

News and
Information

F A C S East Midlands

For Age Concerns in the Region

Registered Charity No 1094018

What A Busy Lot You Are!

12 inches off for AC Eastwood!

To celebrate his 80th birthday Derek Warren (our chairman) decided to have his 12 inch ponytail, which has taken four years to grow, cut off to help raise funds for the Age Concern Eastwood's The Colin Dyson Centre, a luncheon club/day centre open Monday to Thursday serving meals to the over 50's. The Centre relies on grants and donations to help provide a first class service to the people of Eastwood and the surrounding district. That said, we endeavour



Derek with Josie Forrest

to raise funds at every opportunity and Derek's first words after his 'clip' was "I'll grow my hair again and repeat the exercise when I'm 90"! Thank you Derek!



Getting active at AC Mansfield

AC Mansfield put in a successful bid to their local Community Fund to buy some games equipment that lunch club members could use to keep them more active and feeling fitter. They now have indoor bowls, skittles, hula activity and a target game. Now at their lunch clubs members all get involved to see who is the week's most skilful/lucky player. Joanna Ryan their local Community Physical Activity Officer says 'if you would like to try this contact your local Leisure Dept for support or go to your local CAB to find out about funding in your area.

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Mary's day at the House of Commons

A 'Contribution to the Community' award gave Mary Hurst, Chair of AC Glossop, a day to remember. This was in recognition of her outstanding service to the local community. Mary says: "On 26th June, with my daughter, I travelled to London. We met with Tom Levitt MP in the Central Lobby of the House of Commons. We went into the Members' dining room, which we enjoyed enormously. After lunch we were taken around the Commons Chamber and watched the procession of Officials carrying the Mace into the Chamber of Commons. We had to deposit our handbags in Mr Levitt's locker, were then



Mary Hurst and Tom Levitt MP



Mary with Tom Levitt and Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

frisked, and went into 'Question Time'. We stayed about three quarters of an hour then it was time to go to the Award Dining Room for tea. There were about 100 people gathered to collect their awards. Awards were given out and Sir Gerald Kaufman was given an award for all his charity work. I was introduced to Sir Gerald who is the MP for Gorton, Manchester. The ceremony drew to a close at around 6pm. As our train left at 7pm we had to leave, very reluctantly, as we had had such a wonderful day."

AGE
Concern

Making Use Of Things For Free

All Change at Hinckley

It was a day of celebration for one Leicestershire group as they marked their change of name to Age Concern Hinckley & Bosworth.

Formerly known as Age Concern Hinckley & Burbage, the group recently took the decision to extend their area of benefit to align with the Borough of Hinckley & Bosworth to reach more, older people and join in with new initiatives the Borough Council

were taking to benefit the rural communities they serve.

The small office was packed with visitors as the Mayor declared the new beginning for the group. On offer were tasty morsels of healthy food from Age Concern Leicester-



shire & Rutland's Healthy Eating project; Wiltshire Farm Foods demonstrating their range of meals; the Fire Service offering

safety visits; advisors from the Borough Council on both Council Tax benefits and Fuel Economy, not to mention the goody bags with free economy plugs and bags with pickles and treats donated from local business, FreshXpress. The group had used their local knowledge to good effect by sourcing all the

exhibitors from the local community and all gave their services for free.

Pictured is the Mayor, Keith Lynch and David Jennings, chair of the group, uncovering the new name-board outside the group's offices.

Age Concern Banner now available

The Group Support Work Project has taken delivery of two attractive banners that are now available for groups to loan for events and promotions. The banners, (pictured at the Hinckley event above), are approximately 8'x3' and can be used together with purpose built stands or tied in the usual way. Contact Pam or Linda to book one for your event.

We always welcome your news, articles and photos - we can all learn from your experiences and ideas. The next issue of FACS is due out in October 2007.

Free Legal Advice From LawWorks

LawWorks for Community Groups was set up to deliver free legal advice to small charities, voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises in England and Wales. Since 2002 we have helped over 700 organisations, saving the sector over £3 million in legal fees or approximately 13,000 hours of free legal advice. The project delivers non-contentious legal advice. For example:

- **Corporate law advice:** advice on contracts; how to incorporate the organisation as a company / Community Investment Company; updating and amending the organisation's Articles of Association and other constitutional documents.

- **Employment law advice:** drafting, reviewing and updating employment contracts and staff handbooks.
- **Intellectual property law advice:** advice on registering a trademark and data protection issues.
- **Property law advice:** advice on lease terms; assistance with negotiating tenancy agreements.

