

Partnerships Newsletter

May / June 2015



Is your High Street the Best in Great Britain?

The Great British High Street of the Year Awards is an annual competition inviting local partnerships to nominate a high street in their area to celebrate the diversity and services that British shopping parades provide. Applicants in Cheshire East can enter individual high streets (not whole town or city centres) under one of the following categories:

- Town Centre (population of more than 50,000)
- Market Town
- Local centre i.e. precinct or parade of shops
- Village



This year the awards will also champion a person or project that has shown dedication or a particularly innovative approach to making the country's towns and high streets better through a Special Recognition Award.

All category winners will receive a branding toolkit featuring their title as 'Great British High Street of the Year 2015'. This branding can be used at the winning Town Team's discretion to highlight their success and promote their high street as a place to visit and do business and share what they have done with others. Winners will also benefit from a share of a £50,000 prize pot and a range of support from the award partners, including business mentoring, workshops and help to promote their high street.

The sponsor will be asking local people to help in the search for the best high streets by encouraging them to vote for their winners. Once the shortlist of the top three high streets in each category are announced in August, the sponsor will ask local people to help decide the winners. 50% of the vote will be decided by an expert panel of judges and 50% will be decided by the general public who will cast their votes on the [Great British High Street](#) portal. The deadline for applications is 17th July 2015.

To download toolkits, poster, competition guidance, application form and information on 100 ways to help the High Street visit the [Great British High Street website](#)

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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

Stand Tall for Visyon Campaign to be launched in June

Local emotional health and wellbeing charity, Visyon, is launching a campaign to tackle its waiting lists. Visyon provides a range of services to support children and young people, but a massive increase in demand over recent months has seen Visyon's waiting lists grow. Chris Whiley, Visyon's CEO said: "In March of this year we took 124 referrals, compared to only 50 in March of last year, and this is a steady trend, not just a blip. At the end of March we had 347 children and young people on our waiting lists, and as things stand, some of these might have to wait a year to get support. It's just not good enough, and that's why we're launching this campaign to raise funds and significantly reduce the waiting time for support for children and young people". The campaign is called Stand Tall for Visyon, reflecting the fact that Visyon's support helps children and young people to stand tall by increasing their self-esteem and resilience. The launch event will take place at 6.00pm on 3rd June 2015 at Visyon's base in Congleton.



For more information [email Visyon](#), call 01260 290000 or visit the [Visyon website](#)

Over 2,500 Children taking part in Plus Dane's Ni Active Kids Programme



Local housing association [Plus Dane Group](#), in partnership with Cheshire East Council's Partnerships and Communities Team, has developed a bespoke healthy lifestyles programme which supports the development of children in Cheshire East neighbourhoods. This enables them to access a range of exciting and educational sessions all of which are delivered in a practical way. The programme is based on the [five ways to wellbeing](#) and includes a wide range of areas including healthy eating, healthy minds, sport and exercise, the importance of sleeping and rest, fruit and veg, and much more.

It has been delivered in five primary schools across Cheshire East in Middlewich, Alsager, Sandbach and Congleton since October 2014 and has been popular amongst children, staff and parents alike. The programme has to date delivered over 115 sessions, has over 40% tenant involvement and has been attended by over 2,700 children in reception and all six year groups.

For more information contact [Usman Ashiq](#) on 01260288422

Sandbach and District Talking Newspaper

The [Sandbach and District Talking Newspaper](#) provide a weekly recording on USB memory sticks for the blind and partially sighted. They now aim to expand the service to anyone who has reading difficulties or is unable to hold a newspaper. The area which they cover is Sandbach, Middlewich, Alsager, Holmes Chapel and Goostrey. They use all of the local newspapers each week to produce the newspaper and have 60 volunteers producing approximately 70, 2 hour recordings per year, ranging from local news, Cheshire Life (with special Guest Speakers) and outside recordings, such as brass band concerts, local choirs and festivals within the area. Their current listeners describe the service as a "Friend dropping in" and their "Lifeline".

If you know somebody who would benefit from receiving the talking newspaper or would like to volunteer your time, services or support, contact [Pam Johnson](#) on 01606 833408

Every Step Counts

Residents of Congleton are putting their best foot forward this summer in a bid to improve community health and lifestyle. Residents and workers are being challenged to walk at least 5,000 steps a day for ten days in July. If 4,000 people take up the challenge that's 200 million steps for the town! There are also team challenges to complete a John O'Groats to Lands' End equivalent walk, community walks, schools walks, businesses walking lunches and a skyline walk taking place.



