

MAKING THINGS HAPPEN BUT STILL A WAY TO GO

BY DAVE PINWELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2009 is already a good year of solid achievement for SUSTAIN. The Solihull Together campaign has been a key focus this year and it has delivered on so many fronts:

raising the profile of volunteering through the press and recruiting volunteers through the National Volunteers' Week campaign;

establishing a new fund that can be accessed by smaller Solihull groups who are struggling financially;

getting local businesses more involved in supporting our Third Sector;

bringing our community together in a public way with the hundreds of people who walked from north to south of the borough on October 11;

to name just four. Read more on pages 2 and 3.

The MyPlace project success, though, tops all other achievements in its future significance for Solihull and its community. This project:

brings the prospect of having a fabulous leading edge, youth centre in Solihull;

offers the community sector new ways of getting involved with providing our young people with positive activities and role models;

shows how the positive partnership working which is rapidly developing between our Third Sector and the public and private sectors can pay dividends and lead to positive change.

You can read more on pages 6 and 7.

And these two projects are not the only successes this year. Within the rest of these pages you can read about what all of the team at SUSTAIN and Colebridge have been working on.

I was delighted some weeks back when one of our most respected councillors congratulated SUSTAIN on 'making things happen'. I believe that we have indeed been taking a very positive and dynamic attitude and that things are starting to happen. We know all too well, though, that we still have a long way to go.



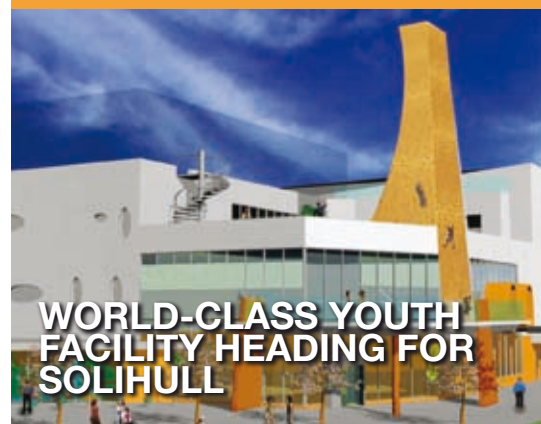
Dave Pinwell

SOLIHULL TOGETHER



RAISING THE PROFILE OF SOLIHULL'S CHARITIES & VOLUNTARY GROUPS

MYPLACE



WORLD-CLASS YOUTH FACILITY HEADING FOR SOLIHULL

+PLUS

A helping hand to beat the recession for Solihull Action through Advocacy
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Castle Bromwich Youth and Community Partnership builds bridges between generations
_____ page 5

Lifeline for Solihull and South Birmingham M.E. Support Group
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WE'VE MOVED, OUR NORTH SOLIHULL OFFICE IS NOW BASED AT WATERLOO WOODWORK

The Priory, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3LF

Unit 21, Chelmsley Wood Industrial Estate
Waterloo Avenue, Chelmsley Wood, B37 6QQ

Telephone: 0121 711 3148
Email: enquiries@solihull-sustain.org.uk

Telephone: 0121 770 8222
Email: info@solihull-sustain.org.uk

SOLIHULL TOGETHER

RAISING THE PROFILE OF SOLIHULL'S CHARITIES & VOLUNTARY GROUPS

BY CLAIRE MILICAN, SECTOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



AARTI CHAUHAN
ONE OF MABL'S NEWLY
RECRUITED VOLUNTEERS

Solihull Together launched with a bang at April's Third Sector Network meetings. Spanning six months of high profile activities, the campaign aimed to raise the profile of voluntary and community groups in Solihull and to encourage more local people and businesses to support them.

We knew that many people in Solihull donated both money and time to charity, but that often these efforts were invested out of the area, on national or even international causes, rather than here in the borough.

And so Solihull Together was born.

KICKING THINGS OFF

To help the campaign gain maximum impact, SUSTAiN enlisted the support of borough-based communications specialists Big Umbrella Media. The first thing Big Umbrella did was ask the people of Solihull to name as many local voluntary organisations as they could. Unfortunately they were not able to name very many. But they did say they were more than willing to offer their time and skills if only they knew what local groups needed.

So to start spreading the message, Big Umbrella produced a short promotional video showcasing three of the organisations operating in the borough – Northern Star Community Arts, Family Care Trust and Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens. Case studies of a further five groups featured in the Solihull News. The newspaper was incredibly supportive, providing five weeks of coverage, including competitions and a 'wanted' list for voluntary organisations to advertise for people and resources they needed.

This first wave of activity culminated in National Volunteers' Week where, alongside appearing on Midlands Today and Radio WM, over 100 new volunteers were recruited during a series of events organised by the Solihull Volunteer Management Forum. *Read more about National Volunteers Week on page 4.*

THE CHALLENGE

From June onwards, the Solihull Together focus switched to the business community and fundraising. As Martin Clarke, SUSTAiN's Business Advisor explains:

“Phase two of Solihull Together was about encouraging local companies to do something fun and raise money for the Solihull Together fund.”