The project is staffed by lawyers who broker the requests from groups for legal help and match them with volunteer lawyers who provide the legal advice. Contact:

LawWorks for Community Groups
10-13 Lovat Lane, London, EC3R 8DN
Tel: 020 7929 5601 www.lawworks.org.uk
E-mail: lcg@lawworks.org.uk

Aren't You All Just Great?

As the Group Support project reaches the end of its first two years, Linda and Pam want to take the opportunity to show their appreciation of how wonderful you have all been. Groups have been most welcoming and many members have worked incredibly hard to bring about improvements to their Age Concern. The commitment you have shown in working with this project has been impressive. The project's real achievements include:

- A commendable improvement in achieving the standards required for Quality Counts
- Groups who have survived threat of closure
- New promotional resources for groups
- A regional newsletter written with groups in mind
- Your really positive comments your evaluations of the work
- New fundraising resources, information and guidance



We have recently sent out an End of Project survey and we have been overwhelmed with your kind and encouraging comments. All of you rated this project as 'useful' with almost 50% rating it 'essential': 100% want the support to continue. A few quotes:

- "It was borne out of need, has met those initially identified needs and has uncovered even more."
- "For small groups the input and help provided was professional and knowledgeable – skills we do not have."
- "What a valuable service this is to small groups who are often overwhelmed by the larger Age Concern county branches."
- "This project has helped create a real feeling of mutual support amongst Age Concerns."

Thank you all so much for the support and encouragement that you have so freely given to both of us; we and Age Concern East Midlands are trying our level best to get the funding to keep the help coming for 2008 and beyond.

First Meeting Success

The new East Midlands Volunteering Network was launched on July 19th and a healthy contingent of 14 people were able to attend. There were a good many useful tips exchanged during the meeting and all of us went away enthused with new ideas about involving, celebrating and attracting volunteers. There was a presentation on what to consider when trying to draw more volunteers to Age Concern and the new booklet, "Volunteering Issues Explained" was distributed; copies are enclosed with this newsletter.



The first meeting of the East Midlands Volunteering Network

In order to share the knowledge and keep in touch with those who could not attend the network meeting, a news-sheet will be put together and sent out soon. There is

also a plan to keep in touch by e-mail for those who have internet access. The next meeting of the regional network will be in January and more information will be included in the next FACS issue.

If you have any queries about the network please contact:

Pam Taylor, Tel: 0116 2220555 or e-mail: pam.taylor@ageconcernleicester.org.

Essential Information Digest

Statutory Annual Leave to Increase

The minimum statutory holiday entitlement is changing in two phases - to 4.8 times the usual working week (24 days for a normal 5-day week) from 1 October 2007 and to 5.6 times the usual working week (28 days) from 1 April 2009, although employers may choose to offer more holiday than this. When the change is complete it will ensure that all full-time workers working a 5-day week get the current 20 days, plus time off equivalent to the bank holidays. For part-time workers, the entitlement is *pro rata*. Paid time off does not legally have to be given for public holidays, and if it is it can be included in your workers' minimum leave entitlement.

Key points include:

- The employer will be allowed to round up holiday to full days, but will not have to. Rounding down will not be allowed.
- As with the current 20-day entitlement, the employer will not be able to pay the worker for additional leave not taken, except on termination of employment.
- If the employer agrees, workers will be able to carry over some or all of their additional leave entitlement, but there is no automatic right to do this and the employer does not have to agree.

Details are viewable on two websites:

www.berr.gov.uk/employment/
www.businesslink.gov.uk

From 1 October 2007 the National Minimum Wage will increase again as follows. Adult rate (workers aged 22 and over) will increase to £5.52. Development rate for 18-21 year olds will increase to £4.60.

Discounted Software for Charities



The Charity Technology Trust in partnership with the not-for-profit

technology capacity building organisation **TechSoup** is running a programme for eligible UK-based charities who are able to choose from over 80 donated technology products from companies such as **Microsoft, Symantec and Cisco**. The products include operating system software and server software, security software and hardware products such as switches, routers, wireless equipment and firewalls. Charities are required to pay a small administrative fee to cover the costs of the programme. After payment of the fee, charities will still make

savings of between 92-96% on typical retail prices. For example:
 Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2007 (Includes Software Assurance) 11.00 +vat
 Microsoft Office Standard 2007 (Includes Software Assurance) 8.00+vnt
 Norton AntiVirus 2007 (1 single-user license) 8.00+vnt
 Norton AntiVirus 2007 (5 single-user licenses) 12.00+vnt

For more information contact:

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