

VA-L

EST. 1944



Support for the Third Sector

Voluntary Action-Leeds

for the voluntary and community sector in Leeds



2011 calendar

Featuring VA-L's Annual Review 2009/10

membership

sector support

newsletter

training

payroll

volunteering

Voluntary Action Leeds

Support for the Third Sector



It is my pleasure to introduce the 2009-10 Annual Review for Voluntary Action-Leeds

(VA-L). This, my first year as Chair of the board of trustees, has seen unprecedented challenges for all of us and VA-L has not been immune from the need to face and overcome those challenges. It is unlikely that this coming year will be any easier and as a charity and as a sector we face increasing demand for our services at a time of increasingly diminishing funding.

Some may no longer approve of the term "The Third Sector" but that doesn't mean that

VA-L or the sector have suddenly ceased to exist, that there is no longer any need for our services or that those services do not continue to add significant value.

I believe that VA-L is well placed to continue to play a significant role as part of the voluntary, community and faith sector in Leeds. VA-L has served the communities of Leeds for over 65 years during which time it has sought, like many organisations, to remain relevant through innovation and evolving the services we offer.

I am delighted to be able to state that VA-L is supported by a strong board of trustees comprising committed

volunteers whose skills, experience and dedication to our mission have served our charity well, and not just over the last financial year reported here.

I am also immensely proud of all of our staff and volunteers who provide first class services and support, whether they may have recently joined us or have been with VA-L for some time, and including those who have left us during this last year. Their imagination and creativity, resilience and continuing dedication serve as an excellent example of what makes Voluntary Action-Leeds a keystone in any Big Society.

Chris Billington
Chair of trustees

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Support for the Third Sector

2011 European Year of Volunteering

Following immediately on from the very successful 2010 Leeds Year of Volunteering, 2011 is European Year of Volunteering. Leeds will kick off the year by hosting a conference for our European partners, inviting them to Leeds to share experiences and knowledge and learn from each other. Voluntary Action-Leeds, with Leeds City Council as our lead partner, plan to host ten themed months, with events linked into the six European Year of Volunteer themes and four more to reflect local needs.

From 2012 the Olympics will have VA-L ensuring, through the Volunteer Centre and with key partners within the city, that volunteering in sports is highlighted and promoted. Working with Sport Leeds and Sport Development during this year, we are already developing ways of promoting and investing in sports volunteers.

For more information about Leeds Volunteer Centre call **0113 395 0405**, email volunteering@val.org.uk or visit www.val.org.uk



January 2011

volunteering



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Voluntary Action Leeds

Support for the Third Sector

Voluntary Action-Leeds offers support to voluntary groups in Leeds. This support is available free to small groups with an annual income of less than £100,000. Our Small Groups Development Worker helps voluntary and community organisations to:

- Write and adopt appropriate constitutions
- Find out about company and charity registration
- Write job descriptions and personnel specifications
- Find the right training
- Manage their organisation
- Fundraise successfully

Clarksfield Allotment Association

For the last five years Clarksfield Allotment Association has worked with the Small Groups Development Worker to secure the funding to create an accessible environment. They have transformed two full size allotment plots into twelve individual bays accessible to wheelchair users. They have also constructed an accessible composting toilet and an accessible meeting hut. This is a benchmark project and an example of what can be achieved by an active and committed community organisation. Call [07519 277494](tel:07519277494).

February 2011

sector support



"We are so grateful to Kathy at VA-L for all her hard work and support in helping us obtain funding for projects undertaken on the allotment site."

Tony Fitzgerald
Clarksfield Allotment Assoc.

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Training Matters

VA-L's new Training Matters is out now for courses running from March to June 2011. Courses in this programme include:

- Attracting and keeping new committee members
- Basic bookkeeping and budgeting
- How to register as a charity
- Supervision of volunteers



VA-L works with Community Cascade who support community anchors and people running community buildings with marketing, funding, community cohesion, environmental and energy saving support and training. Visit www.fit4funding.org.uk.

Last year 130 participants from over 80 organisations benefitted from the free bursary scheme which is available to groups with an annual income of below £20,000 per year. The bursaries are available thanks to support from Leeds City Council and the scheme is administered by VA-L.

All our courses are listed on our website www.val.org.uk. It's simple to book online. To request a hard copy of Training Matters call 0113 297 7920 or email training@val.org.uk.