SUMO WRESTLERS
FROM GRACE ACADEMY
COMPLETE THE
SOLIHULL TOGETHER
SPONSORED WALK

“Thanks to the Solihull Together ‘wanted’ list in the Solihull News, Relate received a new reception desk, Young Enterprise recruited three experts and MABL found some extra helping hands.”



ANDY COLE AND THE RAMADA TEAM ADOPT SOLIHULL TOGETHER AS THEIR ANNUAL CHARITY

Martin continues:

“The Solihull Together fund is a resilience fund for charities and voluntary groups that are struggling to cope financially with the effects of the recession”.

First to step-up was Ramada, keen supporters of Solihull’s voluntary sector. The hotel adopted Solihull Together as its annual charity and has been running monthly fundraising quiz nights. As Andy Cole, general manager states:

“It is important for us to help locally. Our staff are local, we are based right in the centre of Solihull and we like to be part of the community and

to give something back.”

Another successful ‘challenge’ was a bowling night organised by business network Synergy4Business. Hosted by Acocks Green Bowl, 85 people joined in the fun and raised a total of £822 on the night for Solihull Together, with a donation of £250 from Synergy4Business.

Other notable challenges have included a daft dress day at Blythe Valley Business Park and a tandem parachute jump by Netstationers in Shirley.

THE GRAND FINALE

To really put Solihull Together on the map, the campaign closed on Sunday 11th October with a sponsored walk that brought all parts of Solihull together. 180 walkers took part in total, with 120 completing the full 12 mile trek from Kingshurst to Knowle. From Samaritans to sumo wrestlers, scouts to sea cadets, to beavers, caterpillars and HUGs, Solihull’s groups had a great day out raising some much needed extra funds for their organisations.

The Mayor’s Deputy, Councillor Gary Allport, officially started the walk at Babbs Mill Park and there was support on the day from AMPM Travel and sponsors Ramada Solihull. It was a fantastic day with a real sense of community spirit from all the walkers. Lots of new friends were made on the day!

SUSTAiN is hoping to make this an annual event and will be advertising a date for next year soon – keep checking www.solihull-sustain.org.uk, where you’ll also find a video of all the fun from this year’s walk.

In the mean time, a big ‘thank you’ to everyone involved for making the day so special.

RESILIENCE FUND

With the close of the campaign, SUSTAiN is now collecting all money raised for Solihull Together. We will shortly announce how groups can apply for funding from the ‘resilience fund’.



SUSTAiN, working in partnership with Solihull Community Foundation

*Solihull Together.
Registered charity number 1063014.*

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS' WEEK A STORMING SUCCESS FOR SOLIHULL

BY MANJIT JOHAL, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



THE SOLIHULL VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT FORUM RECRUITMENT TEAM

Solihull's National Volunteers' Week celebrations were a storming success this year with over 100 people putting themselves forward to become volunteers.

Kicking off with two recruitment roadshows in Mell Square, a week of events organised by the Solihull Volunteer Management Forum saw local people keen to sign-up to offer their time and skills to the borough's charities and voluntary organisations.

Arden Hall played host to a gala dinner to celebrate the achievements of volunteers in the Castle Bromwich area, with a very special lifetime achievement award going to Margaret and Albert Turner for over 60 years of remarkable dedication to their local community.

And at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, voluntary

organisations in the North of the borough showcased their work – everything from park conservation to care homes for elderly people to keeping the community safe. Thanks to the Solihull Together campaign, the event even attracted the attention of BBC Midlands Today, showing to the whole of the West Midlands what a great job Solihull's community groups and volunteers do.

Some of Solihull's longest standing volunteers also appeared live on Radio WM's breakfast show, talking about what they get out of volunteering and why everyone should at least give it a go. Their enthusiasm was truly infectious and set an inspirational backdrop to the week's celebrations.

Hear the full interview on our website at www.solihull-sustain.org.uk

VOLUNTEER BROKERAGE

Advertise your vacancies and recruit volunteers with help from SUSTAIN. We have eager volunteers ready and waiting to be placed with local groups. Call **0121 705 8820** or email volunteering@solihull-sustain.org.uk

SOLIHULL VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT FORUM

Anyone involved in managing volunteers is invited to join the Solihull Volunteer Management Forum (SVMF) — the place to share best practice on everything to do with volunteers. Contact Manjit on **0121 705 8820** or email volunteering@solihull-sustain.org.uk for more information.

A HELPING HAND TO BEAT THE RECESSION

BY NICKY HOPKINS, ADVOCACY MANAGER, SOLIHULL ACTION THROUGH ADVOCACY



Our need for support from Jayne Scarman, SUSTAIN's PR and Marketing Manager, became apparent to us following the

'Surviving the Recession' Third Sector Network meeting in April when all three of us who attended this workshop came away with the same realisation: "We need to promote ourselves more".

