

Launch of the 2011 Epic Awards

The Epic Awards are designed to draw attention to work taking place within the voluntary and amateur arts sector.

The awards aim to provide these groups with the opportunity to raise their profile and to win a package of prizes including training, equipment and publicity.

The awards have four categories:

- Engagement
- Partnerships
- Innovation
- Creativity

Voluntary or amateur art and craft groups/ organisations in the United Kingdom and Ireland are eligible to apply.

Visit www.epicawards.co.uk for more information. Deadline for receipt of entries is 11 November 2011 (5pm).

Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust

The Queen Elizabeth Scholarships are worth between £1,000 and £15,000. The scholarships can be used to fund further study, training and practical experience for the improvement of craft and trade skills.

Eligible applicants are craftsmen and craftswomen of all ages who live and work permanently in the UK. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they already have a high level of skill and are firmly committed to their craft or trade.

The deadline for applications for the spring 2012 Scholarships is 20 January 2012. Visit www.qest.org.uk/ for more information.

that a severely disabled child could play outside, a grant towards the installation of a shower and a contribution to a group arranging holidays for people with disabilities.

Details of the applicants and their needs must be submitted in writing to The Secretary, The Akrell Trust, c/o Silks Solicitors, Barclays Bank Chambers, 27 Birmingham St., Oldbury B69 4EZ.

Charles Akrell Trust

The Trustees of the Charles Akrell Trust are inviting applications for their funds and are anxious that people living in Sandwell are aware of its existence.

The trust was set up in 1955 to provide benefits for sick, disabled or poor people resident in the borough of Sandwell.

Recent grants have included a bath hand rail, help with a garden alteration so

Community Developments



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Community Developments is the Sandwell Homes newsletter for local community activists, Tenant and Resident Associations (TRAs), Housing Service Panels (HSPs) and others that actively work within the Sandwell community.

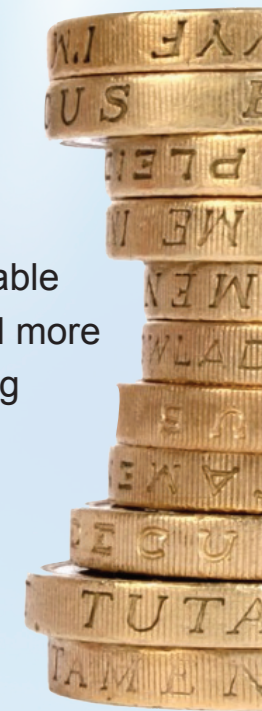
It provides edited highlights of a selection of funding opportunities, available training, information from across the community development sector and more to give activists the information they need to contribute towards achieving vibrant and sustainable communities across Sandwell.

Information is collated from a range of sources, featuring the latest from Sandwell Homes, Sandwell Community Information & Participation Services (SCIPS), Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), Sandwell Council's External Funding Team, Communities Unit and many more.

Sandwell Homes' Community Involvement Team constantly updates and reviews content, to ensure you're fully briefed on everything you need to know.

In addition to the information identified in this bulletin, the Sandwell Homes Community Involvement team is happy to help individuals and groups search for specific funds and/or policy documents. With this in mind we have subscribed to GRANTfinder, the UK's leading grants and policy database that includes details of more than 6,000 constantly updated funding opportunities, as well as POLICYfinder, which houses more than 3,000 policy documents to help you complete applications, forward plan and keep track of major funders' policies that affect you.

To arrange a time to visit a member of the team, please call Derek Fletcher on 0121 569 6466 or via email at derek_fletcher@sandwellhomes.org.uk



Funding Buddies!

This innovative scheme from SCVO matches skilled volunteers with small groups in need of support with their fundraising. SCVO currently has a team of 16 buddies who are being trained and inducted into the programme and will very soon be ready to be matched with groups.

Buddies are able to help with sourcing funding, writing funding applications and developing funding strategies. Each buddy will commit to giving at least eight hours per month to their group. If you would like a buddy to be placed with your organisation, please contact Steve Baylis on 0121 525 1127 or steve@scvo.info. You will need to fill in an application form explaining how a buddy will benefit your work.

Payments Council Abandons Target for Abolishing Cheques!

The Payments Council has recently announced that cheques will continue for as long as customers need them and cancelled its target date for the closure of cheque clearing in 2018. This will be welcome news for a number of charities (who received up to 80% of their donations via cheques) and many local groups with bank accounts.

www.paymentscouncil.org.uk

Awards for All

Awards for All England is a simple small grants scheme making awards of between £300 and £10,000 to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. To achieve this, Awards for All will fund activities that:

- Provide people with better access to training to improve life skills
- Build stronger communities where people work together to tackle problems
- Improve the local environments for the benefit of the community
- Provide for healthier more active people and communities

Applications to the programme can be made at any time.

See www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/summary.html for more information.

Government Launches Consultation on New Policy Directions for the Big Lottery Fund

The Government is seeking views on a number of proposed policy directions for the Big Lottery Fund (BIG), the Government's view is that BIG is restricted in its ability to distribute funds and proposes a series of new policy directions for the fund, focusing on projects delivered by the voluntary and community sector organisations.

A summary of views expressed will be published in January 2012 in conjunction with the overall Government response to the consultation.

Please see <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/big-lottery-fund-consultation-proposed-policy-directions> for more information.

The deadline for responses is midnight on 18 November 2011.

Collabor8te Initiative Launched for Short Film-making

Collabor8te is a new platform for short film-making, designed to champion talented film-makers from the United Kingdom and Ireland. It will support script development through to production and distribution of new short films.

The initiative will produce up to eight short films during 2012, with budgets up to £10,000. The funding provider will develop, fund and produce the selected films entirely, with no necessity for applicants to contribute finances from their own resources.

New and established film-makers and scriptwriters operating in the UK and Ireland may apply. Scriptwriters do not need to have any previous film credits nor does it have to be their first short film.

Visit www.collabor8te.com/ for more information.

The deadline for submission of applications is 3 October 2011.

