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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Welcome to our weekly roundup of all things Voluntary Community Faith Sector in Central Lancashire!  This email is issued to subscribers and contributors.  Details of how to subscribe, unsubscribe or change your preferences can be found at the bottom of the email.  Sections: (click to go, press "Home" to come back) [Funding Opportunities](https://us5.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=297513#FundingOpportunities); [Vacancies and Employment](https://us5.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=297513#VacanciesandEmployment); [Volunteering](https://us5.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=297513#Volunteering); [Fundraising News](https://us5.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=297513#FundraisingNews); [Training](https://us5.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=297513#Training); [Events](https://us5.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=297513#Events); [Public Notices](https://us5.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=297513#PublicNotices); [Appeals](https://us5.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=297513#Appeals); [Consultations](https://us5.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=297513#Consultations); [Health](https://us5.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/preview-content-html?id=297513#Health);   **Big Lottery Fund Surgery!**  Last Call for Places: Are you considering submitting an Awards for All or Reaching Communities Bid to the Big Lottery Fund? Have you submitted an unsuccessful application and want feedback from a Big Lottery Fund representative? We have a few remaining places on the one to one surgeries available with the Big Lottery Fund to discuss Awards for All and Reaching Communities applications at our offices on Tuesday 19 March 2013.  Available slots are: 1.10, 3.20, 4.00, 4.20 and 4.40 p.m. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. To book your slot download the booking form below and return it to us by no later than 1 p.m. on **Monday 18 March 2013**.  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/02/BLFWorshopBookingForm.docx>  And now, the news …  Funding Opportunities  **Enhancement and Enrichment Grant Scheme - deadline 20 March 2013**  The Department for Education has announced that a limited number of grants of up to £500 are available for teachers of any STEM subject to have a STEM Enhancement & Enrichment activity take place at their school in 2013.  Through the schemes, grants will be available to enhance and enrich any subject from the STEM Directories.  The STEM Directories list Enhancement and Enrichment (E&E) opportunities to support science, engineering, design and mathematics teaching.  This might involve bringing a real scientist, engineer or mathematician into the classroom, give students access to equipment not readily available or simulate real-life applications of science and technology. Many schemes can provide supporting teaching materials to help get the most of the activity.  Applications are welcomed from both schools in underprivileged areas and high achieving schools.  <http://www.stemdirectories.org.uk/teacher-faqs/>    **Funding to Tackle Climate Change - deadline 31 March 2013**  Artists Project Earth (APE) which funds projects that tackle the effects of climate change has announced that its next funding round is now open for applications. Applications are welcomed from organisations working to:  Prevent the causes of climate change; Defend communities and ecosystems against the impacts of climate change; Support and build resilience for communities affected by natural disasters. Grants usually range from £500 up to £20,000.  <http://www.apeuk.org/apply-funding>    **Pupil Premium Awards 2013 - deadline 17 April 2013**  The Department of Education has announced that it is seeking applications through its Pupil Premium Awards 2013.  The Pupil Premium Awards celebrate schools that are using the Pupil Premium to make a real difference to the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.   Awards of up to £10,000 are available for schools that had done the most to boost the attainment of their disadvantaged pupils (defined as those entitled to free school meals, or pupils who have been in public care for six months or more).  The best schools in every English region will gain recognition, and regional winners will be invited to a reception in London, where the overall prizes will be announced. Judging will be by an independent panel of education experts.  The closing date for entries is the 17th  April 2013, and the final will be held on the 26th June 2013.  <http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00222256/the-pupil-premium-awards-2013>    **Lancashire County Council: Local Initiative Fund - deadline 26 April 2013**  Lancashire County Council has allocated a budget of over £190,000 to the 2013/14 Local Initiative Fund (LIF) Scheme. The LIF Scheme, now in its third year, is a more targeted way of providing medium-sized grants to voluntary, community and faith groups that carry out important work to help communities across Lancashire. Groups in Lancashire can apply for grants between £1,000 to £5,000 to support their work and help meet the County Council's priorities.  The LIF Scheme provides grants to fund new and innovative projects and activities which support three of the County Council's priorities. The priorities are: Improved Outcomes for Families (Total Family); Skills and Employment; Activities for Teenagers. If you are a community group that would like to apply for a LIF grant, please follow the link below for the Application Form, Guidance Notes and Help with Completing your Application Form document.  Please read the Guidance Notes and Help with Completing your Application Form document carefully before you fill in the Application Form.  <http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=6427&pageid=38196>    **National Archives Cataloguing Grants Programme - deadline 26 April 2013**  The National Archives has announced that its Cataloguing grants programme is currently open for applications.  Under the programme, public sector organisations and other not for profit organisations can apply for funding to address the large and growing backlog of uncatalogued collections in the nation’s archives.  