The first thing we decided to do was to actually spend some

money getting leaflets printed professionally but if we were going to do this we needed some guidance on how to make them look professional — so I emailed Jayne and she was only too happy to meet with me to come up with ideas.

We knew the information we wanted to present and Jayne helped us to play around and get the colours and photos right to give the best impression.

Having got the leaflets printed we needed to plan what to do

with them so they didn't just end up in the corner of a cupboard but were being used to promote our service across Solihull. So another email to Jayne later and we're sitting down planning who to target the leaflets at and what other opportunities there are available to make sure that everyone in Solihull gets to know the name 'Solihull Action through Advocacy'.

We've taken Jayne's advice and are now getting down the list we created at that meeting. Thanks Jayne!

CASTLE BROMWICH BUILDS BRIDGES BETWEEN GENERATIONS

BY TERRIE KNIBB, CHAIRMAN, CASTLE BROMWICH YOUTH AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



Castle Bromwich Youth and Community Partnership was originally set-up to improve intergenerational

understanding and relationships in the area. Its aim was to listen to the community's concerns and aspirations and improve the area's sustainability by identifying projects that young and old could work on together, that would improve life in Castle Bromwich.

The founder members called on SUSTAIN's Community Development Officer, Manjit Johal, for some support with getting the Partnership up and running.

To date, Manjit has helped us

by making us aware of legal requirements we need to comply with, funding opportunities and training opportunities such as PQASSO and Youth Worker Development programmes.

She has put us in touch with people who could offer us further help and provided some suitable model constitutions on which to base our own. She has also helped to spread the word about the Partnership and offered us ongoing support and guidance with meetings, even taking the minutes in the early days when we had nobody else to do them.

But perhaps most importantly, she has helped us to put little set-backs into perspective and realise that we can use a project such as the recent

“Manjit's support has made an immense difference to us”

Castle Bromwich Community Festival to get a better idea of what our objectives should be.

Manjit's support has made an immense difference. It's steered us clear of many mistakes that we would have made without the advice she's given, given us access to free training opportunities that will be invaluable as we grow and has helped us to start building networks which will stand the Partnership in good stead for the future.

MYPLACE

WORLD-CLASS FACILITY HEADING FOR SOLIHULL

BY MARTIN SMITH, SUSTAINABILITY PLANNER

“The MyPlace facility will be world-class and will set a gold standard for future youth centres in the area”

John English



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE NEW MYPLACE FACILITY

There was exciting news in March with the announcement that SUSTAiN had been successful in its bid to develop a world-class facility for the borough.

Opening by 2012, MyPlace in Solihull will be a focal point for community life with affordable top-class facilities, including a new youth centre.

In partnership with a number of other third, public and private sector partners, a grant allocation of £5 million has been successfully secured from the Department for Children, Schools

and Families (DCSF) as part of the MyPlace programme - a multi-million pound government initiative designed to create world class amenities for young people.

A landmark building with striking, innovative architecture, MyPlace in Solihull will be a first for the borough, aiming to set the standard for future projects.

The centre will be fully accessible to all and will house a feature climbing wall, recording studio, multi-gym, rehearsal room, dance studio, multi-purpose sports and leisure centre, cyber-cafe,

boxing club, retail spaces, social area with big screen TV and table games and a refreshment area.

John English, one of the young people involved in the core project group who has been representing young people's views on how the new centre will take shape, described the project as "vitaly important". He said:

“Although there is lots of regeneration taking place in the north of the borough, facilities for young people sometimes get overlooked. The MyPlace facility will be world-class, of the like Solihull has never had before.”

The facility is planned to be built on the site of the current Fordbridge Club for Young People and will be open to all young people and members of the community from across the borough. Over 200 young people have already come together to lead a consultation process which has shaped the facility and the services it will provide.

Vanessa Bishop, SMBC Service Director for Children, Young People and Families said:

“This project offers a superb opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of young people in Solihull and particularly those in the north of the



MYPLACE YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP (L TO R) GEORGINA TAYLOR, NICOLE POOLE, ALISON WOOD, JOHN ENGLISH, JAMES BURNETT

borough. Young people will not only be consumers of activities and services but will help deliver the agreed programme and manage the centre. This is a great — and maybe once in a life time — opportunity for the young people and community of north Solihull.”

STAGE TWO

Stage two of the application process is now underway, which requires the completion of comprehensive business plans and robust cash-flow projections to demonstrate how the facility will be made sustainable. Further ongoing funding is also being sought from sponsorship and developing partnerships which will supplement income received from membership, fees and amenity use.

“I think the MyPlace project will

make a really positive difference to North Solihull,” said John English.

“Young people in this area don't always get the best opportunities, so the services and facilities planned should really help those young people. And our vision is for this to be only the start, with the project setting a gold standard for future youth centres in the area over the years to come.”

There is an enormous amount of work to be done to get MyPlace from the drawing board to opening its doors, so SUSTAiN is looking for people, young and old, to get involved voluntarily in this fantastic project.