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March 2011



"The trainer was witty, knowledgeable, innovative, patient and encouraging."
Training participant

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Voluntary Action Leeds

Support for the Third Sector

Efficient, easy and cost effective payroll available to all.

The VA-L Payroll Service provides:

- Salaries - paid on the 20th of each month or weekly.
- Calculation of net pay including changes in salary rates, overtime and changes in hours.
- BACS payment of net pay direct to your employees' accounts.
- SSP, SMP, SAP, SPP, Salary Sacrifice (Childcare Vouchers), Student Loan calculations and completion of relevant forms.
- Deductions - for Pensions, Leeds Hospital Fund, Give As You Earn, Trade Union subscriptions, attachment to earnings as well as statutory deductions for Tax, National Insurance and PAYE
- Leavers processed as required and P45s issued.
- Year End.
- Reports - you will be provided with payslips, departmental analysis for all payments and deductions and salary costs.
- Help and advice on payroll matters.

The VA-L Payroll Service is provided by VA-L Trading Ltd. Visit www.val.org.uk, email payroll@val.org.uk or call 0113 297 7920.

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April 2011

payroll

"The VA-L Payroll Service has been most efficient and has provided an excellent service. It has been responsive, approachable and on time. It has provided very clear communication about what is required by us and when and has been very willing to help."

Richard Goddard
Swarcliffe Detached Youth Project

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Voluntary Action Leeds

Support for the Third Sector

Published twice a month VA-L E-News is free and provides all the latest news you need for the third sector in Leeds. It includes news, training, funding, jobs and events relevant to the voluntary and community sector.

Find your new job with VA-L E-News

Becki Tighe joined Leeds Voice as Project Officer in 2010. Becki worked previously as a Community Development Officer at Craven Local Strategic Partnership. When Becki decided to look for a new job she subscribed to the VA-L E-News.

"I found the VA-L website and signed up to the E-News. After only a couple of weeks I saw the role at Leeds Voice advertised in the jobs section. I decided to apply for the role and was offered the position six weeks later.

I'd highly recommend the E-News to anybody looking for a new job - it has up-to-date vacancies in the Third Sector across Leeds."

To subscribe to VA-L E-News visit www.val.org.uk.



May 2011

e-news



"I'd highly recommend the E-News to anybody looking for a new job - it has up-to-date vacancies in the Third Sector across Leeds."

Becki Tighe
Leeds Voice

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Voluntary Action Leeds

Support for the Third Sector

The Physical and Sensory Impairment Network (PSI Network) is a forum for disability issues in Leeds working together to share information, to improve communication and represent the interests and concerns of disabled people. Visit www.val.org.uk.

D.R.E.A.M

D.R.E.A.M. (Disability, Recreation, Education and Advisory Meetings) is a PSI Network member. D.R.E.A.M. established in 2004, caters for people with any disability aged between 18-65 who live in North West Leeds, as there is a shortfall of social care provision for this age range. Carers and volunteers are welcome to attend. The group is user led.

D.R.E.A.M.'s involvement with the PSI Network has enabled their members to receive information about a wide range of disability issues. It has allowed members to network with other community groups within Leeds at the events that the PSI Network has held.

For more information about D.R.E.A.M visit www.dreamnwleeds.org.uk, call 07708 245 425 or email dreamnwleeds@hotmail.co.uk.



June 2011

psi network



"The PSI Network has given me confidence to be comfortable with my own disability."
Brenda Taylor
 Founder and Chair, D.R.E.A.M

VA-L delivers services to rural areas in Leeds through RISS (Rural Infrastructure Support System). We don't expect you to travel miles to see us. VA-L's Small Groups Development Worker can arrange to meet you in your area. We don't expect you to travel miles to carry out a funding search - we can do that on your behalf. We don't expect you to travel miles for training - we can arrange bespoke training in your area. We are here to serve you! Visit www.val.org.uk or call 0113 297 7920.

Otley Museum

Volunteers at Otley Museum have been working to preserve the history of the town for fifty years. They are now looking for new premises to house the fascinating collection which is now in store after the loss of rooms in the Civic Centre. In the meantime a new temporary base has been found for its important and interesting archive of photographs, documents and building plans. The Museum provides facilities for all types of researchers and is developing its outreach service for schools and groups.

Visit www.otleymuseum.org

July 2011



"Kathy Faulks, VA-L's Small Groups Worker has given encouragement and support and valuable information on sources of professional advice at this critical time as the museum works towards its future."

