

Partnerships Newsletter



Clean for The Queen Campaign

Her Majesty The Queen celebrates her 90th birthday in 2016. To celebrate this event, Keep Britain Tidy want people throughout the UK to join together and present a gift to her, a gift that will benefit us all.

In the run up to The Queen's birthday on 21st April 2016, they aim to inspire a million people to take action and enjoy a few hours together litter-picking to make the places where we live more beautiful. For her, and for us all, they want to attack the blight of litter and reclaim our beautiful countryside, our fabulous cities, our world class parks, our wonderful beaches and waterways.



Keep Britain Tidy will generate litter blitzes throughout the United Kingdom in January, February and March, and the most monumental of all litter clear-ups from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th March 2016.

The first national anti-litter campaign was carried out in 1953, the year of The Queen's coronation, and this was swiftly followed by the establishment of Keep Britain Tidy. How appropriate it is then, in the year of The Queen's 90th birthday, that we should all band together to attempt the biggest clean-up in history.

Keep Britain Tidy hope that these activities will leave a legacy, that they will encourage more people to reduce their litter habit and to help us all to live more sustainably. Join in! Let's Clean for The Queen.

[For more information and to register your interest visit the Clean for the Queen website.](#) For support from within Cheshire East register your interest by emailing partnerships@cheshireeast.gov.uk with your group name, area that you wish to clean and whether you will require any equipment.

Message from the Editor

The end of the year is approaching and looking back over the newsletters the strength of our partnership working is strongly evident. From the establishment of the Caring Together programme, many voluntary groups receiving various awards for their amazing work to organisations being successful in funding bids, the re-launch of Village SOS and of course the tremendous support provided to the Bosley community. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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What is PACE?

Partnerships for Action in Cheshire East brings together all organisations who are working to maintain and improve the quality of life in Cheshire East.

Local Area News

Congleton

Congleton Partnership News

The complete makeover at Antrobus Street Gardens has resulted in improved access to the gardens and adjacent Readesmoor Medical Centre from the public car park. The area is proving to be very popular with a noticeable increase in usage as a place to sit and relax and a more convenient way to access the Medical Centre.



The garden was designed and project managed by [Ansa Environmental Services](#), in consultation with [Congleton Partnership](#) and [Congleton in Bloom](#). It has a health theme with two pieces of outdoor gym equipment and edible plants including fruit trees and bushes planted amongst the ornamentals. An apple core sculpture / resting seat and a wooden arch carved from oak with fruit carvings are features of the garden. The project, costing in the region of £45,000 was jointly funded through 106 contributions with additional funds coming from Congleton Partnership and Readesmoor Medical Centre.

[For more information visit the Congleton Partnership website](#)

Sandbach Then & Now

Sandbach Then & Now is a new community project being run by [UCan Play](#) and supported by the [National Lottery](#). During 2016, school children, and then the general public, will be able to explore the heritage of Sandbach associated with the First World War through a geocache trail and linked virtual resources. The trail and resources will allow users to appreciate more fully the contribution that Sandbach, its people, places and buildings, made to the First World War. Following their experience of the trail, workshops will be held in schools and at the [UCan Studios](#) that allow participants to reflect on their experience and represent them in various art forms. The project will conclude with a celebration event with music, video and live performances.



UCan Play would like to hear from any Sandbach residents, past or present, with memories or stories from the First World War period. Please help to spread the word within the community.

To pass on contacts and stories [contact Sam Marsden](#) or [visit the Sandbach Then & Now website](#)

Firefighters Test Resilience at Middlewich Company



Cheshire firefighters have taken part in an important training exercise at [H.W. Coates in Middlewich](#) to help test emergency plans on site. On-call firefighters from a number of fire stations including Middlewich attended the exercise, along with on-site staff, and worked around the scenario of a large fire involving toxic chemicals which were releasing a large amount of thick black toxic smoke into the atmosphere.

This scenario allowed the teams to test how each would deal with such a situation and gave an insight into the effects such an incident would have on the company, the firefighters

involved and the surrounding area. The day was tested by Cheshire East Council who were extremely pleased with how the exercise went.

[For more information visit the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service website](#)

Congleton in Bloom

Congleton in Bloom came home clutching a hoard of accolades following the town's most successful year ever at the [North West in Bloom Awards](#). Congleton won Best Large Town in the North West, Pride of Cheshire East and the Environmental Award for local authorities. It was also chosen to represent the North West's towns in the Britain in Bloom national competition in 2016.