If you are interested, please get in touch with either Janet Johnson (Funding Manager) or Martin Smith (Sustainability Planner) on **0121 711 3148** or email **myplace@solihull-sustain.org.uk**

ABOUT MYPLACE

The MyPlace development is intended to:

- Encourage positive activities;*
- Tackle health and wellbeing;*
- Enable young people to succeed in education and learning;*
- Protect vulnerable individuals from crime and fear of crime;*
- Nurture community cohesion and inter-generational understanding;*
- Directly support young people and respond to their priority needs;*
- Engage the goodwill and practical support of private, third and public sector partner organisations.*

NETWORKS

IT'S GOOD TO TALK...AND LISTEN

BY CLAIRE MILICAN, SECTOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The various network meetings for Solihull's voluntary groups continue to thrive. Networks are a great way for groups to get together, share experiences, bounce ideas off each other, learn new things, meet new people and solve problems together. Here are just a few of the successes from the last few months.

CHILDREN'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM

MAKING SURE THE BOROUGH'S CHILDREN GET THE BEST

CVSF

The Children's Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) launched its own newsletter in June, which covered The Pledge — the Solihull Partnership's promise to children and young people in Solihull.

The forum has also recently been looking at the implications and practicalities of the 'One Workforce' aspect of the 'Every Child Matters' strategy.

SCVYS

MOVING FORWARD WITH A NEW DEVELOPMENT WORKER

March saw the appointment of Rob Wyatt as Development Worker for SCVYS (Solihull Council for Voluntary Youth Services).

An experienced youth worker, drama worker, arts champion and football referee, Rob is a true all-rounder. So far he's been



**ROB WYATT,
THE NEW DEVELOPMENT
WORKER FOR SCVYS**

offering practical support and advice to SCVYS' 50+ members but is keen to engage with more groups so that they can take advantage of the help that is available — everything from fundraising, to bid-writing, to the latest development in youth work. Get in touch with Rob on **0121 704 6059** or rwyatt@solihull.gov.uk

SOLIHULL VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT FORUM

BOOSTING VOLUNTEERING IN THE BOROUGH



June was a major highlight for the Solihull Volunteer Management Forum (SVMF) with the resounding success of

NETWORKS IN BRIEF

ENABLE SOLIHULL

For disability groups in Solihull
Meets: Monthly
Contact: Martin Wright (Enable Solihull)
Telephone: 0121 788 1544

TRUSTEE NETWORK

For trustees of Solihull charities
Meets: Via email every 2 months
Contact: Claire Milican (SUSTAiN)
Telephone: 0121 711 3148
Email: clairem@solihull-sustain.org.uk

THIRD SECTOR NETWORK

For any charity, voluntary, community or faith group, social enterprise or not-for-profit organisation in Solihull.
Meets: 3-4 times a year
Contact: Claire Milican (SUSTAiN)
Telephone: 0121 711 3148
Email: clairem@solihull-sustain.org.uk

SVMF

For anyone involved in managing volunteers
Meets: Monthly
Contact: Manjit Johal (SUSTAiN)
Telephone: 0121 711 3148
Email: manjitj@solihull-sustain.org.uk

SCVYS

For youth organisations in Solihull
Meets: Quarterly
Contact: Rob Wyatt (SCVYS)
Telephone: 0121 704 6059
Email: info@scvys.org.uk



JANET DOWN OF SOLO GIVES AN UPDATE FROM THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD TO THE CHILDREN'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM

its National Volunteers' Week celebrations, *see page 4*.

The forum has also become a constitutional group in its own right (giving it access to funding) and has a new logo! Planning is now underway for next year's Volunteers' Week celebrations.

SPORTS NETWORK

SUSTAIN AND SOLIHULL SPORTS COUNCIL WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

A new virtual network for Solihull sport launched at the end of June and has been well received. Bi-monthly emails to members cover important issues relating to sports groups, backed up by a network page on the SUSTAIN website. Go to www.solihull-sustain.org.uk to find out more.

THIRD SECTOR NETWORK

RECESSION-PROOFING AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

April's Third Sector Network meeting was dedicated to resilience.



Local business advisor, Lawrie Rumens, shared his expertise with an insightful presentation on tactics to survive the recession and a panel of expert advisors offered one-to-one surgeries on marketing, funding, team management and more.

In November, the focus was on sustainable funding, with workshops on the commissioning process, how to influence public services, fundraising ideas and social entrepreneurship. Find out more at www.solihull-sustain.org.uk

TRUSTEE NETWORK

EQUIPPING SOLIHULL'S TRUSTEES WITH ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Another e-network designed to disseminate important information relating to the trustee role.