Margaret Hornby, Honorary Secretary, Otley Museum

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Voluntary Action Leeds

Support for the Third Sector

Voluntary Action-Leeds has worked hard to develop strong partnerships with organisations across the Third Sector in Leeds. Below are a selection of key relationships developed over the last year.

We have worked closely with [Voluntary Action Sheffield](#) who have created the new VA-L and Leeds Voice shared database - Connect Leeds. In time we will gain an accurate picture of the shape and size of the sector in Leeds. Other valuable partnership working by the [Leeds Infrastructure Consortium](#) (LIC) has led to us developing this knowledge further. We have a successful working relationship with [Leeds Voice](#) who, since April 2010, have shared our premises.

Working in partnership with [West Yorkshire Learning Consortium](#), we have developed accessible online training for groups across West Yorkshire.

We have done valuable work in collaboration with [Leeds Community Foundation](#), running joint funding fairs which provide information and workshops regarding infrastructure support available in Leeds.

Finally, VA-L's involvement with [Third Sector Leeds](#) has been invaluable in engaging with and influencing the decision making processes in Leeds.



August 2011

partnerships



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Voluntary Action Leeds

Support for the Third Sector

www.val.org.uk

VA-L's website is an invaluable resource for voluntary and community organisations across Leeds.

Regularly updated, the site contains in-depth information about all VA-L services including: Leeds Volunteer Centre, a searchable training directory and online booking for our training courses, payroll, sector support, funding support, our downloadable newsletter and information on the Physical and Sensory Impairment Network.

In addition:

- voluntary sector jobs in Leeds are listed on the site and VA-L members can advertise jobs for free.
- latest news and events of interest to Leeds voluntary groups are listed and regularly updated.
- you can subscribe to our popular E-News, sent out twice a month.
- a range of resources are available including factsheets and policy documents.

For more information visit www.val.org.uk

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September 2011

website



"I really like the 'Ask Kathy' section of your website, brilliant idea!"
Carlos Chavez
 Leeds Community Foundation

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Voluntary Action Leeds

Support for the Third Sector

Benefits of VA-L membership include discounts on training, payroll services and advertising in our newsletter and E-News. Members can also advertise jobs on our website for free. VA-L offers members a range of discounts on third party services and suppliers. Members can vote at our AGM and influence the work of VA-L. Groups in Leeds with an annual income below £20,000 are entitled to free membership.

Shatterproof Theatre Company

Shatterproof Theatre Company was formed in 1984 and became a VA-L member in January 2010. They welcome people of all abilities with an interest in the performing arts. They only perform in accessible venues with material created by themselves or written especially for them. Shatterproof provide an opportunity for a wide variety of people to work together in a happy and creative environment. They also offer training in most aspects of the Performing Arts. Email theatreshatterproof@yahoo.co.uk or call 0113 249 4561.

To become a VA-L member visit www.val.org.uk



October 2011

membership



"VA-L has given us valuable assistance, providing us with volunteers, advice on funding and training."

Rob Kirk
Shatterproof Theatre Co.

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Voluntary Action Leeds

Support for the Third Sector

With each edition focused on a different theme and featuring different local organisations, our printed newsletter Voluntary Action Leeds is published four times a year. The newsletter is distributed to voluntary and community groups in Leeds and the surrounding areas, to Leeds councillors and to local libraries.

The newsletter provides information and features relevant to voluntary organisations about legislative and financial issues, funding, volunteering, training, new services and resources. Visit www.val.org.uk or call 0113 297 7920.

Leeds Advocacy

Featured in the December/January 09/10 edition of VA-L's newsletter, Leeds Advocacy is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation set up in 1989 to provide advocacy services for adults with a learning disability in the Leeds metropolitan area. Leeds Advocacy's purpose is to speak out for people with learning disabilities and help them to speak up for themselves. Visit www.leedsadvocacy.org.uk



November 2011

newsletter



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Voluntary Action Leeds

Support for the Third Sector

Leeds Volunteer Centre is run by Voluntary Action-Leeds. The Centre helps individuals find suitable volunteering opportunities and provides advice and support to organisations to work with and find suitable volunteers. Will Gray, a former volunteer is now employed at Leeds Volunteer Centre.