Team Congleton, a group that was formed pre-London Olympics to encourage people in Congleton to have fun by getting active, is leading the campaign. Thanks to sponsorship from local trusts, the Town Council and Cheshire East Council, the group has been able to sponsor a large number of pedometers and publicise organised walks.

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

Crewe

Phoenix Arts and Crafts Group

Phoenix Arts and Crafts group, a self-help voluntary group working out of the Maybury Centre in West Street, believe that art is the tool that can help improve communication, confidence, self-esteem and dexterity, together with offering a warm nurturing social opportunity with likeminded folks.

Both Graham and Jenny, who run the group, have a lot of experience working with adults with support needs and are now working with Cheshire East Council to develop their group membership and offer stimulating volunteering/placement opportunities. The sessions run every Thursday from 10.00am until 12.30pm offering different exciting workshops where supporters/carers are also welcome to join in. Deb Lindop from the Council's Partnerships and Communities Team said: "The group are eager to expand their membership and welcome referrals from other organisations, they will also welcome any art-minded volunteers out there."



For more information contact Graham Brand on 01270 214585 or [Deb Lindop](#) on 07736 694443

Redshift Unveils College as New Community Partner



[South Cheshire College](#) has strengthened its links with RedShift Radio, the not-for-profit online radio station and community networking organisation, after being named as their seventh community partner.

As part of the partnership, the College is sponsoring Turbo Youth, a five hour package of programmes presented by young people for young people. In addition, the College is also sponsoring the Monday Madness show with journalism graduate and RedShift news editor Matt Jackson. RedShift is looking to provide more opportunities for students in broadcasting and give them experience working on other station activities.

Liz Southall, RedShift Radio Founder said: "I am delighted that South Cheshire College has come on board as a Community Partner. We have provided lots of work experience opportunities to South Cheshire College students over the years and are thrilled that so many have become integral members of the RedShift team, with one becoming a paid member of staff."

For more information visit the [RedShift Radio website](#)

Great Progress at Crewe Community Hubs

Barnies Community Hub and Community Garden based on West Street is shouting about their new exciting services on offer including its luncheon club on a Wednesday, new multi-agency residents' surgery running every last Thursday of the month, Core Fit exercise program for the over 50-year-olds every Thursday at 11.00am and its Friday morning computer support session. Referrals are being accepted and people can also drop in.

The Bethany Centre Community Hub on Lime Tree Avenue is also making great progress. With a new theatre group about to start they are keen to develop other activities and would like to connect with local service providers, working across the area, to explore what can be done in partnership. The particular target groups for engagement include families, young people and the older generation.

For more information and to share project ideas contact [Deb Lindop](#) on 07736 694443

Spring is in the Air in Crewe

Spring is in the air at a community play area in Crewe, after green-fingered firefighters got stuck in and helped out at a partnership event. The play area in Sherbourne Avenue was targeted as a forgotten area of the neighbourhood so was given a facelift when local partners got together. The team planted bulbs and sowed wild seeds to help brighten up Pocket Park.

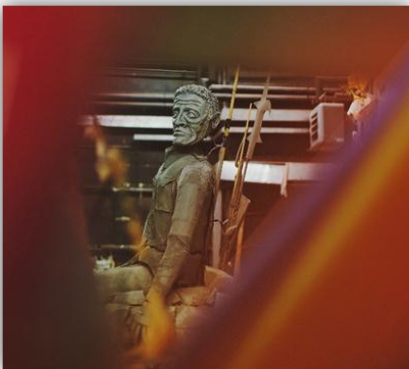
Crewe firefighters Jansen Bostock and Ted Perry went along to help at the event and found garden games for children to play with and planting to be done, so got started. A number of partners got involved in the project and the event was very well attended.



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

Knutsford

Knutsford Promenades 2015



The Knutsford Promenades 2015 marches into town on Saturday 4th July with a spectacular combination of street theatre, dance and music, bringing to life the theme Texts from the Front. Free for all to attend, the event starts at 3.00pm at the St John's Church end of Princess Street, with the evening finale starting at 6.30pm in Canute Place.

The Universal Soldier, a specially commissioned large-scale puppet, will 'direct' the proceedings as he draws the crowds from venue to venue. Hundreds of performers will be taking part including community groups, dance troupes, youth art groups and Knutsford schools to perform specially-created pieces, many based on real-life stories shared by locals who served people in the Armed Forces.