Town Mayor, Councillor Elizabeth Wardlaw, said: "This is a fantastic result for the Congleton community. So many groups, organisations, businesses and individuals have worked hard to make the town look great. We were confident that we were at gold standard, but to win the group outright and be judged good enough to go into the national competition is a massive honour."



[For more information about In Bloom groups visit the Britain in Bloom website](#)

Bromley Farm Community Development Trust join the Hub Network

Bromley Farm Community Development Trust is working with partners to develop the range of services offered from the Community Centre, as part of a community hub network in Congleton.

Currently the Bromley Farm Community Centre provides a wide range of popular youth activities which have been established over a long period of time. Following consultation with local residents earlier in the year a number of services and new activities have been identified for the estate. These include activities for over 50's, police drop in sessions by the local PCSO, and children's play and stay sessions.

The Trust is keen to hear from anyone with ideas for other services and activities that could run from the centre and would for people to get in touch.

[For more information contact Donna Peddie](#) on 07734 192774

Holmes Chapel Partnership Health and Wellbeing Campaign



Holmes Chapel Partnership has just launched a health and wellbeing campaign in the village. With fitness and obesity being constant topics of interest and concern in the media they wanted to get Holmes Chapel residents moving. The first stage of the campaign is the 2Gs Grand Challenge running in partnership with [Everybody Sport and Recreation](#) and sponsored by [Active Cheshire](#) and [Cheshire East Council](#). The Challenge aims to improve the general fitness of both older and younger residents in the village, and to promote the special bond between Grandparents and their Grandchildren hence the two 'Gs' in the name of the campaign.

Entry is free, and they are hoping to recruit up to 75 teams of at least one grandparent and one grandchild, living locally, who will sign up to a fitness program, tailored to their specific needs, lasting six months; the start date being 1st December 2015.

[For more information about this project, other projects and events visit the Holmes Chapel Partnership website](#)

The Jubilee Club at New Life Church

The Jubilee Club at New Life Church, Congleton has been running since May 2011 and has over 350 people on the register, with a weekly attendance of 30 to 40 people. The club is free and for anyone in the community who is struggling with life and needs a place to go to, belong, feel safe and accepted, make wholesome friendships, learn new skills or consider volunteering or looking for employment.



The club offers an allotment where members of the club can have the harvested crops for free, a craft group, cooking group, life skills addressing areas such as assertiveness and money management and a job club which has now helped find 50 employment positions, apprenticeships and work placements. In addition they have regular social meetings and an annual coach trip and picnic out each year.

[For more information visit the New Life Church website](#)

Crewe

Older People's Day in Crewe



South Cheshire Pensioners Association gathered together over 140 older people to celebrate [Older People's Day](#). The afternoon, held at The Alexandra Stadium, featured entertainment from the Bill Bailey Jazz Band and the Funky Choir and treated guests to an afternoon cream tea. The event was supported by [Cheshire Community Foundation](#), [Bluebird Care](#), [Crewe Alex](#) and [Crewe Town Council](#).

Older People's Day was established by the United Nations over 25 years ago with the aim of celebrating the contribution older people make to their community. Chairman of the South Cheshire Pensioners Association, Kevan Larkin, said: "We are grateful for all the support we have received as without it, we wouldn't be able to hold such great events. The aim of the afternoon was to try and combat social isolation and loneliness that older people often face. Everyone who attended had a great time so I think we succeeded." Councillor Dennis Straine-Francis, Mayor of Crewe, added: "The event demonstrates the vibrancy and energy that exists amongst older people in Crewe. We as a Town Council are pleased to have been able to support the Pensioners Association with this event and we look forward to hearing their plans for next year and hope to join them again."

[For more information visit the South Cheshire Pensioners Association website](#) or call 01270 664645

For The Journey

[Bentley Motors](#) has teamed up with Crewe Community Hub Barnies in a mission to create a memory café and have pledged their support for the journey. The café aims to provide a welcoming meeting place where people who have dementia, family members and friends can get together for a cup of tea and a chat. Optional activities will also include the use of themed memory boxes or reminiscence packs, low impact exercise sessions, sensory activities and vintage teas.



