



# Torfaen Voluntary Alliance

Cynghrair Gwirfoddol Torfaen

Autumn 2011

*Tafod*



## Date for Your Diary

### TVA's Annual General Meeting

6<sup>th</sup> October 2011 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Pontypool Active Living Centre

Key Note Speaker

Paul Dunhill

Third Sector Unit Volunteering and Funding Manager

Welsh Government

Our annual report and accounts are now available on our website for viewing or downloading from [www.torfaenvoluntaryalliance.org.uk](http://www.torfaenvoluntaryalliance.org.uk).

Copies available from John Taylor on 01495 742451, or [johntaylor@tvawales.org.uk](mailto:johntaylor@tvawales.org.uk)

## Friends for Life

The Befriending Community Hubs Project is a new and innovative project which will focus on reaching older people (50+) within Torfaen who are socially isolated. The project, which is funded by the Big Lottery and partnered by Age Concern Torfaen, Torfaen Mind and Crossroads Care South East Wales, will provide opportunities for social interaction and community involvement.

There will be six strategically placed, easily accessible, Community 'Hubs'. Each hub will house teams of trained staff and volunteers who have a positive approach to ageing and who will provide a buzz of activities. Older people will gain support and inspiration through variety, mental stimulation and sharing.

This project aims to encourage positive decision making, promote social change and successful ageing and ultimately eliminate social isolation for older people across Torfaen.

The Community Befriending Project will be launched in October this year, if you interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Human Resources at Age Concern Torfaen on 01495 769264 or by email: [jane@ageconcerntorfaen.org](mailto:jane@ageconcerntorfaen.org)



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**FAMILY FUN DAY IN SUPPORT OF HELP FOR HEROES**

**AT PONTNEWYNYDD CRICKET CLUB  
ON SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER STARTS 12PM**

**STANDS PROVIDED BY CWMBRAN T/A  
CENTRE**

**R E M E /100 FIELD SQUADRON &  
THE GREEN GODDESS CREW**

**RAFFLES /TOMBOLA /BOUNCY CASTLE /  
FACE PAINTING / WOOD CARVING**

**JENSON TRAVEL ARE PROVIDING SHUTTLE TRANSPORT**

**MEET FIREMAN SAM / PEPPA PIG**

**AUCTION / LIVE BANDS**

**FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!!!!**

**PROGRAMS £1 (FREE RAFFLE TICKET INC)**

**LIMITED PARKING DISABLED ONLY!**

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**The CoStar Partnership Cwmbran has lots going on!**

**CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Zumba Class** – Wednesdays 6.15 pm Threepenny Bit Hall. Admission: £3.00

**Walking Group** – Tuesday mornings 10.00 am. Threepenny Bit Hall Admission: Free

**Rag Rug Class** – Wednesdays 1.30 – 3.30 pm Threepenny Bit Hall Admission: £2.00

**Beginners Art Class** – Thursdays 10.00 – 12.00 noon Threepenny Bit Hall Admission £3.50

**After School Club for ages 11 – 14**

Monday – Friday during term time 3.30 – 5.30 pm. Admission £3.50 per session

Suitable child care for working parents.

**SERVICES**

**Gardening Service** – Our not-for-profit scheme is able to provide anything from quick garden tidy ups to regular maintenance. Please ask for a no obligation quote.

**Community Repaint Scheme** – Our paint reuse scheme offers those with limited means an opportunity to purchase paint at hugely discounted prices. Ideal for community groups, organisation, schools, churches etc. Open every Thursday at 1.00 pm at the Threepenny Bit Community Hall.

**COMING SOON! - JOB CLUB** – every Thursday at 10.00 am

Help and support for those looking to find employment, help with CVs, advice etc.

For more information please call us on 01633 869227

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Nick Helm: "I needed a password eight characters long so I picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."

Tim Vine: "Crime in multi-storey car parks. That is wrong on so many different levels."