During 2013 at least £300,000 will be available to fund projects.  <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/cataloguing-grants-programme.htm>    **Music Funding for Individuals, Organisations and Groups - deadline 29 April 2013**  The Performing Rights Society (PRS) for Music Foundation, the UK's leading funder of new music across all genres, has announced that its funding programme for individuals, organisations and groups is open for applications.  Funding is available to: Any individual or not-for-profit organisation that support the creation and performance of outstanding new music in any genre; Develop artists to their full potential; Inspire audiences UK-wide.  Through this programme individuals as well as bands; ensembles; collectives; charities; local authority and schools; etc can apply for grants of up to £25,000 (£5,000 for first time applicants).  <http://www.prsformusicfoundation.com/Funding>    **Time to Change Grants - deadline 30 April 2013**  The Mental Health charity, Time to Change has announced that its grants programme has re-opened for applications.  Through the programme, grants of up to £100,000 are available to constituted not for profit organisations for projects that bring people with and without mental health problems together to challenge discrimination in their communities.  Time to Change plan to fund approximately 75 projects between 2012 and 2015.    25% of the fund is for projects run by and for people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities and 20% is for projects that work with an audience of children and young people, in specific regions.  <http://www.time-to-change.org.uk/grants>    **MacMillian Cancer Support Grants Scheme - deadline 30 April 2013**  MacMillian Cancer Support has announced the application deadlines for 2013 for its grants programme.  Grants of up to £3,000 are now available to support start up costs of new and the expansion of existing self-help and support groups.  The grants are available to people affected by: Cancer in groups or individually; Voluntary organisations, community interest companies, community groups, social enterprises; Health and social care, information and support staff in partnership with people affected by cancer.  <http://www.macmillan.org.uk/HowWeCanHelp/CancerSupportGroups/HowWeSupportYourGroup.aspx>    **Carnegie UK Trust Launches Test Town - deadline 3 May 2013**  The Carnegie UK Trust has announced the launch of a new £10,000 competition for young people to help rejuvenate town centres.  ‘TestTown’ is a new competition for young people throughout the UK aged between 16 and 25 to put forward their own ground-breaking ideas to redesign the future UK high street.  The top 10 finalist teams with the most exciting ideas will be shortlisted in April with the climax of the competition taking place across three days in Dunfermline, Scotland this June.  The 10 teams will take over vacant town centre space, and trade with real consumers. The winners, who do the best job of turning their ideas into reality, will walk away with £10,000 to take their idea to market for real.  <http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/news---events/latest/trust-launches-test-town>    **Curious Minds: Commissioning Opportunity - deadline 3 May 2013**  We would like to commission around young people and transport, which you may be interested in.  We're keen to circulate this as widely as possible to give lots of people the opportunity to apply.  We would like you to gather intelligence, identify and build relationships with key contacts and potential partners who could help provide transport solutions, including public transport providers.  For further information about the brief, please contact Susan Blackburn, Finance and Resources Assistant:  [susan.blackburn@curiousminds.org.uk](mailto:susan.blackburn@curiousminds.org.uk)  More:  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/03/15/CuriousMindsBrief.docx>    **Life-changing Lotto £50K is up for grabs! - deadline 13 May 2013**  The People's Millions launches today, with £50,000 available to improve the lives of people in your local community.  The Peoples Millions is an annual TV competition run by Big Lottery Fund and ITV which awards Lottery funding to community projects that will improve the lives of local people. This year there are four awards of up to £50,000 on offer in each of the 19 ITV regional news areas across the UK.  Anything from youth and environmental projects to schemes that improve employment prospects or help people in need are in with a chance of bagging the Big Lottery Fund cash, provided that entrants can convince their community through a broadcast on ITV regional news that their idea is worthy of the prize. The competition opens today for entries from voluntary and community groups; local authorities; schools; statutory health bodies and branches of organisations or partnerships. More information and entry packs are available on:  <http://www.peoplesmillions.org.uk/>  To keep up to date with all the latest news use the hashtag #pplsmillions on Twitter, or join us on Facebook.  <https://www.facebook.com/PeoplesMillions>  The deadline for completed entries is 12 noon on Monday 13 May 2013, so don't miss out. Good luck!    **Tesco Charity Trust - Large Grants Programme - deadline 24 May 2013**  The Tesco Charity Trust has announced that its Large grants programme is open for applications.  The Trust gives grants ranging between £4,000 and £25,000 to charities working in the areas of: Children’s welfare and education; Elderly people’s welfare; Adults and children with disabilities.   The funding is available to charities working on an international, national or regional basis in areas where Tesco have a presence.   Applications for funding are considered three times a year and the next closing date for applications is the 24th May 2013.  <http://www.tescoplc.com/index.asp?pageid=121#ref_tescocharitytrust>    **The Classical Association Grants - deadline 1 June 2013**  The Classical Association awards grants in the region of £60,000 each year to classical projects and conferences, mainly in the UK.  