Thanks to numerous volunteers from Bentley Motors the room is now decorated and donations have poured in, including vintage china, photographs, music and furniture. Now this new partnership is asking for donations of memorabilia for the memory boxes themed on holidays, the 60's Mods, Rockers and Scooters, TV and entertainment and working life. Candy Alcock said: "I am very proud of the team effort and spirit, a common thread had brought us all together and although the team all work at Bentley Motors we didn't all actually know each other. As we began our work together we chatted, got to know each other and shared some life experiences, which was entirely why we were all volunteering, to give something back and to support those living with Dementia in their lives."

[For more information, including launch date of the café contact Deb Lindop](#) on 01270 685805

Knitted 'Poppy Explosion' for Crewe square



An outstanding display of 3,000 knitted poppies welcomed visitors to Memorial Square in Crewe to mark Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. 'The Poppy Explosion' was a community art project to commemorate the First World War and was both co-ordinated and knitted by Crewe and Nantwich Senior Forum members. The project involved people of all ages over many months, to bring hope within reflection as part of the Cheshire East Reflects First World War programme.

[ANSA Environmental Services](#) groundsmen, led by Graham Burgess, spent time brushing and mowing Memorial Square in preparation for the remembrance services. Graham, along with the Crewe and Nantwich Senior Forum members, painstakingly arranged the 3,000 knitted poppies within the tree branches to create the dramatic effect.

[For more information visit the Cheshire East Reflects website](#)

News from the Shavington Youth Centre

2015 has seen lots of excitement and some major enhancements made to the Shavington Youth Centre. The [Central Cheshire Buddy Scheme](#) secured funds for important improvements to some of the pedestrian areas at the rear of the building, for an outdoor table tennis table and, significantly, swings and climbing equipment. These are all available to users of the facility.



Latterly a new kitchen has been built which provides a much larger, safer and more effective asset for the provision of food and drinks but, perhaps more importantly, for the teaching of food production by the children and young people. This new marvelous addition was officially opened by the Minister of State for Families and Children, Edward Timpson MP, in front of a group of children, staff, helpers and friends.

The Youth Centre sends their thanks to Cheshire East Council for its [Community Grant](#), to the Central Cheshire Buddy Scheme for its infusion of significant funds and to all those other kind donors of the necessary money to achieve these results. They would also like to thank everyone who has taken part in the preparation and dedicated hard work in the building of these projects. This special facility is available to rent during working hours most days of the week for a small fee.

For more information and booking enquiries contact Arthur Rigby on 07747 690036

It has been a whirlwind affair!

Dianne Parrish started working in Crewe and South Cheshire, as a Business Connector for [Cheshire Connect](#), just over nine months ago. She has been overwhelmed by all the help, support and collaboration received since making those first tentative steps towards getting to know the area and everyone involved in the charity sector. Dianne said: "I have to confess I was startled by the research stats, which illustrated on a map marked in red, parts of Crewe in the top 10% of areas with 'most deprivation in England', sitting 'cheek by jowl' in areas with the 'least deprivation in England'".

To date, there are 22 charities registered and over 60 skill requests ready for business and profession skill donors, such as business planning and strategy, marketing, social media, HR, health & safety and hygiene compliance, book-keeping, admin support and events management, along with some practical skills from simple handyman services and roof repairs to minibus servicing.

[For more information contact Dianne Parrish](#) on 07946 639394

Calls for Volunteers to Help with Voluntary Car Scheme

The [Crewe and Nantwich Community Car Scheme](#) was established in 2014, with the generous support of Cheshire East Council, and is operated by Cheshire Community Action (CCA). The scheme provides transport to passengers who may be older, have a disability, or struggle to access public transport where they live. After an uncertain financial start to the year the scheme is now kept viable by the introduction of small passenger registration fees. It provides affordable transport to passengers who need to visit family, friends, shops, doctors, dentists and hospital appointments.



To ensure its success CCA is calling on local volunteers to get in touch and register their interest to help with the scheme. The scheme relies on local volunteers using their own vehicles to transport passengers. All expenses are reimbursed and all bookings are handled by CCA. One of the passengers for the Crewe Scheme said: "I am an 82 year old widow who

lives alone with no family members living close to me. I have suffered two minor strokes and have a heart condition. I use the car scheme for lifts on a regular basis. With their help I visit my GP, dentist, bank, local library and the shops in town, it also enables me to meet up with friends. With their support I am able to avoid becoming housebound, as I am unable to walk far".