Tim Key: "Drive-Thru McDonalds was more expensive than I thought... once you've hired the car..."



## Message from our Chair

TVA recently held a very successful workshop in relation to the new Big Lottery Funding programme "Community Voice" which is a programme open only to County Voluntary Councils. A number of organisations expressed an interest in becoming a part of any portfolio developed by TVA and it was gratifying to hear the motivation and good ideas that were expressed by the groups.

TVA has appointed a Community Economic Development Officer to work with the Community Economic Development Programme under the newly named Enterprising Communities. We wish Llian Norman well in her new role. This role will be invaluable in supporting the sustainable development of organisations. Other programmes in which TVA are involved continue to do well.

In accordance with our governing documents there will be two vacancies on the Board of TVA. Anyone who may be interested in joining the Board will need to formally apply. The application form and supporting information is now available on our web-site., or see back page of this Newsletter.

Despite the poor summer experienced I do hope that you have been able to have a good holiday.

Kind regards

Lynn Tanner, Chair, Torfaen Voluntary Alliance.

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### LIKE TO SING?

The Linden Singers Torfaen are recruiting for new members. Singing in three part harmony we practise every Monday from 7pm until 8.30pm at the Congregational Church Hall, Kemys Street, Griffithstown.

We are a very friendly choir and new members would be made very welcome.

Remember, Everyone has a voice.

There is usually only one soloist in a choir.

### Linden Singers Torfaen

#### Present their

#### ANNUAL CHARITY CONCERT

on Saturday 10th September 2011 7:00pm

at

Millennium Hall Garndiffaith with Guests

Rhymney Silurian Male Voice Choir

Tickets £5.00 (all proceeds to Macmillan Nurses)

**Interested? Ring Andrea 0166 4111556 or Daphne 01495 755961**

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You are all invited to a drop in at the awareness day being held at Age Concern Torfaen Widdershins Centre Sebastopol Pontypool NP4 6BZ

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011 between 10am -2pm

All Floating Support providers will be there to provide information on the Floating Support Scheme and their other services available within areas of Torfaen

Please come and join us



**Minimum wage increases announced** – the adult national minimum wage is to increase by 15p an hour to £6.08, from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011. For 18 – 20 year olds the change is 6p, to £4.98, 16 – 17 years olds ad 4p to £3.68, apprentices up 10p to £2.60.

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**Nominate Now – The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service 2012 – Deadline 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011.** The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK for outstanding work done in their local communities. You can nominate any volunteer group if you know about the work they do. However, you can’t nominate a group that you are a part of, for example if you are a volunteer/staff member. For further information and nomination forms visit [www.direct.gov.uk/thequeensawardforvoluntaryservice](http://www.direct.gov.uk/thequeensawardforvoluntaryservice) or call 020 7781 2397

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**Volunteering/Placement Fair, 5<sup>th</sup> October 10am – 2pm, University of Wales, Newport.** Open to local voluntary organisations, charities, and social enterprises that would like an opportunity to promote their organisation to the students, and involve them in some charity/volunteer work or increase placements uptake significantly through interaction with students and staff at the fair. The Fair will involve no charge to your organisation, but will give you the chance to engage with up to 3,000 staff and students. A table, 2 chairs, parking and refreshments are provided free of charge. **Contact [careers@newport.ac.uk](mailto:careers@newport.ac.uk) ASAP to request a booking form or Jing Lu on 01633 435291**

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**Giving World Online** - More than half a million pounds worth of quality goods have been redirected from landfill to UK charities since the launch of a free Website: [www.givingworldonline.com](http://www.givingworldonline.com) Giving World Online (GWO) is a free giving scheme set up to encourage businesses to publicise surplus stock online and donate the goods directly onto charities and community projects working to help people in need.

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**New Name for RNID** - Please note as of June 9th the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) has changed its name to **Action on Hearing Loss** [www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk)

### **Arts Projects Programme Reopens**

The Baring Foundation's Arts Project Programme has reopened for 2012.