The Association will consider applications for subventions to summer schools and to institutions offering: Extra-mural courses in Greek, Latin and classical civilization; Bursaries for teachers attending courses abroad; Notably the British School at Athens Easter Course; Support of Greek and Latin reading competitions arranged by CA branches; Support of regional Greek or Roman days or of school conferences; Subventions to academic conferences, particularly when of broad appeal and held in major centres, with a view especially to assisting students, teachers and East European scholars to attend.  <http://www.classicalassociation.org/grants.html>    **Healthy Hearts Grants - Opens 1 July 2013**  Heart Research UK has announced the next funding round under its Healthy Heart Grants Scheme will open on the 1st July 2013.  Heart Research UK Healthy Heart Grants support innovative projects designed to promote heart health and to prevent or reduce the risks of heart disease in specific groups or communities. Grants of up to £10,000 are available to community groups, voluntary organisations and researchers who are spreading the healthy heart message.  <http://www.heartresearch.org.uk/grants/healthyheartgrant>    **The Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust - deadline 15 August 2013**  The next deadline for applications to the Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust is the 15th August 2013.  Through the Trust grants are available to projects of significance to horticulture (or botany with a strong horticultural content) and education for horticulture.  The type of activities that can be funded include: Training schemes for gardeners run by appropriate organizations; The provision of educational programmes in gardens open to the public; Preparation of exhibits or exhibitions of horticultural interest; The restoration of historically interesting gardens which are or will be open to the public; The development of new gardens which will be open to the public; etc. (please note the list is not exhaustive).  The Trust also provides support for several traineeships in horticulture each year (August to July); these are awarded to applying gardens (who each find a suitable trainee).  <http://www.grantsforhorticulturists.org.uk/Smith.html>  **Vacancies and Employment**  **Re-Advertisement: Council for Voluntary Service Central Lancashire: Cycling Development Officer - deadline 22 March 2013**  12 month fixed term, £21,519 - £22,958 per annum  More details and relevant paperwork.  Follow the link on our home page:  <http://www.cvscentrallancashire.org.uk/>    **Moving On: Chief Executive - deadline 29 March 2013**  £35,000 per annum, based in Preston.  Moving On Lancashire is a not for profit social enterprise.  We deliver a high quality community based therapeutic support programme to individuals experiencing social isolation, depression, mental health issues.  We are seeking a highly skilled individual who will engage with the community and voluntary sector at grassroots level, work in partnership with a range of organisations, and generate new income.  As Chief Executive  we would expect you to lead on the overall development and performance of the Company.  This post is subject to a successful application for funding to the Big Lottery, start date 1st June 2013.  For details and an application form email  [info@movingonlancashire.co.uk](mailto:info@movingonlancashire.co.uk)  or telephone 01695554150    **Young Lancashire: Operations Manager - deadline 5 April 2013**  Young Lancashire is seeking to recruit an Operations Manager. The post of Operations Manager, established as an outcome of a restructuring process, has been created to work with the Chief Executive and Board to deliver Young Lancashire’s mission and strategic objectives. Salary range: £27,052 - £28,636, closing date: 5 April, interviews: 15 April. Up for the Challenge?  For more details and paperwork visit:  <http://www.younglancashire.org.uk/content/vacancy-operations-manager>    **2.2 people chase every vacancy**  New statistics show 2.2 unemployed people are chasing every job vacancy in Preston.  The figures, published by trade union Unison, show there were 2.6 people after every vacancy in neighbouring South Ribble with 2.7 after every job in Chorley.  Kevan Nelson, regional secretary for Unison North West, said the regional average is 3.8 people.  <http://www.lep.co.uk/news/business/2-2-people-chase-every-vacancy-1-5490655>  **Volunteering**  **Ribble Rivers Trust: ‘Disgust’ at River Ribble litter louts**  A child’s car seat, sandwich wrappers and fast food containers are among the “disgusting” mountain of rubbish washed up on the banks of the River Ribble. Catherine Birtwistle, administrator at the Ribble Rivers Trust, which is a volunteer-led group aiming to improve the river, said: “It is shocking to see that amount of litter pile up, but you have to consider the fact that every single watercourse in the Ribble catchment, including rivers and streams from the Hodder, Calder and Darwen river catchments, converge before flowing past Penwortham. The Ribble Trust is always glad of new volunteers to help with river clean-ups and other habitat work, but better still, we’d like to see people assembling their own work parties to adopt a stretch of their local river and keep it litter-free.”  March - April Volunteering Events  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/03/15/VolunteerEvents.PDF>  Ribble Rivers Trust:  <http://www.ribbletrust.org.uk/>  <http://www.lep.co.uk/news/environment/disgust-at-river-ribble-litter-louts-1-5486236>    **West Lancashire Scouts - deadline 31 March 2013**  West Lancs Scouts are looking for someone with experience in or knowledge of financial management (investment, fund management or other asset management) to chair their County Finance & Fundraising sub-committee. For this role knowledge of rules and laws relating to charity funding or experience of fundraising would be an advantage. As Chairperson of the Finance & Fundraising sub-committee you will support and guide adults and ensure that our financial resources and assets are well managed, so young people locally can access the best possible Scouting. You will also be a full and active member of our County Executive Committee.  Volunteering for us is easy, fun and offers many opportunities to strengthen your CV while making a real impact on the lives of young people. The role is flexible, but we anticipate you will volunteer approx. 