[For more information contact Chris Davenport](#) on 01244 400222

Knutsford

Knutsford GROW Volunteers

Knutsford GROW was established in response to a need for elderly and disabled people to have help with their gardens in Over Ward. They support the elderly, disabled and vulnerable residents who struggle to, or cannot, maintain their gardens. They also provide support for socially and economically disadvantaged people. For people living on their own, with little social contact or local family, their gardens can become neglected which can lead to feelings of depression and worsen the problems of old age. Issues experienced by vulnerable people as a result of unkempt gardens can range from exploitation and lack of self-esteem to being a victim of crime or living in fear of crime. GROW help to tackle these issues and provide regular visits, mostly to elderly people who either live alone, are frail and isolated or who cannot afford to pay for their garden to be maintained.



GROW support their volunteers, many of whom have learning difficulties and disabilities, to provide help with gardening tasks. Problems which volunteers may face include prejudice due to disability; lack of opportunities to get jobs due to lack of training or experience and similar feelings of depression. Gardening and developing horticultural skills is a proven therapeutic benefit and the experience can improve employability for some of the volunteers.

[For more information visit the Knutsford GROW website](#)

Older Persons Day

Working in partnership, [The Welcome community café](#), with support from St John's Luncheon Club, hosted an event for residents in Knutsford aged 50 years or over. A shuttle bus service collected people from four locations to ensure that those who wished to attend could do so. It was an opportunity for residents to find out about services and activities in the area, with those attending able to try their hand at Kurling and musical moments and chat with representatives from groups such as Knit and Natter and obtain advice on staying warm in winter, how to get online and switch and save.

[For more information contact Val Burlison](#) on 01625 374950

Firefighters welcome Knutsford Community First Responder Trust into their Station

Knutsford firefighters are delighted to welcome Knutsford Community First Responder Trust (KCFRT) to their new home at the fire station, after [Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service](#) offered to share facilities, free of charge. The Knutsford Community First Responders can now access their trauma kits and equipment whenever it is needed, day or night. The KCFRT team are volunteers who are trained by and work with [North West Ambulance Service](#). Their aim is to preserve life and promote recovery in an emergency situation before the ambulance arrives.



Station Manager, Duncan Palin said: "Having the Knutsford First Responder team based at Knutsford Fire Station can only be a benefit. It will ensure that we continue to provide the best service to the local people, creating a true community asset. This initiative brings equipment and expertise together under one roof, with the added benefit of us being able to work closely together when required for the benefit of the town and surrounding areas." KCFRT Chairman, Adrian Rees added: "We are delighted that Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service has allowed us to use their facilities at Knutsford Fire Station as our new headquarters for our

First Responder Response Team and vehicle. Having searched for a permanent base for our life-saving work, being at the fire station will improve our ability to continue to serve the Knutsford community by being able to arrive at a 999 emergency in minutes".

[For more information visit the Knutsford Community First Responder Trust website](#)

Macclesfield

Changes afoot for Peaks & Plains Housing Trust

In July the Chancellor announced that Housing Association rents would decrease by 1% per year over the next four years, meaning Peaks & Plains will receive £9m less income than expected over that period. They have secured their continued future by creating a robust financial plan that enables them to continue to deliver quality landlord services and develop new homes. The Government wants Housing Associations to focus on home ownership to help the numerous people struggling to get on the housing ladder and this is likely to be their focus.

PEAKS & PLAINS
Housing Trust



Their Board has made some painful decisions that will, regrettably, mean job losses. They are now consulting with staff whose posts are at risk. Once they know the affected services, they will individually speak with their partner organisations to discuss the impact. One particularly painful decision has been to end their Community Grant pot that has helped support so many great causes. They are enormously proud of the difference that groups have made in their communities and are only too aware of the impact their withdrawal will have. However, in the future they need to concentrate on what their reduced income will sustain - a high quality, if more narrowly focused, landlord service to tenants.

[For more information and to view their Annual Report visit the Peaks and Plains website](#)

Celebrating Macclesfield Street Angels, part of Hope in North East Cheshire

Macclesfield Street Angels, volunteers principally from the local Churches, recently celebrated three and a half years of helping those out on the town late on Saturday evenings while making the town safer for all. At the event, hosted at Costa Coffee, Paul Blakey MBE, the Founder of Street Angels, a CCTV Operator for Cheshire East Council and PC Neil Cooke gave valuable and engaging presentations to encourage and advise the Street Angels and their supporters.