Free to join and no commitment involved, simply email: clairem@solihull-sustain.org.uk

NETWORKS IN BRIEF (CONTINUED)

SPORTS NETWORK

For sports groups in Solihull
Meets: Via email every 2 months
Contact: Claire Milican (SUSTAIN)
Telephone: 0121 711 3148
Email: clairem@solihull-sustain.org.uk

NOT FOR PROFIT GROUP

For organisations involved in health and social care
Meets: Monthly
Contact: Karen Powell (Family Care Trust)
Telephone: 0121 770 1578

LINK (LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK)

For anyone in Solihull that wants a say in health and social care
Contact: Solihull LINK
Telephone: 0845 094 9497

IAG NETWORK

For information, advice and guidance providers to help manage the effects of the current social and economic climate
Meets: Quarterly
Contact: Claire Milican (SUSTAIN)
Telephone: 0121 711 3148
Email: clairem@solihull-sustain.org.uk

CHILDREN'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM (CVSF)

For organisations providing services to children and young people in Solihull
Meets: Every 2 months
Contact: Charles Rapson (SUSTAIN)
Telephone: 0121 770 8222
Email: charlesr@solihull-sustain.org.uk

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY IN NORTH SOLIHULL

BY JANET JOHNSON, FUNDING MANAGER



THE HEALTH TRAINERS TEAM (L TO R) NICK KITCHING, PHYLLIS BAILEY, ELLIOT HICKS, SARAH WHITEHOUSE, APRIL HALL, KAREN BOLTON, HARPREET SOHAL

SKILLS FOR JOBS

Pre-employability support for the long-term unemployed.

Contact: Dawn Brueton or Sophia Nasreisfahany

Telephone: 0121 788 3860

Based: Bosworth Community Centre, Bosworth Drive, Chelmsley Wood

HEALTH TRAINER SERVICE

One-to-one support towards achieving healthier lifestyle goals.

Contact: Harpreet Sohal

Telephone: 0800 015 3265

Based: you+, 1 Coppice Way, Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre

HEALTH TRAINERS

HELPING PEOPLE TOWARDS HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES

The Solihull Health Trainer Service, a new and exciting partnership with Solihull Care Trust, launched in September. Based at the You+ shop in Chelmsley Wood, the service is designed to provide one-to-one advice to individuals in North Solihull who require practical support with making changes to their lifestyle.

INNOVATION

This innovative new approach to primary care prevention has been set-up to tackle some of the prevailing health inequalities in North Solihull. A team of eight Health Trainers offer tailored support to people who are looking to lose weight,

eat more healthily, get fitter, quit smoking, manage their alcohol intake or simply feel healthier. Health Trainers will carry out lifestyle risk assessments, develop action plans for change and bring individuals into contact with clinics and wider health services that can help them to make their desired changes.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

“The Health Trainer Service is intended to be responsive to the needs of each individual,” says Health Trainer Service Manager, Harpreet Sohal

“Health Trainers will help people recognise where they can make improvements to their health

and support them, one-to-one, to achieve these goals.”

Harpreet continues:

“Another key feature is that Health Trainers will be visible and accessible – seeing clients within the community at the client’s preferred location. This will complement other health services and help to engage people who have perhaps not been successful in addressing their lifestyle on previous occasions”.

Referrals can be taken from GP surgeries and third sector organisations in the area. Individuals that meet the criteria can also self-refer into the service. For more information call the Health Trainers team on **0800 015 3265**.

SKILLS FOR JOBS

SMALL STEPS ON THE ROAD TO WORK

Celebrating a successful first year in July was pre-employability project Skills for Jobs. Operating out of Bosworth Community Centre in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council, the scheme offers much needed one-to-one support to those who are furthest away from the workplace to overcome their personal barriers to work.

As Sophia Nasreisfahany, Senior Employability Advisor explains:

“Skills for Jobs is a really responsive project that is intended to help those that are struggling most. The approach it uses proved to be successful in 2008–09 and we are keen

“The support offered by this project is absolutely essential”

Barry Pitaway

to build on this in 2009–10 by expanding the breadth of partners with whom we work to provide an even more holistic service to those we support.”

Targeting people aged over 19 who have been out of work for 12 months or more, the project offers intensive support with building inter-personal skills and motivation to increase feelings of self-confidence and worth. Clients have access to training courses

and volunteer placements and also receive practical help with putting together CVs, application forms and interviews.

Barry, a 2008–09 beneficiary who featured in a the Skills for Jobs celebration video, described the support offered by the project as “absolutely essential”.

To learn more contact Dawn Brueton or Sophia Nasreisfahany on **0121 788 3860**.



SKILLS FOR JOBS CLIENTS CELEBRATE ACHIEVING THEIR FORKLIFT QUALIFICATIONS FROM A1 TRAINING

BARRY PITAWAY

Barry joined Skills for Jobs in January 2009 having been made redundant. Although an experienced project engineer over many years, with the current economic climate

Barry was struggling to find employment in manufacturing.

Willing to look further afield and keep his options open, Barry decided to consider taking a change in career direction. He received interview skills

training from the Skills for Jobs project and guidance with completing application forms and cover letters. A visit to the North Solihull JobClub resulted in signing up for a basic skills construction course through Solihull College. He has also since completed Counterbalance and Reach Forklift training with A1 Training.