Over the past two years the team behind the Promenades has built up the momentum to establish the Promenades as a key arts and cultural event. Thanks to funding from [Arts Council England](#), [Cheshire East Council](#) and [Knutsford Town Council](#), this year's event will be even more spectacular.

For more information and a full programme of events visit the [Knutsford Promenades website](#)

Macclesfield

Macclesfield Work Club – Making a difference!

Macclesfield Work Club, which takes place each Wednesday, from 1.00pm to 4.00pm at Macclesfield Library, is an essential resource with members of the community seeking help with tasks such as CV writing, completing job application forms, opening email accounts and using Universal Job Match.

Working with the Partnerships and Communities Team the club provides free use of the computers, printing facilities, local newspapers, memory sticks and refreshments. In this relaxed atmosphere agencies such as the CAB and CVS attend on a regular basis offering advice, assistance and volunteering opportunities. Recent figures confirm that from March 2014 to March 2015 the club has had over 217 new people enrol who have not accessed the club previously.

Learners have benefitted from funding for their Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards, enabling them to apply to work on a building site, food hygiene certificates, ECDL courses and SAGE accounting courses which all improve an individual's chances of employment.

For more information contact [Val Burlison](#) on 01625 374950 or 07850 145163

Nantwich

Cheshire Plays a Starring Role as one of the UK's Most Popular Filming Locations

A new primetime TV series filmed in the Cheshire village of Bunbury is set to put Cheshire on the map after hitting the screens in May. The ITV six-part drama, called Home Fires, was inspired by the non-fiction book Jambusters written by Julie Summers.



The show follows a group of inspiring females in a rural Cheshire village during World War II in their personal battles during wartime life, as they join together as the Great Paxford Women's Institute (WI).

It tells how members of the [WI](#) hold the fabric of society together while their menfolk are away fighting. This is of even more interest in 2015 as the WI celebrate their 100 year anniversary. The WI was formed in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then

the organisation's aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK with 212,000 members in around 6,600 WI's.

Filming began last September and ran for several months, key locations include St Boniface Church and the Village Hall, as well as much-loved local gastro pubs The Dysart Arms and The Nag's Head, the local butcher's shop RF Burrows & Sons and even the small village chip shop was turned into a 1920's style service garage for the show.

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

Do you hold local events, classes or activities in your community? Would you like more people to be aware of them? Why not add them to Cheshire East Council's [What's On Guide](#) or [Stuff2do](#) websites. You can also add your events to the [Discover Cheshire website](#)

Poynton

Summer Road Safety Sessions

Working in Partnership with Peaks and Plains Housing Trust, Cheshire Police, Everybody Sport & Recreation Trust and Cheshire East Council's Communities Team, some joint road safety sessions are to be held during the school summer holidays in Poynton. The sessions will include:

- Cycling proficiency tests and awarding of certificates
- Distribution of Highway Codes booklets
- Bike health check sessions
- Bike security stamping
- Providing cleaning equipment and repair kits
- A lucky dip with bike themed prizes for those participating

For more information on dates and venues and to get involved with the sessions contact [Val Burlison](#) on 01625 374950 or 07850 145163

Wilmslow

Reaching out to Students at Wilmslow Library

A series of initiatives have been established to promote links between Wilmslow Library and Wilmslow High School which will benefit hundreds of students. This was the result of discussions between the public and school librarians who wanted to ensure that students knew how to access the rich variety of free physical and online resources available to them through Cheshire East Libraries.

For the past few years every new Year 7 Wilmslow High School class visits Wilmslow Library and has a hands-on IT session as well as an opportunity to explore the stock and select a fiction book to borrow. Two Year 8 classes visit each June to discuss American literature in preparation for Year 9. Lately the library has also been delighted to host the final of Wilmslow High School's Creative Writing Competition with one of the Library Managers, Diana Ashcroft, helping to judge and select the winning entry.

They are now noticing an increased number of High School students using the library facilities after school for homework and interest, as well as making use of the quiet space in the reference library for revision during exam time. Long may this continue!

For more information on libraries visit the [Cheshire East Council website](#)

Partner News

The Streets are Alive with Age Friendly Streets

Good weather brings out the smile of neighbours, so it is a chance for residents to think about [Age Friendly Streets](#) by organising a social [street meet](#) or full [street party](#). The Age Friendly Streets campaign is full of other ideas in the [Toolkit](#) by Streets Alive. It can reduce the isolation, especially of older neighbours.

**AGE FRIENDLY
STREETS** 

As Joan, aged 78, said: "The name 'Age Friendly Streets' says it all and it makes you think." Groups, organisations and councils can [get in touch with Streets Alive](#) for help in organising the campaign locally.