[For more information contact the Street Angels Macclesfield](#)

Nantwich

Funding approved for Museum Heating and Lighting Project

Nantwich Museum is pleased to announce the upgrading of its heating and lighting systems thanks to grants from [Nantwich Town Council](#), [Cheshire East Council](#) and [WREN](#). The money will enable the replacement of existing halogen lighting and upgrade of the existing heating system with greener and more efficient technologies. As well as using less energy and being more economical to run, the new LED lighting will enable improved display of artefacts and exhibitions and a reduced risk of causing damage, whilst the upgrade of the heating system will provide a more comfortable environment for museum users.



Museum Manager, Denise Courcoux, said: "This project will provide a real boost to the people working in and visiting the museum. It's fantastic that the museum has been awarded this money and we're really looking forward to the improvements which will be made over the next few months. The museum is very grateful for the support of the project's three funders."

[For more information visit the Nantwich Museum website](#)

Barclay's 'Make a Difference Days' at RSPCA Stapeley Grange



The RSPCA has faced financial difficulties over recent years, in part due to an ever increasing number of animals needing their help and going into their centres. As a result, they established a programme to try to attract local companies; companies looking for community projects to support and opportunities to help build team spirit.

Stapeley Grange teamed up with staff from [Barclays Bank](#) at Radbroke Hall in 2011 and by the end of 2015 will have worked with over 550 of their staff. This amounts to over £22,000 worth of funding for materials which has helped them to maintain the site and complete small projects. They have re-built and painted fences, laid

slabs for sheds, laid mats around the outdoor pools, helped to put up shelters in the hog pens and re-roof the raptor aviaries as well as creating a storage area by converting an old 20' container and more.

[For more information visit the RSPCA Stapeley Grange website](#)

Poynton

Let's Loop Poynton

[Poynton Rotary Club's](#) latest community project has got off to a great start. Let's Loop Poynton are a group of volunteers, many of whom have hearing loss, trying to improve standards and awareness of Induction Loops in the Town. Many installations on service counters, tills and in meeting halls fall short of the standard and put those with hearing loss at an immediate disadvantage. It is estimated there could be 1,500 people with hearing loss in Poynton who would benefit from well positioned and maintained Induction Loops. The volunteer group has started work in Poynton hoping to inform shops of the benefits of good installations. Most people take hearing for granted, but for those with hearing loss everyday communication can be far less easy. The challenges can be both practical and emotional and there can be much to overcome to be simply understood.



[For more information on the project and to volunteer contact Let's Loop Poynton](#) on 01625 872987

Honorary Freedom of the Parish awarded to retired Councillor

At the [Disley Parish Council](#) Civic Service in October former councillor Diane Guy MBE, was presented with a Freedom Scroll by current Chairman Cllr. David Kidd for her exceptional service to the community. Diane retired at the last election in May after 28 years' as a councillor. Apart from her duties as a councillor Diane was, and still is, actively involved in many other village organisations, local charities and is a role model for local councillors, fundraisers and community spirited people with her boundless energy and commitment. Diane said that she was overwhelmed by the award and that it meant more to her than receiving her M.B.E.



Wilmslow

iTea and Chat at Dean Row

Working in partnership, free iTea and Chat sessions are being delivered every Thursday until 17th December from 11.00am until 1.00pm at the Dean Row Independent Living Centre. Those who have attended have been greeted by various agencies and volunteers to help those over 50 years of age to get to grips with the world of technology. They have been able to demonstrate how to research ancestry, play games and puzzles, how to shop and bank online, Skype family and friends and send and receive emails.

[For more information contact Val Burlison](#) on 01625 374950

Partner News

Funding boost for Cheshire Care Services

Health and social care partners from across Cheshire have been awarded £100,000 by an NHS organisation that encourages innovation. The money will be spent on training health and social care workers and volunteers to work as effectively as possible across organisational boundaries to build services around people.

The proposal for which the funding was given will involve the [Cheshire Learning and Improvement Academy](#) (CLIA) leading the development of education and training in Eastern Cheshire, whether with paid or unpaid workers or in formal or informal organisations. The role of the CLIA will be to support cultural change in the health and social care system to improve person-centred and out-of-hospital work designed around people's needs rather than those of any organisation.