“Before I was referred to Colebridge Trust my self esteem was low and I had lost all motivation. Since joining the Skills for Jobs project I have received excellent support and advice and have been offered several job interviews. With a genuine interest in DIY, I am now considering applying those skills to a new career. I really enjoyed the forklift training at A1 and am also now considering doing my CSCS Health and Safety in the future.”

HOW ENTERPRISING

BY CHARLES RAPSON, OPERATIONS MANAGER



THE WATERLOO WOODWORK TEAM WITH CAROLINE SPELMAN MP, CHAIR OF WELCOME'S CHARITABLE BOARD, AT THE WOODBROOKE GARDEN PROJECT

WHAT'S NEW AT WATERLOO

Earlier this year the team at Waterloo Woodwork were part of a successful bid to create a community garden in Chelmsley Wood. Substance misuse charity Welcome, part of Solihull Integrated Addictions Service (SIAS), were awarded £3000 from Birmingham International Airport's Community Trust Fund to create the partnership garden – where recovering drug addicts from the charity's recovery programme will work alongside the elderly residents at neighbouring Woodbrooke House. Waterloo Woodwork will be producing the raised beds and benches for the project.

Joanne Mackinnon, Executive Director of Welcome said:

“this is a good cross-generational project and also dispels the myths about the relationship between elderly people and drug users.”

Waterloo Woodwork provides work experience and training for adults with learning disabilities – manufacturing durable timber products to order. Contact Simon Cockerill on **0121 770 7555** or email **simon@waterloowoodwork.co.uk**

IT PEACE OF MIND

A recent new venture for **colebridge:itservices** has been to offer a full IT support package to voluntary organisations. This brings the reassurance of knowing there is someone at the end of the phone who can fix things when the technical kit goes wrong, without the worry of this being followed by an unexpected bill.

One organisation to have taken advantage of this support service is Solihull Life Opportunities (SoLO). Their support package has included a full IT audit, general system maintenance as well as training on good IT housekeeping.

The training has been proving invaluable, with the SoLO team now able to swiftly sort out many common problems that would previously have caused a major disruption. And for any issues they can't solve themselves, Colebridge's Christian Clarke is on hand to troubleshoot.

Janet Down, Chief Executive Officer at SoLO said:

“We have had excellent service from **colebridge:itservices** both during site visits and via telephone support. It's very helpful to know that IT support is close at hand.”

If you would like to know more about some of the IT support packages that are available, please contact Christian Clarke on **0121 770 8222** or **chrisc@solihull-sustain.org.uk**.

THE FUTURE IS VIDEO

Never shy of a new challenge, the team at **colebridge:webandmedia** have recently turned their hands to making videos. Both the Access IT and Skills for Jobs projects were looking for evidence of their successes and what better way to capture good work in action and delighted clients than on video?

More recently, **colebridge:webandmedia** was commissioned by the Children and Young People's Trust to produce a video that gave a voice to local families and children, enabling them to express the kinds of qualities and behaviour they expected from the children and young people's workforce. The video premiered at the Trust's annual assembly and will be used at future events.

“It is really important that we are listening and responding to the families that live in Solihull in supporting their children and young people to live happy and fulfilling lives. We want the workforce in Solihull, those who

work and volunteer with children and young people, to be flexible, competent, confident and safe. We are really pleased that the dads who took part in this DVD will have their message heard,” said a Solihull Workforce Development Team spokesperson

You can see the results for yourself at:
www.solihull-sustain.org.uk

WEBSITES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

Solihull Bereavement Counselling Service (SBCS) approached **colebridge:webandmedia** in need of a simple website to help raise its profile. As a small organisation, purchasing a website from a traditional media company was not really an option for SBCS, and neither did they feel they had the skills or the capacity to try to develop one in house.

From a short brief, **colebridge:webandmedia** designed a basic website that outlined what SBCS does, how it can be contacted plus

ACCESS IT BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

“Access IT has been so successful that nearly 90% of those who have taken part now use a computer most if not every day,” says ReCOM’s Carol Wood. And that’s a statistic that has transformed people’s lives. A partnership between SUSTAIN, ReCOM and the Learning Skills Council, the Access IT project provides people with disabilities and those on low incomes with a computer in their home, internet access for 12 months and training either at a computer club or at home.

“Access IT has opened up opportunities for people that they wouldn’t otherwise have had access to,” says project

information on how to volunteer and make a donation. A simple yet effective way of becoming more visible as an organisation.

Julie Swiffin of SBCS said: “Our new website is wonderful. It will enable us to raise our profile and hopefully more people will be able to access our service, and find out about the work we do. We are very grateful to David from Colebridge who designed our website”.