2 hours per week. This could be making calls or answering emails at times to suit you or attending scheduled meetings. If you are interested in the role, please have a look at the full information pack  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/03/15/VolunteerPack.pdf>  [barbara.hughes@westlancsscouts.org.uk](mailto:barbara.hughes@westlancsscouts.org.uk)  **Hoghton Bottoms Community River Clean - 13 - 14 April 2013**  10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  Volunteers needed to remove rubbish from the banks of the River Darwen and Hedgerows in Hoghton Bottoms.  Meet at Footbridge on Valley Road PR5 OSD.  Bring Rubber Gloves. Details from:  [carol.price4@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:carol.price4@tiscali.co.uk)    **Fundraising News**  **Cash boost for Lancashire youth zones**  Lancashire’s pioneering youth zones are in line for a multi-million pound cash boost. The biggest share of the windfall will go to Chorley, where the green light has been given for the town’s ground breaking new youth zone. The new Youth Zone will be created in Lancashire County Council’s existing premises in Union Street. It will see a range of activities for young people provided as part of a series of new cutting-edge centres across the county. The scheme is part of the county council’s ambitious plan to provide youth zones in every district.  <http://www.lep.co.uk/news/education/cash-boost-for-lancashire-youth-zones-1-5501593>    **Preston: City of Preston Gymnastics Club: offers naming rights to sponsors**  A gymnastics club has offered naming rights to corporate sponsors if they can help support its £20,000 central heating appeal.  City of Preston Gymnastics Club is based at an old warehouse in Campbell Street. The Olympic quality centre relies on fundraising to provide activities for more than 500 young people.  For more information on the club visit  [http://www.copgc.org](http://www.copgc.org/)  <http://www.lep.co.uk/news/business/gym-offers-naming-rights-to-sponsors-1-5482337>    **Chorley: Chance to help hero charity - 23 March 2013**  A Lancashire man will take part in a gruelling charity challenge later this month. On March 23 Lance Corporal Rob Fisher from Chorley will complete a 26 mile course in full army gear, carrying a 35lb Bergen. He will start his challenge at Chorley Town Hall at 8am. The marathon route will cover all the highest peaks east of the Chorley area including Healey Nab, Rivington Pike and Winter Hill.   Rob is running the feat to support Our Local Heroes Foundation, based in Bamber Bridge. Our Local Heroes support and raise money for ex-service personnel in the North West. The charity was founded in February 2011 and has been continuing to grow ever since. The charity is looking for supporters for the day and runners to join Rob in his challenge and to help raise money for a worthy cause.  For information or to participate contact Natasha Kinsey on 0845 680 2715 or  [info@ourlocalheroes.org.uk](mailto:info@ourlocalheroes.org.uk)  <http://www.lep.co.uk/community/chance-to-help-hero-charity-1-5482428>    **Christian Aid: Raise cash for charity - 23 March 2013**  A sponsored walk and cycle for Christian Aid will take place on March 23. The bike ride is a 15 or 20 mile circuit. It will start from either New Longton Methodist Church, Much Hoole Methodist Church, Bretherton Congregational Church, St James’ Church, Moss Side, or Midge Hall Methodist Church. The sponsored walk, which is a two-mile circuit which will be walked 10 times, will start from New Longton Village Hall. For more information, call 01772 613500.    **Longridge: Brittle Bone Society: Charity Book Sale - 30 March 2013**  A charity book sale is to be held in aid of the Brittle Bone Society. It will take place at the Heritage Centre, Old Station, Berry Lane, Longridge, on Saturday, March 30, from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Call John and Gertie Farmery on 01772 784919 or e-mail  [farmery@supanet.com](mailto:farmery@supanet.com)    **Leyland: Help for Heroes / Rainbow House Fun day - 31 March 2013**  A charity fun day to raise cash for Help for Heroes and The Legacy Rainbow House on March 31. The event at the Broadfield Arms in Leyland Lane, Leyland, starts at 1pm and there will be lots of local bands and a variety of different stalls. Raffle prizes include a giant handmade Easter egg.    **Penwortham: Picnic in the Park in aid of Katy Holmes Trust - 26 May 2013**  On May 26 this year the family will host a Picnic in the Park event in Hurst Grange Park in Penwortham in Katy’s memory.  The picnic will mark what would have been Katy’s 12th birthday.  For more information email  [info@katyholmestrust.co.uk](mailto:info@katyholmestrust.co.uk)  <http://www.lep.co.uk/community/knockout-day-in-aid-of-katy-holmes-trust-1-5488122>    **Penwortham: Knockout day in aid of Katy Holmes Trust - 8 September 2013**  The parents of brain tumour victim Katy Holmes are organising an ‘It’s a Knockout’ competition to raise funds for the charity they set up in her name.  The competition will be held in Kingsfold Park, Penwortham on September 8.  They are looking for 24 teams to take part and each tram needs to have 10 people. Every team is required to raise a minimum of £500 which is payable a month before the event.  For more information email  [info@katyholmestrust.co.uk](http://info@katyholmestrust.co.uk/)  <http://www.lep.co.uk/community/knockout-day-in-aid-of-katy-holmes-trust-1-5488122>    **Walton-le-Dale Recreation Society: Work begins on £70,000 centre**  Residents of a South Ribble village have spent more than a decade raising tens of thousands of pounds to build a new community centre.  Now work on the new facility, at Walton-le-Dale, near Preston, is finally underway – and locals are hoping to celebrate in style.  A dedicated band of volunteers in the guise of Walton-le-Dale Recreation Society has spent the past 10 years fundraising to build the new community centre on land at the village recreation ground.  Proceeds from the annual summer gala and bonfire and fireworks displays netted £70,000, with extra funds coming from a quarterly newsletter, clothes recycling project and buy a brick campaign.  The scheme also received £17,500 from South Ribble Council.  Anyone who would like to help is asked to contact June on 01772 258302 or visit the website at  [http://www.wldrec.co.uk](http://www.wldrec.co.uk/)  <http://www.lep.co.uk/community/work-begins-on-70-000-centre-1-5488172>    Training  **Ascentis Level 2 Award in Youth Work –** Starts 2nd May 2013 – Times: 9.30am -1.30pm (12 weeks) Venue: Globe Centre - Suite 20a. Accrington.   **NCFE Level 2 Award in Substance Misuse** – Starts 14th May 2013 - Times: 9.30am -12.30pm (15 weeks) Venue: Globe Centre -Suite 20a. Accrington. Anyone interested in the above two courses, Please contact Richard Dwyer on 01254 354423.    **Preston: Disability Equality North West: Volunteering training**  Disability Equality North West (DENW) is a registered charity that provides a range of information / advice, training and support services aimed at supporting disabled people across the North West of England.  DENW has recently secured funding from the Community Learning Innovation Fund to run a 10 month rolling programme of short courses specifically designed for both disabled people who are interested in volunteering and organisations that involve volunteers in their day to day service provision. The courses include Pre-Volunteering Awareness and Involving disabled people as Volunteers.  For more information please contact Joe Cobb (Volunteer Bureau Coordinator) on telephone: 01772 558863, ext 2 or email:  [joe@disability-equality.org.uk](mailto:joe@disability-equality.org.uk)  More:  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/03/15/DENWtraining.docx>    **3.5 Tonne Van Course**  We are looking to work in partnership with local community organisations to deliver our fantastic Goods Vehicle Van Driving course.  This course runs over 2 weeks and we look to enrol approximately 6 students per course. The students undertake personalised driving instruction in a 3.5 tonne van and also complete units relating to Goods Vehicle Driving.  Anyone interested on the above course, Please contact Joanne Calvert on 01254 354191 or via email  [jcalvert@accross.ac.uk](mailto:jcalvert@accross.ac.uk)    **Plumbing Course**  We have a fantastic short Plumbing course starting after Easter. This course is FREE to anyone who is unemployed, in receipt of benefits and actively seeking work. Please contact Gail Mitchell on 01254 354422 for more info.    **Certificate in Sustainable Funding**  Are you a senior manager or trustee looking to put sustainable funding into practice in your organisation?  We are launching a new learning programme – the Certificate in Sustainable Funding. More than just training, the Certificate is an opportunity to be supported by NCVO over a period of several months to learn key knowledge and skills, and explore how they can be applied to your organisation and contribute to a workable strategy. At the end of the programme you will have the opportunity to have your Sustainable Funding strategy reviewed by an NCVO consultant.  <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/training-events/certificate-sustainable-funding>    **Events**  **Hoghton Tower Farmers’ Market - 17 March 2013**  Hoghton Tower at Hoghton near Preston will play host to a Farmers’ Market this weekend. On Sunday, March 17, local produce will be available to buy between 10am and 2pm. Admission is £1 per car. Please note that the house and gardens will be closed.    **Confucius Institute at UCLan - till 20 March 2013**  Students are riding high after a key figure from the Chinese Embassy in London visited the University of Central Lancashire to officially open an exhibition celebrating Chinese kites and paper cuts.  Fenghe Qiao, the First Secretary of Education Section from the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China, opened the Wind Birds exhibition at UCLan’s PR1 Gallery which celebrates the Chinese art of kite making and creating art through paper cuts.  Organised by The Confucius Institute at UCLan and set up by MA Textile students at the Preston university, the exhibition of around 20 kites, is open to the public Monday to Friday 10am until 5pm until next Wednesday, March 20 at the PR1 Gallery, Victoria building.  <http://www.lep.co.uk/community/chinese-kite-exhibition-has-vip-launch-1-5501585>    **Space Centre Coffee Morning - 23 March 2013**  A coffee morning in aid of Preston’s Space Centre will be held on March 23. It will be held at St Christopher’s Church Hall, in Blackpool Road, from 10am and noon. On the day, people can guess the number of Smarties inside a rocket cake to be in with a chance of winning it.    **Dig In North West: Therapy site is set to open - 23 March 2013**  People are invited to an open day at a new therapy garden in Ashton Park on Saturday, March 23. The Dig In North West therapeutic garden for military veterans has been created over the past six months and even formed part of a TV programme. The open day will run between 10am and 1pm, and is a chance for people to find out more about what the site will be used for.  Poster, Please download, print and display  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/03/15/opendayposter.pdf>    **Longton Brickcroft Nature Reserve: Spring time walk - 23 March 2013**  A walk around Longton Brickcroft Nature Reserve looking at early spring flowers is set to be held on Saturday March 23. Walkers will also be able to identify trees as they begin to come into leaf. The walk will start at 10.30am. There is no need to book.    **Church Together in Leyland: Good Friday walk invitation - 29 March 2013**  A Good Friday Walk of Witness takes place in Leyland on Friday, March 29, from 10am to 11am. Church Together in Leyland has organised the walk. It starts from St Mary’s in Broadfield Drive at 10am, via Lancastergate, Towngate, and ends at the United Reformed Church, on Hough Lane, for a short service.    **Walled Garden, Worden Park - Easter Events - 2 - 12 April 2013**  Whether it's helping transforming the traditional Victorian kitchen garden, making your own wild bird feeder or decorating your own pot it's all going on this Easter!  Also, please see our list of Easter half term activities at Pet's Corner.  Poster. Please download, print and display:  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/03/15/WalledGardenPoster.doc>  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/03/15/PetsCorner.pdf>    **Moor Park Preston to host world-renowned Moscow State Circus - 9 - 14 April 2013**  The Moscow State Circus is backflipping and catapulting its way to Preston next month.  