The funding bid was tabled by the [Cheshire Pioneer Programme](#) comprising Caring Together in Eastern Cheshire plus Connecting Care in Central Cheshire, and the West Cheshire Way. Dr Paul Bowen, chair of NHS Eastern Cheshire CCG, said: "The financial challenges facing health and social care mean new models of care are needed to ensure a sustainable system and that people get the best possible care."

Cheshire East Council Pre-Budget Report

Cheshire East Council has issued its Pre-Budget Report setting out proposals for change for 2016/17. The report provides stakeholders with the opportunity to understand the strategy behind the 2016/2017 Budget proposals. It also contains an update on the budget setting process, as well as providing a summary of proposed changes to the current budget, and how this may affect services in the future.



[To download the report visit the Cheshire East Council website](#)

Can you Give5 to your Community?



Local charity Community and Voluntary Services Cheshire East (CVS Cheshire East) celebrated their 5th birthday in 2015 and inspired by this, have just released an exciting new campaign to encourage people to pledge to Give5 back to their communities. The main focus of the Give5 campaign is to encourage those living and working in our local communities to give something back, perhaps give a small amount of time and volunteer or get involved in activities taking place around their local area. Give5 is a fantastic way to do this without maybe being put off by a long term commitment.

There really is a way for everyone to Give5; perhaps you could cook 5 meals for a neighbour in need, give 5 skills to a community group, attend 5 community coffee mornings, give £5 to a local good cause, Give 5 hours volunteering for a local organisation or Give 5 hours to help tidy up your local area?

[To pledge your support and find out more about the campaign visit the CVS Cheshire East website](#)

Community Pride Competition 2015



The 59th Community Pride Competition, organised by Cheshire Community Action, was celebrated at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall and saw many towns and villages come away as winners. The Overall Award was presented to [Audlem](#) as Best Kept Village/Market Town and was described as a village that is well cared for and attractive to all who visit it. It is an active community which strives to keep up a high standard of care. Ian Cotton of ESSAR Oil UK, sponsor of the competition, presented a plaque and cheque and said that one of the reasons they support the competition is due to the important work done by local communities volunteering to keep and care for their local environment.

Audlem also saw success by winning both the Cheshire Community Spirit and Best Community Website Awards, with [Church Minshull's](#) website being runner up and [Willaston](#) highly commended. Rostherne received the award for the Most Improved Village in the past year, whilst [Rainow](#) won the Best Community Initiative Award. The Community Champion Award went to Patti Pinto of Congleton, with Highly Commended awards going to John Headon of Church Minshull, Peter Ingham of [Pickmere](#) and John Stagg of Rainow.

The Competition exemplifies the community spirit in all the villages. It demonstrates and emphasises just how much voluntary work is undertaken to keep Cheshire a beautiful and attractive County. The competition encourages villages to improve every aspect of village life which is under threat in so many different ways.

[For more information and how to enter the 2016 awards visit the Cheshire Community Action website](#)

Love Earth Hour? Become an Earth Hour UK Ambassador

WWF want to get more people around the UK excited about Earth Hour and that's why they need your help. They are looking for people who can get their communities involved with Earth Hour on Saturday 19th March 2016. In previous years they have had people help show their support in various ways, from organising events like a [torchwalk along Brighton Pier](#) during the hour, to [spreading the word and getting their local council involved](#).



[For more information take a look at their online pack for inspiration](#)

The multi-award winning Just So Festival is going to Brazil

Rowan Hoban and Sarah Bird, Directors of [Wild Rumpus](#), set up Just So Festival in 2009 to create a spellbinding weekend where families could see world class breathtaking outdoor arts and create memories to be treasured all year round. This annual, weekend-long camping festival is now critically acclaimed as one of the best events in the UK for families and provides a spellbinding outdoor adventure like no other.

Wild Rumpus are thrilled to announce a new collaboration with producers in Sao Paulo to bring the Just So Festival to a Brazilian audience in October 2016. This will mark National Children's Day in Brazil and in the year where the eyes of the world will be on this Olympic host nation. Just So captured the attention of Brazilian arts producers Maria Gama and Isabela Hadler Coudry who are based in Campinas and keen to replicate the best practice demonstrated for a weekend camping arts festival solely dedicated to families. Culture Minister Ed Vaizey said: "It's fantastic news that Wild Rumpus will be taking the Just So Festival to Brazil at a time when the global spotlight is firmly fixed on this exciting country for the Olympics next year. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase the diversity of the UK's cultural exports and creativity to the whole world."