SBCS also received a few hours training, equipping them with the skills they needed to update the site themselves. Take a look at:
www.solihullbereavement.org

From small standard websites like SBCS’, through to large bespoke sites, **colebridge:webandmedia** can offer a solution to meet a full range of requirements and budgets.

For more information contact David Rapson on **0121 711 3148** or davidr@solihull-sustain.org.uk



ACCESS IT CLIENT AT HOBS MOAT LIBRARY COMPUTER CLUB

colebridge:communications

colebridge:communications can help you reach out to the community or your customers in a wide variety of ways.

colebridge:webandmedia

Contact: David Rapson
Telephone: 0121 711 3148
Email: webmedia@solihull-sustain.org.uk

colebridge:itservices

Contact: Chris Clarke
Tel: 0121 770 8222
Email: ict@solihull-sustain.org.uk

colebridge:distribution

Contact: Sara Hands
Tel: 0121 770 8222
Email: distribution@solihull-sustain.org.uk

WATERLOO WOODWORK

Contact: Simon Cockerill
Tel: 0121 770 7555
Email: simon@waterloowoodwork.co.uk

coordinator Bob Walklate. “For people with disabilities, it has helped to get them connected with family and friends via email and social networks. For people on low incomes, it has helped them look for work and improve their skills for the workplace,” explains Bob.

Now in its second year, Access IT is hoping to attract more learners from the south of Solihull and outlying villages. The project is open to applications from anyone in Solihull aged 18-65 who has a disability or is on a low income.

For more information contact Bob Walklate on **0121 765 5282** or accessit@recom.org.uk

QUALITY MATTERS

BY SARAH LAWRENCE, PROJECT OFFICER

It certainly does with funders these days. More and more funders are asking for Quality Assurance systems to be in place when considering applications.

But don't panic. Quality Assurance is actually very straight forward and can be a really useful tool to make your life easier and give you peace of mind.

Quality Assurance systems ask the questions that you need to think about to make sure your organisation and the services you offer are as good as they can be. Given that it takes time to put a quality system in place, now is a good time to start and SUSTAiN can help with a number of systems to suit different needs, budgets and time.

PQASSO (PRACTICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM FOR SMALL ORGANISATIONS)

Written by the Charities Evaluation Service PQASSO is

universally recognised. Normally it would cost upwards of £700 to implement, but thanks to funding from Capacitybuilders, we can offer it to you for only £100. For that you get two days training by the Family Care Trust, half a day's mentoring to implement PQASSO and the PQASSO manual. There is also an optional CD ROM version at £50 for those who want it.

Two days in a classroom might be too much for some, so SUSTAiN can also offer:

QUALITY FIRST

Written by one of the original authors of PQASSO, Quality First was commissioned by Birmingham Voluntary Services Council (BVSC) specifically for small community groups. BVSC has kindly provided us with a limited number of copies.

The cost is just £50 and includes the workbook plus support from SUSTAiN on how to implement this in your group.

VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (VIP)

Designed in partnership with a number of voluntary organisations in Solihull and SMBC's Community & Voluntary Relations Unit, VIP is a peer-to-peer based system and ideal for organisations who want to work together and share ideas. It comes with a mentor and it's FREE.

SUSTAIN'S INTRODUCTION TO QUALITY ASSURANCE (SIQA)

Start to get to grips with the subject and see the benefits with a simple check list that takes you through the key areas and questions that you need to ask about your organisation and the service you provide. It's FREE to organisations that rely solely on volunteers.

Find out more by calling Sarah Lawrence or Charles Rapson on **0121 770 8222**.

COMMISSIONING AND COMPACT ROUND-UP

SOLIHULL COMMON COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK

Earlier this year, your views were sought on a common commissioning framework for Solihull. The framework is designed to simplify and standardise the commissioning process across all organisations in the Solihull Partnership. In practice, this means a new consistent approach to planning, providing and reviewing services in the borough.

Thank you to everyone who gave their feedback on the proposed framework. The consultation

period has now closed and the results will be published shortly.

SOLIHULL COMPACT PLUS WINS LOCAL COMPACT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Launched officially in December 2008, the Compact Plus for Solihull (2008-2013) is an agreement to improve relations between the Solihull Partnership and the Third Sector. It outlines commitments and a set of shared principles that representatives from the private, public and voluntary sectors have developed, agreed and signed up to in order to work better together.

To ensure that relationships between parties really improve in practice, Codes of Practice have been developed based on feedback received at consultation events. These centred on consultations, funding and procurement, volunteering, community groups and diversity & celebrating difference. The final documents are due to be published shortly.

COMPACT – THE NATIONAL PICTURE

Meanwhile, the national Compact is being refreshed and will be published before Christmas. www.thecompact.org.uk

COMMUNITY COHESION

BY GULBAG SINGH, COMMUNITY COHESION MANAGER



THE WORLD 501 DHOLIS FUNDRAISING TEAM PRESENT SUSTAIN WITH £251 AS A THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO PROMOTE THEIR WORLD RECORD BREAKER FOR THE LARGEST NUMBER OF DHOL (INDIAN DRUMS) PLAYED AT ONCE.