Volunteering can change your life

"After losing my job I was stuck for ideas. I'd thought about volunteering but never got round to it. Thankfully my Job Centre advisor took the first step and referred me to Leeds Volunteer Centre. When the enthusiastic manager asked whether I could help out in the Centre itself I agreed to three hours a week. However it wasn't long before I was willing to work whenever I was needed. I had quickly become enthused by what the Centre offers and impressed with what a positive difference the work we do makes to people's lives. When the position of Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator was advertised I was ecstatic to be chosen on the strength of my application and interview. We cannot say taking up a voluntary placement guarantees a job but I know mine is not the only experience proving what volunteering can do to bolster your employment credentials."

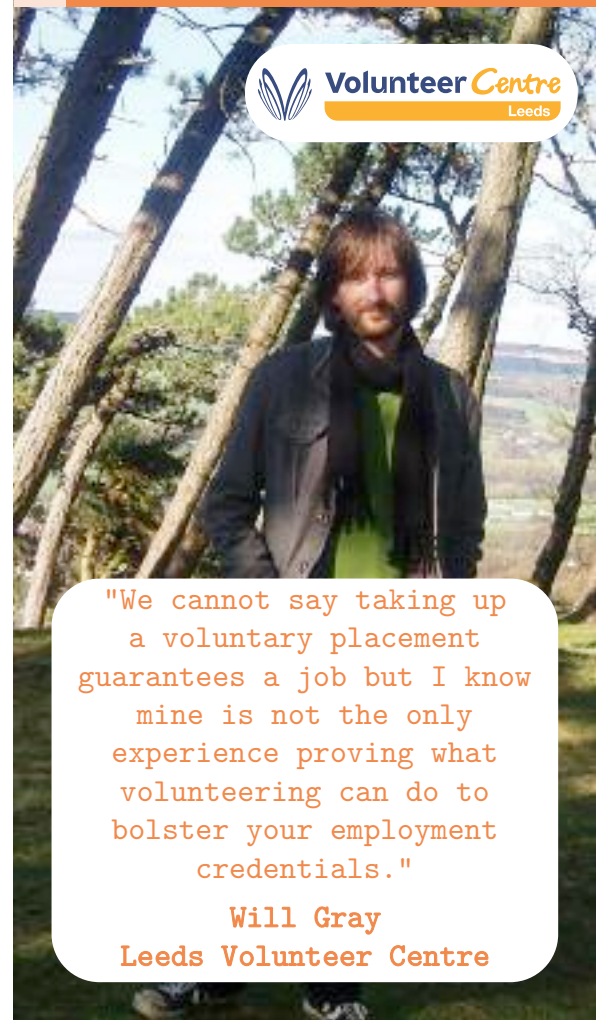
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December 2011

volunteering



Volunteer Centre
Leeds



"We cannot say taking up a voluntary placement guarantees a job but I know mine is not the only experience proving what volunteering can do to bolster your employment credentials."

Will Gray
Leeds Volunteer Centre

We would like to acknowledge the support and importance of our partnerships with:
Leeds City Council (especially Environment & Neighbourhoods; Adult Social Care; Leeds Library & Information Services and the 2010 Leeds Year of Volunteering Team); members of Third Sector Leeds; Charles Brotherton; InformLeeds; Leeds Infrastructure Consortium (especially Leeds Community Foundation; Leeds Voice; WYCAS; fit4funding and Holistic Partnership); Leeds PSINetwork members; GOYH (Capacity Builders); NAVCA; Volunteering England; WYLDA (West Yorkshire Local Development Agencies); Voluntary Action Calderdale; Voluntary Action Sheffield and all our friends and colleagues in the voluntary, community and faith sector.

Trustees 1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010

Christopher Billington • Majella Dean • Kathy Degerdon • Norma Emery • Rosemary Fosah • Christopher Hollins • Susan Howes • Paul Landey • Sarah Murray • Richard Peters (resigned 16 July 2009) • Louanne Roberts • Ann Skinner (resigned 17 February 2010) • Patrick Spencer-Salami • Anthony Spice • Victor Wyatt (resigned 16 July 2009).

For a full copy of our Annual Accounts 2009/10 please contact Richard Jackson on 0113 297 7920.

Registered Auditors

Thomas Coombs & Son
Century House
29 Clarendon Road
Leeds LS2 9PG

Bankers

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
6-7 Park Row
Leeds LS1 1NX

Registered Office

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Hunslet
Leeds LS10 2QW

Insurance Brokers

Bartletts & Co
Broadway Hall
Leeds LS18 4RS

VA-L

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Support for the Third Sector



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psi network

rural support

website

e-news

partnerships

volunteering