[For more information follow Rowan and Sarah's blog](#) or [visit their Facebook page](#)

Funding Secured for Health Sector Career and Engagement Hub

Health Education England (HEE) has awarded £100,000 a year for at least two years to the [Cheshire Pioneer Programme](#) and the money will be used to create a Health Sector Career and Engagement Hub, which aims to inform local people about pursuing employment within the health and social care sectors. The project will bust the myth that working in health and social care is only about doctors, nurses and social workers and the only way to 'get in' is via a degree or postgraduate qualification.

The work is being led in Eastern Cheshire by [NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group \(CCG\)](#) with [East Cheshire NHS Trust](#), [Cheshire East Council](#) and [Macclesfield College](#). Fleur Blakeman, strategy and transformation director at the CCG, said: "We recognise how important working with the education sector is in helping the NHS to meet the challenges we face in terms of recruitment and retention."

Let's Cook in Cheshire East

The Let's Cook in Cheshire East programme was launched in August 2014 and has been running in various locations across Cheshire East. The six session cookery course is delivered free in the community and the 16th Let's Cook course has recently started in Crewe.

Cheshire East Council has been working in partnership with Great Places Housing Group to provide one of these six session cookery courses for residents in Middlewich. The six, one and a half hour sessions were held at Middlewich Community Centre during September and October 2015 and were taught by one of the Council-approved tutors. The cookery course encouraged the Great Places Housing residents to learn how to cook 5-6 healthy meals and to understand how to store and handle food hygienically. There was also a session delivered by volunteers from Love Food Hate Waste which shows people how to reduce the amount of food that is wasted.



[For more information contact Kathy Cornford](#) on 01270 686600 or email

Mid Cheshire Line Wins Top Rail Award

The Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership, whose line runs from Chester to Manchester line via Northwich, Knutsford and Altrincham, has won the top prize at the National Community Rail Awards, held in Torquay in October. It is the first time in the history of these national awards that a Community Rail Partnership alone has won the Overall Winner trophy.

John Oates, Chair of the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership, said: "I am absolutely delighted with this award which was given for the outstanding delivery of our community rail strategy. The top award, which we were all surprised to win, now establishes us as one of the leading Community Rail Partnerships in the country. We are also very proud of the awards we received for Delamere Station and for the WW1 Commemoration. This demonstrates partnership working in action. The WW1 Award was given to Sally Buttifant, our Rail Officer and Matt Baker of Chester-based Theatre in The Quarter who, together with the writer Helen Newall, developed and toured 'Over by Christmas' last year."



The station-based [Over By Christmas production](#) was performed 47 times in 2015, at 25 railway stations throughout Cheshire, and at St Pancras Station in London, and involved over 400 volunteers and 1,250 school children. The judges described the impact of the project as 'breath-taking'.

[For more information visit the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership website](#)

The Buzz Youth Activity Group

The Buzz Youth Activity Group is an exciting, fully inclusive youth group for disabled young people aged between 5 and 18 years across Cheshire. No support or carers are required to attend with group members; all personal requirements will be met with dignity and respect by the staff team. The group is open on a weekly basis on a Wednesday in Crewe (8-18 years, 4.45pm-6.15pm and 6.30pm-8.00pm) and Thursday in Macclesfield (8-18 years 4.30pm-6.00pm and 6.30pm-8.00pm). Activities include bowling, circus skills, meals out, creative arts and crafts, sports, cinema and many more exciting things.



If you would like to volunteer at the group, or know of somebody who could attend contact [Melanie Hinde](#) on 01606 331853

Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union Celebrates International Credit Union Day



Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union (CNCU) recently joined 57,000 other Credit Unions around the world to celebrate [International Credit Union Day 2015](#). This annual event celebrates the roles that Credit Unions play in improving the communities they serve. This year's theme, "People helping people" embraced the long-standing philosophy CNCU have always held; that people can improve their financial well-being by working together. CNCU volunteers can be seen celebrating the day across libraries within the region, thanks to Cheshire East Council's support.