A number of voluntary groups have already taken advantage of the specialist expertise in the fields of cultural awareness and equality and diversity, provided by Gulbag Singh, SUSTAIN's Community Cohesion Manager.

Gul's role involves promoting equality and cohesion across Solihull. He's been tasked with making sure groups that are marginalised have access to the support they need and are able to play a full role in the community.

Marginalised, in this context, means anyone who may find themselves on the fringes of our society – such as black and minority ethnic groups, disabled people, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people or those with mental health problems. The list is not exhaustive.

Specifically, Gul can:

support Solihull-based organisations to adapt the support they provide to meet the needs of more diverse groups of people;

help with setting up new organisations specifically aimed at marginalised groups;

raise awareness of some of the existing organisations that work with people on the fringes of society;

work directly with hard-to-reach groups to make sure their voices are heard (e.g. through partnerships and networks).

Bromford Support has already received Gul's cultural awareness training and assistance with putting together an action plan for reaching out to a greater number of marginalised people. Gul has also been working with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to help expand the appeal

HOW DIVERSE IS SOLIHULL?

More than you might think. Here are a couple of the issues Gul has found at grassroots level in the community.

LGBT GROUPS

There is concern about the lack of provision for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Solihull, particularly leisure and social activities. Gul is interested in hearing from anyone from this community to work out a way forward — call **0121 711 3148** or email gulbags@solihull-sustain.org.uk

CHINESE COMMUNITY

Solihull's 500-strong Chinese community resides mainly in Shirley, Dorridge and Knowle, but with little in terms of social activities in the area many members use the Birmingham Chinese Centre as their hub for information and leisure. The Chinese New Year celebrations in Mell Square last January gave a flavour of this community's commitment to not only celebrate their festivals but also to make sure everyone has an opportunity to share in them.

of its work to people from more diverse backgrounds.

Meanwhile, trustees at Solihull Carers Centre were so impressed with Gul that they requested for all staff to undertake his training, as well as a workshop to look at ways of broadening the reach of their services. Gul has also supported the centre with developing a strategic plan that is focused on equality and diversity.

Please get in touch with Gul if you would like to know more, on **0121 711 3148** or gulbags@solihull-sustain.org.uk

LIFELINE FOR SOLIHULL SUPPORT GROUP

SUSTAIN is seeking to help voluntary groups affected by tough economic times and, with intervention from Community Development Officer, Manjit Johal, a local support group for people with M.E. has been saved from closure.

The recession hit Solihull and South Birmingham M.E. Support Group, which is a vital source of help to people severely disabled by the debilitating chronic condition, was struggling to survive as funds dried up. But a £5000 grant will mean that members can continue to receive much-needed support which is simply not available elsewhere. Group coordinator Jenny Griffin said:

“We’re absolutely ecstatic with the award. It will really mean a lot to our members and gives us scope to offer them so much more support.”

The money was awarded by Solihull Community Foundation



**JENNY GRIFFIN
CELEBRATES RECEIVING
A GRASSROOTS GRANT
FOR SOLIHULL AND
SOUTH BIRMINGHAM M.E.
SUPPORT GROUP**

as part of the government-backed Grassroots Grants scheme.

“We will now be able to create a new resource library, information packs and an improved newsletter which will provide welcome extra support, particularly for our members who are more severely affected and housebound,” continued Jenny.

Jenny praised the efforts of SUSTAIN in raising awareness of potential funding streams which have helped her to secure the support group’s future existence.

“The assistance we received from Manjit was absolutely immeasurable. I don’t think we would have managed without her.”

For information about sources of funding see SUSTAIN’s fundraising factseheets at www.solihull-sustain.org.uk or call **0121 711 3148** to for a hard copy.

NATTER AND NETWORK AT SOLIHULL JOB CLUB

A thriving new Job Club for central Solihull has been set-up with support from SUSTAIN. The Monday morning club offers jobseekers the chance to meet each other and talk with specialist advisors about CVs, interviews and volunteering.

“The atmosphere so far has been buzzing,” said co-organiser Beryl Moppett, “and we’ve had a good take-up each week.”

John Costello, a regular visitor to the Job Club said:

“I would definitely suggest to others to come along. It’s a very important step, as you never know who you might meet and what links you might make. I already have one lead just from chatting with someone today.”

SUSTAIN’s Martin Clarke assisted with the initial set-up of the group, putting the club in touch with a number of local businesses who were willing to offer their expert help for free.

One of his contacts, a graphic designer, even created an eye-

catching poster. As Beryl puts it:

“Martin was a great help in getting the group up and running”.

Any jobseekers are welcome to drop-in at the club which runs at **John Palmer Hall, Union Road, Solihull from 10.30 to 12.30 on Mondays.** Says Beryl:

“Come to meet and mingle in a friendly and supportive atmosphere with a free flow of coffee and biscuits!”