The programme seeks to fund arts organisations in the United Kingdom that are currently working with older people that can demonstrate the impact their work is making on the quality of life and artistic practice of individuals or communities, and that need help with their core costs to help them to sustain or develop this work.

The programme aims to support arts organisations which are developing the wider community's understanding and enjoyment of the contributions that older people make to society and the cultural life of the United Kingdom, as well as striving for a wider understanding of the diverse creative and cultural needs of older people.

Grants of up to £30,000 are available to voluntary arts organisations in the UK.

**The deadline for applications is 30 September 2011.**

<http://www.baringfoundation.org.uk/ArtsProjectguidelines2012.pdf>



## Macmillan in Every Community

### What is it?

Macmillan in every community is an exciting new service led by volunteers which will offer vital support to people living with cancer.

This is a direct Macmillan service and it will be delivered by Macmillan volunteers who are supported by Macmillan staff with quality materials.

The service focuses on three clear activities:

**Practical support:** provide direct support (either shopping or housework) to people who are currently unable to do this themselves either because they have cancer or are caring for someone with cancer.

**Transport:** provide transport to people affected by cancer to get to hospital appointments, to go shopping etc.

**Buddying:** support from someone who has had a cancer experience and who can provide either telephone or face to face support

### How will the projects be supported?

The service will benefit from the following materials and support:

**A prospectus** for a lead volunteer who may be interested in setting up a service and recruiting volunteers for it.

**A start-up kit** for a lead volunteer who will grow a group and deliver a Macmillan In Every Community service.

**Volunteer handbook** for all volunteers involved.

**Start up grant and on going support and training**

### More information?

For further information, please contact **Caroline Walters** 01656 867975 [cwalters@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:cwalters@macmillan.org.uk)  
or **Rachel Biggs** on 01656 867971 [rbiggs@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:rbiggs@macmillan.org.uk)



## Three Counties Community Play—National Play Day

Play Day is the national day for play a celebration of children's right to play. It is traditionally celebrated on the first Wednesday in August .

Torfaen's National Play Day event was held at Cwmbran Boating Lake, south fields with 400+ children in attendance. As a project we worked in partnership with Torfaen Play Service, providing play with 'loose parts', den building and an obstacle course. Additional activities were provided by partners such as: physical activities, adventure play and arts and crafts.



Newport Play Development held a large event at Tredegar Park where they provided activities such as; arts and crafts, sensory play, loose parts, fire play, water play and lots more. Three Counties Community Play worked in partnership with Newport Play Development to provide arts and crafts activities at the event. The event was a huge success with 2107 people in attendance, an increase on last year's figures. A fun packed day had by all.

Celebrations took place across Monmouthshire through 'Play in the Park'. Hundreds of children across the borough are attending sessions throughout August. Each team facilitating the 'Play in the Park' sessions carried out a range of activities in Celebration of Play Day, some of which included arts, group games and water play.

### Project Provision Progress

#### **Monmouthshire:**

Rockfield – The project started making progress back in April. A junior disco and consultation event was carried out with over 50 children in attendance. The consultation showed a real need for a play provision with massive support from the local community, Melin Homes and Monmouthshire Housing Association.





Sunday 7th August we held a Community Fun Day to recruit additional Community Volunteers. Again the event was a great success with many community members giving their day up to help out!

From this, we plan to arrange a meeting to look at opening a provision within the next few months. If you're interested in becoming involved then please contact the Community Play Team on 01495 742470

Rogiet – The project has heavily supported a provision called 'I'm Bored Club', set up by a group of mums within the community. The project has delivered and provided training such as: Paediatric First Aid, Food Hygiene and a few of the volunteers will be undertaking Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) Level two and three in Play Work. The provision now has twelve volunteers and has approximately 30 – 40 children who attend on a regular basis. The group has adopted our policies and procedures and other legislative documents, which has enabled the group to become constituted and is in the process of applying for additional funding.