For more information about the campaign visit the [Age Friendly Streets website](#)

Improving Lives in Cheshire by Helping Businesses and Charities to Work Together

Do you work in a charity or local community group, or are you an employee or owner of a local business? If so, Cheshire Connect would love for you to get involved.

In recent years it has become increasingly evident that to build stronger communities we need to work smarter together. 'We' means each and every stakeholder in the community. Cheshire Connect has been working hard to develop their relationships with local people and organisations who, like them, are committed to building stronger communities in Cheshire. Working closely with Cheshire East Council has enabled them to identify local charities and community groups who are making a real difference. Their aim is to work with our local charities and non-profit groups to clearly understand how access to free business skills and expertise can help solve a problem, increase capacity, improve sustainability, or provide long-term support.



For businesses, they offer a great opportunity to volunteer employee skills that will make a meaningful difference in the local community. They are currently engaging people with skills such as marketing, IT, legal, HR, finance, and business planning. It is a way of demonstrating Corporate Social Responsibility, developing employee skills and raising the profile of your business in the local community.

If you are a business, charity, community or faith group contact [Donna O'Keel](#) to see how you can work together and visit the [Cheshire Connect website](#) to see some recent examples of their work.

Join Healthvoice and Make Yourself Heard

Ever wanted to have your say on local health services but weren't sure how to do it? Help is at hand in the form of HealthVoice, an independent voluntary body that is open to everyone and meets every eight weeks in convenient venues across Eastern Cheshire. Supported by [NHS Eastern Cheshire CCG](#), it represents the public's views and informs the CCG's decisions regarding the planning and buying of health and care services for more than 204,000 people.



HealthVoice ensures that the patient perspective is fully represented at all stages of decision making in the provision of these services and it is involved in all aspects of planning, prioritising and implementation. Attendance comprises members of patient participation groups, representatives of third sector voluntary organisations and personnel from all levels within the CCG.

For more information contact [Charles Malkin](#) on 01625 663824 or visit the [HealthVoice website](#)

Reading Revolution Coming to Cheshire East!

[The Reader Organisation](#), an award-winning charitable social enterprise working across the UK to connect people with great literature and each other, is setting up an exciting new project to deliver weekly shared reading groups in a variety of settings throughout Cheshire East.

What is different about shared reading groups is that short stories, novels and poems are read aloud by a trained facilitator. Group members can choose to join in, but there is no pressure to. This provides inclusive and immediate engagement with the text, which is enriched by the spontaneous sharing of life stories and experiences as group confidence builds over time. The project is seeking to ensure that the groups established reflect local needs and priorities and complement existing services.

If you know of individuals or groups of people, of any age, that would benefit from this informal learning experience contact [Julie Halford](#) or [Laragh Gillen](#)

Volunteer Opportunity to Influence Access to the Countryside

The Cheshire East Local Access Forum is an independent advisory group providing advice to the local authority and their partners on countryside access issues, including public rights of way.

The Forum must balance a range of interests, including recreational use and land management, as well as other aspects of countryside access, including the rural economy, nature conservation, health, transport, heritage and other matters.

If you want to help shape the future of countryside access, why not apply to be a member of the Cheshire East Local Access Forum?



To join, complete an application form available from the [Cheshire East Council website](#) or contact the [Local Access Forum](#) on 01270 686029

Anti-crime Community Initiative Scoops Top Award

'Stamp crime out of town' (SCOOT), a business crime partnership successfully operating across Crewe and Nantwich for the past 13 years, has been given a Safer Business Award 'with distinction' for the second time and was recognised to be operating on a par with partnerships in other areas, such as Chester, Trafford and Manchester.

The partnership, which consists of Cheshire East Council's Partnerships and Communities Team, Cheshire Police and local traders, uses a radio network to alert members about crime and anti-social behaviour. The close working relationship of members of the radio link, Cheshire East CCTV and Cheshire Police officers who carry SCOOT radios in the town centres, benefits all who work in and use the town centres. This award is down to the hard work and dedicated commitment of all members of the partnership. The work will continue, with plans to develop the partnership further across Cheshire East in the near future.

For more information contact [Ralph Lewis](#) on 07960 937693

Peaks & Plains Launch Basecamp Scheme to Help Local Entrepreneurs



Peaks & Plains Housing Trust is launching Basecamp, a new business enterprise scheme which provides free advice and training for local would-be entrepreneurs. Basecamp is free for anyone living in Macclesfield, Wilmslow, Knutsford and the surrounding areas. Anyone over 16 is eligible for the scheme, whether they are in work, out of work, retired or unable to work.

