiasm please do get in touch.

We have set up some drop in sessions over the holiday period and from September we will be scheduling regular youth club meetings. Please do pass on the word and encourage local young people to come along.

To contact Sophia please email:
sophia@involve-middevon.org.uk

Cullompton Community Friends

Our Community Connector has been busy in the community finding local people who would like to become **Cullompton Community Friends** to support their community and help signpost people who need the services available. We now have 48 people who have signed up and are planning a workshop in Cullompton soon. If you are interested in getting involved please contact us.

For more information please contact Fran at:
fran@involve-middevon.org.uk

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Funding News

The Masonic Charitable Foundation

The Masonic Charitable Foundation grant scheme is now open. The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) builds better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education and promoting independence for freemasons, their families and the wider community.
The MCF is one of the largest grant-making charities in the country supporting freemasons and their families as well as charities across England and Wales.

Where does the Foundation get its money from?

Their work is funded solely through the generous donations of freemasons under the United Grand Lodge of England, their families and friends. MCF donates over £5 million each year to local and national charities.

What does the MCF fund?

Current funding categories are:

- Creating the best start in life for disadvantaged children and young people
- Reducing isolation in later life
- PhD studentships in medical research
- Hospice support

Who can apply for a grant?

The MCF only supports charities registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, or the relevant Central registry of the respective Guernsey, Jersey or Isle of Man's government.

For more information and to apply go to: https://mcf.org.uk/get-support/grants-to-charities/

The Gosling Foundation

Grants of between £5000-£20,000 are available to Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs), Registered Charities and CIC's working in the areas of health (support to people with disabilities); Royal Navy/Royal Marines to improve quality of life; Youth – to provide opportunities and support for disadvantaged young people; Other – mainly education. They can offer multi-year grants starting at £5000 per year. Applicants are expected to have sought and secured match funding as the Foundation rarely funds the full project costs.

Further details: https://www.thegoslingfoundation.com

National Allotment Gardens Trust

Grants of between £250-£30,000 are available to registered Allotment Associations and Committees for the improvement and development of facilities on registered and permitted sites.

Further information from https://nagtrust.co.uk/grant-application
Closing date: 1st October 2023

Funding News

Time after Time E-Waste Fund
Sparking change on the issues of digital exclusion and e-waste

Hubbub and Virgin Media O2 are proud to announce a £500,000 fund to support innovative programmes, initiatives and campaigns that promote digital inclusion while reducing e-waste and supporting the circular economy. Successful projects will ensure that tech can be used by those that need it, time after time.
They are looking for projects that can help close the growing digital divide and spark behaviour change across the UK.
They will support a range of projects with funding between £25,000 - £100,000.
This could be a research project to help understand how the issues are connected, a campaign to redistribute devices, a project to fix old devices to be used by more people, or a project that aims to tackle the root causes of these problems.

For more information and to apply go to: https://www.timeaftertimefund.org.uk/about

The Forrester Family Trust

£1.5m is available to small charities in the year ending 31st March 2024. Application for small grants are 1st – 30th September 2023.
The Trust aim to have grants distributed within three months of the closure date for applications.
They only accept applications that:

1. Are made by charities registered in England and Wales.
2. Come through the online application process.
3. Are made by charities with an income of less than £250,000 a year in respect of small grants.

They award grants according to four priorities. Before you apply, review these to make sure your charity's a good fit:

Further details: https://theforresterfamilytrust.org/apply-for-a-grant/

The Community Organisations Cost of Living Grant

This funding is for organisations that support people and communities under severe pressure because of the increased cost of living. By community they mean people living in the same local area. Their main priority is to fund organisations supporting low-income households and individuals.

You can apply for between £10,000 and £75,000.

Further information from:
https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/community-organisations-cost-of-living-fund

EASY FUNDING



As part of our aim to provide you with funding support, we want to tell you about the funding website **easyfundraising**. It's something that your organisation can use to get extra money.

Through the easyfundraising partnership, 7,500 retailers including eBay, John Lewis, Etsy, M&S, Screwfix, Waitrose, Argos, Moonpig, Boots and trainline will donate money to your organisation when your volunteers and supporters shop online with them – for free.