"I'm Bored Club" are currently planning a Community Day, with Three Counties Community Play coordinating the event.

**Newport:**



We are successfully working in a number of communities across Newport in order to develop play opportunities in our identified areas. One in particular, Little Rangers, is due to start operating in the middle of September. This group has stemmed from the Brynglas-Bryn Bevan Neighborhood Group situated within the Shaftsbury ward. The project has been working extensively with this community for a number of months. Initially by gaining information through the process of consultation, this was obtained by delivering Play Taster sessions in partnership with Brynglas Primary School. In

addition to this the project regularly attends Neighbourhood meetings and has supported all neighbourhood events to date.

The group is progressing well in terms of their development and gaining the necessary skills needed to operate a fun, safe and stimulating Play Provision for all. The group is awaiting confirmation from the School to be able to utilise their facilities, but anticipate starting to operate in September on a Wednesday between 5:30-7:00pm.



**A selection of Volunteering opportunities in Torfaen**

<b>Opportunity Description</b>	Age Concern Torfaen Widdershins – Assisting with Luncheon Club Volunteers needed to assist in Luncheon Clubs throughout Torfaen. Duties include laying tables, serving teas, serving lunches, washing up and general housekeeping.
<b>Location</b>	Blaenavon, Croesyceiliog, Griffithstown, Pontnewydd, Talywain, Wainfelin
<b>Opportunity Description</b>	Able Radio - Website and IT Engineer Volunteer Responsibilities of the role shall include, but not be limited to. Maintain and develop any and all aspects of the Website. Ensure fortnightly podcast upload and feed update. Add new pages to the Website when required. Research alternative methods and services to potentially integrate into the site. Consult other staff / volunteers regarding possible changes / upgrades to the site. Ensure the site remains accessible all, keeping to the WC3 WAI standards. Maintain update/upgrade consistency with multiple browsers. Investigate and where possible resolve software issues on any of the PCs within Able Radio. Diagnose hardware issues on PC platforms and propose fixes.
<b>Location</b>	Pontnewynydd
<b>Opportunity Description</b>	Torfaen Citizens Advice Bureau - Admin We require someone to help with general administrative duties and reception at our Cwmbran and Pontypool Offices. If you can spare approximately 6 hours a week to assist please ring or pick up an application form from the Bureau.
<b>Location</b>	Cwmbran, Pontypool
<b>Opportunity Description</b>	Congress Theatre - Volunteer Bar Staff / Coffee and Ice Cream Sales / Front of House
<b>Location</b>	Cwmbran
<b>Opportunity Description</b>	Greenmeadow Community Farm Animals, catering, admin and education Vacancies are available for those wishing to gain experience in the following areas - animal husbandry, catering, education and administration.
<b>Location</b>	Cwmbran
<b>Opportunity Description</b>	Tafarn Newydd - Support Workers for disabled young people Support Workers - helping promote independence skills in the community with disabled young people. Offering support and encouragement to join in activities and promote choice.
<b>Location</b>	New Inn

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities please contact Amy Gibbon or Kyle Thomas on **01495 742468** More opportunities can be found by visiting **[www.volunteering-wales.net](http://www.volunteering-wales.net)**





## SERVICES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING PROVIDES THE DIRECT PAYMENTS SUPPORT SERVICE FOR TORFAEN



SIL has been awarded the contract to provide the Direct Payments Support Service for Torfaen Borough Council for three years, commencing October 2011.

We are a user led organisation based in Leominster, Herefordshire. Since 1998 we have provided support to direct payments users, support planning and brokerage services, payroll and financial administration services and operate a Care Quality Commission registered home support agency. SIL have also run many grant funded projects that support direct payment users during this time.