Councillor James Hull, champion for Arts and Culture at Preston Council, said: “It’s fantastic news that a very famous circus is coming to Preston, it will be a great boom for the wealth economy, especially if we get people from outside the area coming in. We have got to build on the legacy of last year’s Guild with things like this".  For information on times and tickets, visit:  [http://www.moscowstatecircus.com](http://www.moscowstatecircus.com/)  or telephone 0844 856 5555.    Public Notices  **Preston: Students march over UCLan plan - 21 March 2013**  Campaigners are planning a mass rally through Preston on 21 March 2013 to protest at plans to ‘break up’ the city’s university operations.  Controversial proposals by the University of Central Lancashire to separate it’s home and overseas activities have caused a storm of protest.  Nearly 2,000 people from around the world have already signed and online petition objecting to the ambitious plans.  The main bone of contention is the university’s move to bid to become a company limited by guarantee (CLG).  <http://www.lep.co.uk/news/education/students-march-over-uclan-plan-1-5489000>    **Preston: Council set to launch its social forum (14 March 2013)**  Preston Council will launches its Social Forum today.  This is a forum where a wide range of stakeholders in the city can get together and discuss and influence the Fairness Agenda.  The Fairness Agenda will look, amongst other things, at the establishment and promotion of credit unions and implementation of the living wage in Preston.  It will also consider green energy initiatives and look for opportunities for the wider community through renewable energy.  Coun Matthew Brown, Cabinet member for community engagement and inclusion, said: “The establishment of a Social Forum in Preston is very welcome, and we are delighted to be launching the inaugural meeting.  There is a gap in the market for cohesive discussions and to see real improvements at a community level about issues that affect the lives of the people of Preston. This Forum will fill that gap and promote the Fairness Agenda.”  <http://www.lep.co.uk/community/council-set-to-launch-its-social-forum-today-1-5496623>    **Preston: Arts cafe plans to sell alcohol**  A new arts venue in Preston will also double up as a trendy bar after it applied for a licence to sell alcohol until midnight.  Creative group, Project Korova, has submitted plans to create an arts cafe in a building in St Wilfrid Street, Preston, close to Fishergate Baptist Church.  And as well as offering a space for people to get creative they also want to sell alcohol.  Bosses behind the venue have submitted a licence application form to sell alcohol from 8am until midnight seven days a week.  <http://www.lep.co.uk/news/arts-cafe-plans-to-sell-alcohol-1-5497159>    **British Gas Energy Trust**  The British Gas Energy Trust is an independent Charitable Trust managed by Charis Grants  Its objective is to help British Gas customers meet arrears of gas or electricity charges and other household bills and costs (example: beds, cookers, washing machines, fridges, boiler repair or replacement) by providing direct grants to individuals and families on a discretionary basis.  The aim of the scheme is to alleviate poverty and hardship by increasing the number (and success) of applications received from British Gas customers.  The assessment criteria are based on a priority of need, which takes into account the customer’s financial circumstances, and the context within which the arrears arose (example: reduction in working hours or loss of employment, relationship breakdown, rise in cost of living, sickness/illness, unexpected birth of child or death of a partner).  To arrange an appointment please ring 01772 906431.  On the day of the appointment, the customer must supply:  an actual meter reading taken on the same day (not necessary for those on prepayment meters); copy of a recent fuel bill;  proof of income (dated within the last 3 months – this could be bank statement, wage slips or letter from DWP).  The application process itself takes several weeks (6-8 weeks) to process.  If an award is granted, the customer will have to wait another 2 years before re-submitting a new application; if the customer is unsuccessful, there is no right of appeal, but they can re-apply straightaway (if there is a change of circumstances). Customers of Npower and EDF can also apply but using their own application forms.  Please note that there are limited funds available for customers of other fuel companies i.e. Eon, SSE etc.  We can also give clients information on how to pay for their energy usage, save money on their fuel bills, switch energy supplier, and access energy efficiency measures.    **North West Ambulance Service Trust shares history online**  North West Ambulance Service has invited people to explore its evolution by viewing a digital timeline from 1832 to the present day. The trust has launched a Milestone feature on its Facebook page, which documents the major developments in the history of the ambulance service. Sarah Smith, assistant director of corporate communications and PR, said: “It’s a real-time museum and everyone is welcome.” Visit  <http://www.facebook.com/nwasofficial>  to find out more.    **Scheme for community payback scoops award**  A scheme where council workers ‘buddy’ criminals has scooped an award.  Linda Tune, Lancashire Probation Trust’s business and commercial officer, and Bob Webster, who worked for Preston Council, were handed the prestigious Butler Trust Commendation from Princess Anne at Buckingham Palace.  The pair developed the county’s community payback scheme, where offenders work with council teams to clean the streets and clear fly-tipping and litter.  Mr Webster is now Street Scene manager at Chorley Council after first establishing the scheme at Preston Council.  In the last 12 months, more than 58,000 hours of community payback has been carried out by offenders working in partnership placements.  <http://www.lep.co.uk/news/local/scheme-for-community-payback-scoops-award-1-5491144>    **Preston: Former city leader is part of women’s ‘hall of fame’**  A former leader of Preston Council has been chosen to share her story as part of a women’s ‘hall of fame’.  Valerie Wise, now chief executive of Preston Domestic Violence Service, has been recorded for The Sisterhood & After: first oral history archive of the UK Women’s Liberation Movement.  <http://www.lep.co.uk/community/former-city-leader-is-part-of-women-s-hall-of-fame-1-5481902>    **Preston: Office for rent**  The office address is 34 Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8NE.  Details;- 940 square feet / 87 square metres, self contained office, with onsite parking in conservation area.  It was previously rented out for £10,000 p. a. and is available to a suitable charity for a nominal rent.  For further details contact:  [mike.turner2@virgin.net](http://mike.turner2@virgin.net/)    **Chairs for Sale**  Following the combining of Park Road and Trinity Methodist Churches in Chorley to become Chorley Methodist Church, we have 158 chairs for sale. They all have a solid beech frame with an under-seat book rail,  leatherette upholstery, a brass linking bracket and, apart from one which has some damage under the seat, are in very good condition.  Any money raised from this sale will be put towards our church’s redevelopment / refurbishment project.  Very similar chairs of this quality from companies such as Rosehill, cost in the region of £80+.  They can be yours for £20 each or make us an offer. We will consider selling them in smaller quantities if desired. At the moment they are stored at Park Road church and we will be happy to arrange a viewing for you. For more information or to arrange a viewing visit contact Wilf Lace on 01257-272786 or email  [wilflace@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:wilflace@tiscali.co.uk)    **South Ribble: Museum earns national recognition**  A museum that cares for South Ribble's historical heritage has earned national recognition.  South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre in Leyland has gained the seal of approval through Arts Council England's new accreditation scheme.  The scheme acts as a benchmark, setting nationally agreed standards for museums in the UK that can demonstrate their commitment to managing collections effectively for the enjoyment and benefit of users.  <http://www.southribble.gov.uk/Section.asp?sectiontype=listseparate&catid=301281&docid=3331>    **Technology4Good Awards - deadline 3 May 2013**  The Technology4Good Awards celebrate the hard work of people of all ages who use the power of computers and the internet to make the world a better place. They were created by AbilityNet, working with BT and a range of commercial and not for profit partners and sponsors.  There are eight categories and it is free to enter for any business, charity, public body or individual based in the UK.  <http://www.technology4goodawards.org.uk/>    **Appeals**  **Preston: The Challenge.Org: Challenges needed!**  Do you have a project you want doing at your centre / community group?  We have a team of young people and budget to go towards the cost of the project, we just need the projects to do! We're looking for projects to do across Preston with the young people that have taken part in our summer programme.  As part of the programme they have to do volunteering in the community through these action days. The dates we need projects for are Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September.  Email  [esther.wilks@the-challenge.org](mailto:esther.wilks@the-challenge.org)  for more information.    **New Rape Support Centre for Central Lancashire looking premises in Preston**  The new rape support centre will be developing its services over the next three years to offer specialist counselling, support and advocacy to women, men, young people and children who have been raped or sexually abused either recently or in the past.  Immediate plans for establishing the new centre involve securing appropriate premises in Preston, recruiting and training staff and volunteers.   Anyone interested in finding out more about the new centre, its services and development, please contact Sue James on 07791 592 531or  [sue.james@thesurvivorstrust.org](mailto:sue.james@thesurvivorstrust.org)  for more information.   In particular if you know of appropriate premises for rent please do let us know.  We would need disabled access, two offices, a minimum of three counselling room and a training/group room.  Ideally the premises would be situated in central Preston convenient for public transport  For more information about The Survivors Trust please see  [http://www.thesurvivorstrust.org](http://www.thesurvivorstrust.org/)  More:  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/03/15/TSTPressRelease.doc>    Consultations  **Preston City Council: Proposed New Festival - September 2014**  Preston City Council is working with Walk the Plank (Commissioned Procession Producers for Guild 2012) to lead a consultation process with community groups around a proposed new festival. We would like to invite you to a creative planning session about this exciting event which is planned to take place over one weekend in Preston in September 2014. The event is currently in a very early stage: its content, style and overall look & feel is a blank canvas and we would like to invite you to join the conversation to develop what this weekend might offer, how it might look and who might be involved.  Consultation events have been organised between 2 and 16 April 2013 and we would like you to come and help us shape a festival that will represent and celebrate all that is great about Preston.  More:  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/03/15/CultureEVent.docx>    **Together Lancashire / Preston Christian Action Network**  As the benefit cuts and changes come in April 2013 we are anticipating churches and community groups will be working to help people who are having difficulty with their claims, with their payments, and with their budgets.  As the pilot stage of what we hope will become a national research project for Church Urban Fund we are asking clergy and organisations supporting claimants in Preston and South Ribble to share their experiences of problems, solutions and failures in the system by writing up cases they have dealt with over the period from March - June this year. Naturally every story should be kept anonymous... and no individual client should be identifiable from your accounts. We simply want to monitor and report on the patterns that are emerging.  There is a simple online form you can complete for each case you would like to tell us about...  You can find it at  <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/storiesfromprestonbenefitcuts>  Please take a few minutes to look at the survey and to help us collect this important information.  