

March/April 2017

snvb news

Supporting the voluntary sector in South Northamptonshire

Mini Mayors in Brackley

School of Life, in partnership with the Brackley Town Hall project, the Town Mayor (Cllr Fiona Baker) and Bracken Leas School, has concluded a project called Mini Mayors.

As the Brackley Town Hall closed, there were lots to move out and put into storage. One thing that the town council didn't want hidden was the Mayor's Chair. This is a large elaborate throne donated to the town by the Mayor in 1898. Consequently the chair is 'on tour' accompanied by the Mayor!



During this School of Life activity, the Mayor spoke to the children about what it's like to be a mayor, what happens when you are elected and a bit about the history of the Town Hall and the council.

She also asked the children what they would do if they were Mayor for the day. Suggestions included opening a bowling alley and an hotel, building enough houses for all the homeless people and making sure there is enough food for everyone.

For more information about the School of Life project, go to our [website](#) or contact Karen Bricknell at the Volunteer Centre.



Forthcoming events

LinkUp (The Community Networking Forum)

Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 1.00pm - 2.00pm
Towcester Volunteer Centre

South Northants VCS Forum (The Voice of the Sector)

Thursday 20th April 2017 at 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Towcester Volunteer Centre

Meet the Funders!

South Northants and Daventry Funding Fair
Tuesday 6th June at Towcester Racecourse

Do you have any left over wool?

Our Charity Crafts volunteers make all sorts of craft items for charities to either use or to sell for their funds.

We are always looking for supplies of wool for the ladies to use to knit blankets, baby clothes etc.



If you have any scraps left over please don't throw them away - just pop them into the Volunteer Centre in Brackley or Towcester (Monday to Thursday mornings).

Brackley Area Volunteer Car Service

An appeal from one of our drivers

I am a volunteer driver for Brackley Area Volunteer Car Service.



Tom Dunn

We provide transport to enable those unable to drive to attend medical appointments (doctor, hospital, dentist, optician etc). We also help with visits to relatives in care homes.

snvb is currently looking to recruit more volunteer drivers because of the ever-increasing calls on its services.

Currently there is only one driver for every ten passengers and we did over 4,000 journeys covering 40,000 miles.

It really doesn't matter how much time you can spare. "Every little helps!"

There is no obligation to fulfil any fixed hours – even a couple of hours a month would be a great help.

If you are a driver and interested in giving some of your time to this worthy service, please contact Linda or Jo at Brackley Volunteer Centre in Markethouse Courtyard on 01280 841250.

Meet the Funders!

snvb in partnership with South Northamptonshire Council, Daventry District Council and Daventry Volunteer Centre is hosting another Funding Fair at Towcester Racecourse on **Tuesday 6th June 2017**.

Towcester Racecourse is a prestigious conference centre set in beautiful surroundings. A range of national, countywide and local funders will be exhibiting, together with several providing grant programme presentations.



Funders attending will include The Big Lottery, London Marathon Charitable Trust, Northamptonshire Community Foundation, Local Community Grants, Children in Need and lots more.

The presentations were particularly popular last year and we will be asking you to book very soon.

Further detailed information to follow in due course.

Our Funding Fair last year was a huge success and this year it will be another not to be missed event. Put the date in your diary now!

Advice and Support

We know that running a voluntary organisation, club or community group can be great fun and rewarding but it can also be time-consuming and demanding! snvb is able to provide a wide range of support and guidance - for example:

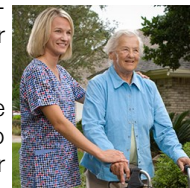
- Help with finding funding sources and developing a fundraising strategy
- Drafting a project plan to expand a service or a one of activity e.g. community centre/village hall refurbishment
- Volunteer recruitment
- Practical support
- Advice and guidance
- IT
- Networking

Melanie Bignell from snvb is able to provide advice on all these issues. Call her at the Volunteer Centre.

New volunteering opportunities

British Red Cross – First Call Volunteers

The First Call service aims to provide short-term practical & emotional support at home for up to 8 weeks.



As a First Call volunteer, you will have the rewarding experience of helping people who need a little extra support to maintain their independence.

Brackley Dippers – Helpers

The Brackley Dippers is a fun and friendly group providing swimming opportunities for people with physical difficulties.



Volunteers can help the swimmers enjoy the freedom of being in the water by assisting them in the pool or on the poolside.

For details of these and lots of other opportunities call Lorraine at the Volunteer Centre.

Our pick of latest funds

Growing a Greener Britain

Growing a Greener Britain, a registered charity, is providing grants to constituted community groups for projects which help transform green spaces in publicly-owned parks and open spaces across Britain.

[Website...](#)

Grow For It 2017

Grow Wild is awarding £500 to young people aged 12–25 to lead projects that will raise awareness about the importance of UK native wild flowers and plants.

[Website...](#)



Sport England - Community Asset Fund

Grants are available for community organisations, sports clubs, statutory bodies and educational establishments to enhance local community spaces which encourage people to play sport and get active.

[Website...](#)

Grow the Game

Grow the Game aims to increase participation in football by helping clubs to provide opportunities for new players, or by training volunteers to support new players and teams.

[Website...](#)



Mel also hosts a monthly drop-in service at Towcester Library, located in the FORUM, Moat Lane Towcester NN12 6AD.

The sessions are on the 1st Thursday of every month, from 3pm to 4.30pm.