The training programme includes an introductory workshop, at which people will learn the basics of business planning and some of the fundamental skills needed to be a small business owner. Following this, they can then attend a two day seminar to learn about finance, marketing, market research, funding and more. The Basecamp team will then continue to provide support through the early stages of setting up a business.

For more information about Basecamp and the dates of the next available training, contact [Peaks & Plains Housing Trust](#) on Freephone 0800 012 1311

Could you be a Volunteer Puppy Socialiser?

Fully trained, hearing dogs are vital companions for deaf people, not only providing practical support, but reducing the isolation that deafness can often bring. With hearing loss on the increase so is the demand for these incredible dogs. And that's where your help is needed. Volunteer puppy socialisers are required to look after a puppy for the first 14 -16 months of their life, training them and introducing them to the experiences they will encounter as a working hearing dog. Short term holiday homes are also required for the puppies throughout the year.



If you think you can train a puppy and change the life of a deaf person contact the [volunteering team](#) on 01844 348100 or visit the [Hearing Dogs website](#). You can also promote the scheme by downloading the poster in the For your Notice Board section of this newsletter.

Neighbourhood Planning

There are now twenty-four parishes actively preparing neighbourhood plans with many more considering how to plan for the future of their communities. Impressive progress has been made by these groups with four neighbourhood plans now at draft stage. Audlem, Brereton, Bunbury and Sandbach have all now published first versions of their plans and are preparing to submit them to the Council to take them through to the next stage of the process.

For more information on Neighbourhood Planning visit the [Cheshire East Council website](#)

Musical Moments



Musical Moments is a social enterprise that was founded in 2011 by music graduate Beckie Morley. Her Nana had been living with dementia for almost ten years and she realised that there didn't seem to be enough musical activity out there for older people with dementia.

From this moment, Musical Moments was set up working in the Congleton and Macclesfield areas, slowly branching out and working with thirty different care homes in the local area. Beckie devised sessions that were accessible, stimulating and fun for all abilities of older people in care and nursing homes. In 2014 Musical Moments was awarded 'Most Promising New Business' by the

[East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise](#). This helped to boost the work more and prompted interaction with several local charities, including [Carers Trust 4All](#) and [MHA Live at Home Scheme](#).

Work with other care homes continued and created another new job. From there, Musical Moments applied for a Cheshire East Council Giveback Grant and were generously awarded with £7,000. This small, but growing team now works with over 100 care homes and sheltered housing associations in Cheshire East and the surrounding areas. Musical Moments hope to continue working with older people and helping to raise awareness of the benefits of music for people living with dementia.

For more information visit the [Musical Moments website](#)

Are you part of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector of Cheshire East? Would you like your issues raised with Statutory Partners?

The Voice of the Sector receives issues from the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector of Cheshire East and raises these via the Cross Sector Working Group. To find out more about how to raise your issues download the leaflet in the For your Notice Board section of this newsletter.

Are you part of the Statutory Sector in Cheshire East? Do you need to engage with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS)?

The Cross Sector Working Group receives issues from the VCFS via the Voice of the Sector and the Statutory Sector and is a vehicle for engagement and joint problem-solving. The group is open to all sectors and facilitates working together to influence local service delivery and address issues. To find out more about how the group works download the leaflet in the For your Notice Board section of this newsletter.

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

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 July / August notices to [Tina Jones](#).

- [Stapeley Grange Summer Fair](#)
- [Hearing Dog Volunteer Recruitment](#)
- [Self Care Aware Poster](#)
- [Basecamp Funding Leaflet](#)
- [Cross Sector Working Group Leaflets](#)
- [Cheshire East Community Grants Poster](#)

Conferences and Events

Barnaby Festival Reveals 2016 Dates

17th to 26th June 2016
Macclesfield Town Centre and Market Place



Team Barnaby has confirmed that the next Barnaby Festival will cover ten days to be filled with fun and creative activities, musical gems, visual arts and the centrepiece of the festival – the Carnival Parade. Since its launch in 2010 the festival has grown annually. “Five years on, Barnaby has exceeded all expectations and in order to continue to deliver a festival of the same scale, quality and interest we’ve taken the decision to become biennial, which means it takes a break this year but will be back on the streets of Macclesfield in 2016” explains Chair of the charity, Lynne Jones.