Here's how it works:

When your supporters use the **easyfundraising website** or app to find a retailer they want to shop with, the retailer sends your organisation a free donation based on how much they spend. It doesn't anything extra as the retailer pays the donation, not the shopper. It's a bit like using a cashback site, but instead of one individual benefitting, your community can pull together and raise for your organisation. Anything from a weekly grocery shop to a family holiday can generate a free donation.

Easyfundraising enables people to give to your organisation without it coming directly out of their pockets, which is a very good thing during the cost of living crisis. And if you have previously used AmazonSmile and are worried about the impact of it closing, Easyfundraising is a great alternative.

The benefits:

- Completely free to register and use
- Open to voluntary organisations of all shape and size – you don't need to be a charity.
- The funds you raise class as unrestricted funds so you can use your donations as you wish

Getting started

To get started, first create an easyfundraising page for your organisation – it doesn't cost anything at all to register. Then the easyfundraising team will give you all the support you need to get your supporters on board and raising for you.

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone about easyfundraising, please contact becky@easyfundraising.org.uk who will be happy to help you.

For more information and set up go to: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/mid-devon/

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Refugee Employment and Enterprise Project (REEP)

Launched by Devon County Council's Migration and Resettlement team the aim is to improve employment and career pathways for suitably qualified and experienced refugees and migrant workers, connecting employers and vacancies and thereby supporting Devon's economic growth.

If you already are or can in the future support speakers of other languages (ESOL) with e.g. CV writing, access to vocational ESOL and ESP (English for Specific Purposes) courses and so on, please contact:
Dave Wright: dave.wright@devon.gov.uk or Philip Ash: phillip.ash@devon.gov.uk.

VCSE Strength Checker

The National Lottery Community Fund are offering all VCSEs in the UK an opportunity to analyse their organisational strengths and position and to identify areas that could be developed to improve organisational strength through this diagnostic tool, the VCSE Strengthchecker. It is not linked to any National Lottery Community Fund funding programmes and it is completely free to use.

If organisations are applying for funding, or intend to apply for funding, whether this is for a National Lottery Community Fund grant, government grant or through a trust or foundation, it may be useful for them to complete the VCSE Strength Checker to assure themselves that they are also building the costs of any important organisational development into their bids or income strategy, as part of good practice in full cost recovery and continuous improvement. At the end, you will receive a personalised report highlighting your organisation's strengths, and areas to develop to build core effectiveness.

For more information go to:
https://vcsestrengthchecker.org.uk/about

How can Involve support your organisation?

We can provide you with support on an individual basis or we run informative and interactive workshops based on themes such as fundraising and grants, the role and responsibilities of a trustee, finance management and budgeting or mental health awareness. We would love to hear how we can help you .
Please contact Katheryn at Involve with your ideas and suggestions at:

katheryn@involve-midevon.org.uk

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Community Support

From Andrea, our Crediton Community Builder



Jam Babies at Turning Tides is restarting Monday 2nd August. Turning Tides gave a tour of their garden earlier this month and it is an amazing space for the Jam Babies group. They have developed the space into several different areas including one area that is going to be an auditorium. Jam Babies runs on Mondays 10.30-11.30am for very young children and their families for a suggested donation of £5. There is the opportunity to use this space more widely by other groups so please do contact Turning Tides if you are interested in this idea.

Parents of SEN children in the Crediton area have said they would like to have an after school youth club for primary ages children and to run some sessions that were solely for SEN children and their parents. If this is something you would like to get involved with please contact us at: office@involve-middevon.org

The Crediton Breastfeeding and Parent Support (BAPS) group are meeting at Old Landscore School at 12.30-2.30pm on Tuesdays.
The Unite Carers coffee morning meets in café @100 on the 3rd Thursday each month starting at 11am.
Crediton Strummers – informal musical group of people who can strum a few chords on a guitar, ukelele or mandolin. Crediton Arts Centre, Tuesdays, 7pm
Crediton Community Allotment – Wednesdays 6-8pm, Barnfield allotments at the top.
Westbank Walking for Health walks- 9:45am, Lords Meadow Leisure Centre – Fridays fortnightly
Ostomy support group – for all people who have any kind of stoma. The next meeting is Saturday 12th August, 2-4pm at the Boniface Centre. Tea, coffee, cakes, raffle and suppliers.

INVOLVE - Registered Charity number: 1177169
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www.involve-middevon.org.uk

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