We are a registered charity and our charity objectives are:

*To relieve disabled people and their family carers through the provision and promotion of services which foster independent living and improve their conditions of life, and which assist disabled people and their family carers to actively participate in and integrate into society*

SIL have become a member of Torfaen Voluntary Alliance. We are looking to work closely with community organisations in Torfaen to the benefit of disabled people and family carers. In Herefordshire we have established successful partnerships with Age UK Hereford & Localities and Herefordshire Carers Support.

### Our contact details:

Mary-Jane Bayliss (Service Manager)

[Mary-jane@s4il.co.uk](mailto:Mary-jane@s4il.co.uk)

Unit 3, Raglan House,

Llantarnam Business Park

Cwmbran

Torfaen

NP44 3AB

[www.s4il.co.uk](http://www.s4il.co.uk)



Mary-Jane Bayliss (SIL) with Zoe Williams, Alex Crawford and Stuart Blythe from Torfaen Council

Please email me your organisation contact details for entry on to our database and to receive a free copy of our quarterly newsletter. I am attending the Torfaen Voluntary Alliance AGM and hope to meet many local organisations and introduce myself.

Mary-Jane Bayliss



# Torfaen Carers Forum

Are you an informal carer for an adult or a parent carer?

You may care for a loved one, friend or neighbour.

Perhaps you care for a child with learning disabilities, autism or aspergers syndrome? Would you like to share your good and bad experiences of carer's services with us?

Would you like to join us and become part of the team influencing the priorities and decisions of future carer's

We meet monthly across the Borough at Blaenavon, Cwmbran and Pontypool

Our next meetings:

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September at County Hall, Croesyceiliog

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October at The Carers Centre, Pontypool

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at Heritage Centre, Blaenavon

All meetings 10.30 am to 12.00 noon

If you are interested in joining the Forum or attending one of the meetings please contact Sian at the Carers Centre on 01495 753838 or email

[smusto\\_torfaencarerscentre@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:smusto_torfaencarerscentre@yahoo.co.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you!



# Have Your Say!

Would you like to share your good and bad experiences of health and social care with us?

Would you like to work with us and become part of the formal planning process influencing the priorities and decisions of future health and social care services?

Would you like to join our Forum?

The  
Have your Say Forum  
meets bi monthly in  
Cwmbran and  
Pontypool

TORFAEN  
COUNTY  
BOROUGH



BWRDEISTREF  
SIROL  
TORFAEN



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd  
Aneurin Bevan  
Health Board

If you are interested in joining the Forum or attending one of the meetings please contact Jacqui Reardon on 01633 648501 or email [Jacqui.reardon@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:Jacqui.reardon@torfaen.gov.uk)

Have your Say Forum is a group of people representing adults who use health and social care services



### And Finally ...

**TVA has vacancies for new board members. If you are interested in joining our board go to our website [www.torfaenvoluntaryalliance.org.uk](http://www.torfaenvoluntaryalliance.org.uk)**

**Or call us on 01495 742420 for details.**

**Or Write using the Freepost address below**



### **Pontypool Park Friends**

Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th October, 10am - 3pm, Bulb Planting event

We will be holding a 2 day bulb planting event, planting daffodils, snow drops and crocuses throughout the park. This will be a big public event and we hope to have willow weaving of bird feeders for the children, a green woodwork demonstration, and local produce stalls such as cheese, chocolate and cider! If anyone has any ideas for the event or can spare some time to help organise it or volunteer on the day please contact us.

**[email\\_admin@pontypoolparkfriends.org](mailto:email_admin@pontypoolparkfriends.org)**

If you have any opinions, comments, feedback you want to share with us send them in and we will put them in our next issue (space permitting) which is planned to be published in December.

If your contact details have changed please fill out the details below and return to -

Torfaen Voluntary Alliance, FREEPOST SWC3252, Portland Building, Commercial Street, PONTYPOOL, NP4 6JS

Name of Organisation.....

Name of Contact.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone..... Email.....