The volunteer led, not-for-profit festival, with an army of more than 160 volunteers who give their time freely to deliver the midsummer extravaganza, is supported by around 60 businesses and community groups. In June 2014, James Berresford, the Chief Executive of [Visit England](#) described Barnaby as “one of the best [festivals] of its type in the country”.

For information on meeting dates and how to get involved contact the [Barnaby Team](#)

Be More Self Care Aware



Whether it is about preventing ill health, by choosing healthy options that will impact positively on people's physical health and mental wellbeing, people taking care of their own minor ailments at home or people understanding how to manage more serious conditions, it is vital that we improve people's health literacy to help them remain healthy for their whole lives. Experts say people and patients want to do more to look after their own health and their family's health without intervention from the NHS, but they need support and encouragement in order to do this.

Organisations are being urged to help to promote Self Care Week and contribute to educating about how to be more self care aware.

For more information and resources visit the [Self Care Forum](#)

Consultations

Macclesfield Community Hubs

Consultation is now underway with the residents of Macclesfield seeking local input to the services they want to see on offer in their own neighbourhoods. Questionnaires will be available from Macclesfield Town Hall and at various community halls across Macclesfield. Local community groups and organisations who would like to express interest in becoming part of the community hub network in Macclesfield or across Cheshire East can contact [Dan Coyne](#) on 01625 383845.

Funding

Enter your Space or Garden into Cultivation Street

Cultivation Street, a campaign encouraging communities to garden, wants to hear from you if you have a blooming community project or school garden. There are prizes worth £20,000 up for grabs. This year also sees a new category introduced for nature gardens called Pollination Street, which will be judged by Grow Wild's very own Philip Turvil. Entries close on 2nd August 2015.



For information on how to apply visit the [Cultivation Street website](#)

Would you like to join the Nation of Lifesavers?



The British Heart Foundation is offering part-funding to community organisations such as sports clubs, village halls and community centres to enable them to purchase their own public access defibrillators. They require a donation of £400 towards the cost of the defibrillators in each community package.

For more information and to check whether your organisation can apply visit the [British Heart Foundation website](#)

Community Grants

During 2014/15 Cheshire East Council's Community Grants Scheme saw £225,471 awarded to 129 organisations, which contributed towards over £1.5 million worth of projects and community activities taking place across the Borough.

The scheme has already funded 33 organisations within the first round of 2015/15, which closed on 27th March 2015. Organisations funded include [Over Water Wheely Boat Project](#), which has been awarded £3,500 to provide opportunities for disabled adults and children to enjoy the canal in a purpose built boat and [CYGNETS](#) (Cheshire Youth Group for New and Emerging Talent on Stage), who have been awarded £1,000 towards holding a performing arts festival during the summer.



The team are looking forward to supporting many more organisations throughout the year and you can help to promote the scheme by downloading the poster in the For your Notice Board section of this newsletter. The next deadline for applications is 26th June 2015.

For a revised application form and guidance notes visit the [Cheshire East Council website](#)

Funding for Rural Community Enterprises (UK)

The Plunkett Foundation has funding and support available for new and diversifying rural community enterprises. Communities that would like to expand their current service provision by adding a shop, café, library, bakery or bar, for example, or want to set-up a co-operative from scratch, can apply for a £2,000 feasibility support package, which includes two days with a community enterprise adviser. The £2,000 feasibility funding is specifically for rural communities aiming to raise at least £10,000 in community shares and looking to provide an enterprise that will socially benefit their community. Applications can be submitted at any time up to the 15th September 2015.



For more information visit the [Plunkett Foundation website](#)

The Power to Change

The Power to Change is an independent charitable trust endowed with £150 million from the Big Lottery Fund to support community businesses across England.



Since the Power to Change was launched in late January, they have been working hard to develop programmes that will truly make a difference to community businesses. By the end of the year they aim to have provided £9 million of funding and support to businesses across England.

A majority of this funding will be awarded through their Initial Grants Programme, an initiative that has been specifically designed to help new and existing community businesses that are in a position to make a step change in their journey towards long term sustainability within the next six months.

In order to help organisations assess whether the Initial Grants Programme funding is suited to their current needs and stage of development, they have developed a set of [six criteria](#) which organisations / projects must meet to be considered for funding through the programme.

You can view the [guidance notes](#) and [online application form](#) and for comments, questions or suggestions, contact the [Power to Change team](#)

The next edition of the Partnerships Newsletter will be circulated at the end of July, the deadline for submission of articles is 13th July 2015.

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](#)

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