CNCU is a not-for-profit organisation offering a range of savings accounts and affordable loans to families and individuals who live and work in Cheshire. They promote effective money management and work within the community to offer an alternative financial solution to the costly payday lenders and loan sharks that prey on vulnerable people.

[For more information visit the CNCU website](#)

Calling all Volunteers



Are you enthusiastic, dedicated and have a passion for working with young people? In January 2016 Crewe High Schools and Eaton Bank School in Congleton will be running their Twista Connect programs, which is all about improving the journey through school, raising aspirations and creating opportunities.

The project is now looking to recruit volunteer mentors. Mentoring provides a unique opportunity to contribute to the personal development of a young person and can take many forms, from giving your mentee access to information and experience in a particular profession, helping them academically with study advice, to supporting them within the exciting program of various activities. You will also develop your own skills in becoming a mentor. The mentoring relationship is very special and allows both parties to develop skills which are of benefit to them both personally and professionally.

For more information contact [Deb Lindop](#) or [Twista Connect](#)

For your Notice Board

This section allows you to download posters which you may wish to display on your notice boards, either for staff, customers or residents. Please email January / February notices to [Tina Jones](#).

- [Early Intervention Adults with Learning Disabilities](#)
- [Mayor of Macclesfield Awards 2016](#)
- [Who Cares for the Carer?](#)
- [Dementia Befrienders](#)
- [Modern Slavery Infographic](#)
- [Modern Slavery Warning](#)
- [Christmas Toy Appeal Poster](#)
- [Christmas Toy Appeal Dates](#)

Consultations

Annual Survey of Charities

You can be part of the biggest annual survey of charities and voluntary organisations. The survey is gathering evidence about the support charities need and will be used to influence politicians, key decision makers and funders. All charities, voluntary organisations and community groups are being asked to take part. By taking part you will be helping make sure that funders and decision makers know more about your needs and hear what you have to say.

[To complete the survey visit the NAVCA website](#)

Cheshire Chat

This autumn and winter both NHS South Cheshire and NHS Vale Royal Clinical Commissioning Groups will be undertaking an exercise to consult and engage with the population of central Cheshire to determine how they feel about healthcare. This 'Cheshire Chat' will enable them to better understand the expectations and wishes around healthcare locally, for individuals and their families and friends as well as determining what already works well. Findings from Cheshire Chat will be used to shape what they commission in the future making sure it is based on what the local population want and need.



[To join in with the chat visit the Cheshire Chat website](#)

Training

Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness

The Cheshire East Communities Team is able to offer community and voluntary groups a child sexual exploitation awareness session. The session, which lasts approximately 30 minutes, aims to:

- Raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Provide guidance on what signs to look for when spotting CSE
- Provide guidance on how to report suspected CSE activities

[For more information and to book a session contact Lisa Alcock](#) on 01270 686764

Funding

Community Grant Scheme



The third round of Community Grants for 2014/15 saw £40,789 awarded to 19 organisations, which contributed to a total project cost of £407,348! Reach Out and Recover were awarded £5,000 to purchase furnishings for houses which will enable people to live in normal functioning environments, maintain a tenancy and work towards moving into their own accommodation.

The final round for 2015/16 will close on 4th January 2016. If you, or organisations that you are working with, have projects coming up in the beginning of the new year, [visit the Cheshire East Council website for more information and to complete an online application form.](#)

Due to the timing of this deadline, if you require assistance or feedback on your application, please submit before 14th December 2015. Applications submitted after this date will still be accepted and considered but may not receive feedback prior to the recommendations meeting.

Funding for Defibrillators

Do you have a venue which could benefit from having access to a defibrillator? A new funding programme has opened by the Department of Health and the British Heart Foundation to improve the availability and accessibility of public access defibrillators. The programme is open until the end of March 2016 and includes the offer of free defibrillators and training.



[For more information, and to apply online, visit the British Heart Foundation website](#)

The next edition of the Partnerships Newsletter will be circulated in the new year at the end of January, the deadline for submission of articles is 11th January 2016.

To promote an event, conference or consultation, ask for help with a project, let people know of changes taking place in your organisation or share information which is of interest to our wide range of partners contact [Tina Jones](#).

Previous copies of the newsletter are available on the [Cheshire East website](#)

Contact:

Telephone: 01270 685811 **Website:** www.pacecheshireeast.gov.uk

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