Apologies if you receive this email more than once... We are circulating it widely through our own and other community mailing lists.  Greg Smith, Development Co-ordinator Together Lancashire / Preston Christian Action Network, Phone - Mobile 07726177044, Together Lancashire, registered office Church House, Blackburn BB1 5AA, Registered Charity no 1147848 Registered company no 07966145  Together Lancashire Website  <http://www.cuf.org.uk/together-lancashire>  See also PCAN Website  [http://www.pcan.org.uk](http://www.pcan.org.uk/)  and / or BLOG  <http://prestonchristianactionnetwork.blogspot.com/>   (you can sign up there to receive news and information updates by email)    **Health**  **Disability Health Leaders Workshop – 21st March 2013**  MDF, in partnership with VSNW and Regional Voices will be hosting a half-day workshop on 21st March to promote the participation of disabled people within new health & social care structures.  The Disability Health Leaders Workshop is aimed at anyone who is interested in getting involved in their local Healthwatch and/or health & social care generally.  We would like to invite individuals and disabled people’s groups from across the region who want to find out more about the incoming healthcare structures, including Healthwatch and want to be involved in shaping the future of local health & social care locally.  The event will be held at The Joseph Lappin Centre, Old Swan and will take place from 10am – 1.00pm followed by a networking lunch.  More:  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/03/15/DisabilityHealthLeadersWorkshop.PDF>  Booking form:  <http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site7587/Uploads/2013/03/15/Booking%20Form.docx>    **Preston: Next blood donation event - 19 March 2013**  Two sessions will be held next Tuesday for people wishing to donate blood. The events will take place at Preston Masonic Hall, Saul Street, Preston, between 10am and noon and between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Anyone who would like more information on giving blood can call 0300 123 23 23    **Women Health Leaders Wanted - 18 April 2013**  Thursday 18th April 2013  9:30am – 1pm  Gujarat Hindu Centre, Preston, PR1 8JN  Lunch provided.  To book please call: 01254 392974 or email:  [office@lancashirewomensnetwork.org.uk](mailto:office@lancashirewomensnetwork.org.uk)  For more information about the event please click the following link:  <http://www.vsnw.org.uk/events/view/619>  Please not this workshop is run in partnership with Local Healthwatch (more information in the article below).    **Local Healthwatch - Support from NAVCA**  We have produced materials/leaflets giving basic information about Healthwatch. These can be downloaded as PDFs or as Word documents you can edit for local use.  We have created a website offering information about Healthwatch and inviting people to sign up to find out more.  Please encourage people to sign up:  http://www.healthwatch-ci.co.uk/signup-navca  their details will be passed on to local Healthwatch organisations.  More:  [http://healthwatch-ci.co.uk](http://healthwatch-ci.co.uk/)    **Patients to nominate NHS heroes**  People across the county are being encouraged to nominate their ‘NHS Heroes’.  The scheme which launches next week is open until June encourages NHS staff, patients and their families to nominate the staff members and teams whose compassion and kindness has made a difference to their lives.  Nominations can be submitted online via  [http://www.nhsheroes.com](http://www.nhsheroes.com/)  <http://www.lep.co.uk/community/patients-to-nominate-nhs-heroes-1-5501469>    **Hospital op crisis ‘easing’**  Lancashire Teaching Hospitals has begun rescheduling postponed ‘non-urgent’ operations. Hospital bosses made the decision to cancel all elective surgery last week after saying they had been inundated by an ‘unprecedented’ and ‘extraordinary’ level of attendances. Health chiefs came under criticism after Royal Preston Hospital and Chorley and South Ribble Hospital postponed around 100 procedures in total.  <http://www.lep.co.uk/news/health/local/hospital-op-crisis-easing-1-5486205>    **Minimum alcohol pricing plan 'may be dropped'**  Plans for minimum pricing on alcohol in England and Wales may be dropped because Conservative ministers are split over the proposals. David Cameron supports minimum alcohol pricing and the government has been consulting on a price of 45p per unit. BBC political correspondent Louise Stewart says several cabinet ministers, including Theresa May, Michael Gove and Andrew Lansley, do not back the plans.  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21760806>    **David Cameron vows to end cheap alcohol sales**  David Cameron has told MPs he will "deal with" cheap alcohol being sold in supermarkets in England and Wales.  It comes after reports the government has ditched plans for 45p per unit minimum alcohol pricing.  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21766309>    **Antibiotics resistance 'as big a risk as terrorism' - medical chief**  The danger posed by growing resistance to antibiotics should be ranked along with terrorism on a list of threats to the nation, the government's chief medical officer for England has said.  Professor Dame Sally Davies described it as a "ticking time bomb".  She warned that routine operations could become deadly in just 20 years if we lose the ability to fight infection.  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-21737844>    **Alzheimer's blood test could give early diagnosis**  British researchers have developed a test to detect Alzheimer's disease in its earliest stages.  It works by looking for a combination of "markers" in the blood which are different in healthy people and those with the disease.  Delegates at the Alzheimer's Research UK Conference heard that the University of Nottingham is now developing a quick and easy test to do in clinics.  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-21712349>  **Call for items**    Do you have any items of interest for the sector? Please feel free to email details to [info@cvscentrallancashire.org.uk](mailto:info@cvscentrallancashire.org.uk) to have them circulated through **YOUR**CVS network. Comments?, Suggestions? Please email them to the same address.    To subscribe please visit our web site <http://www.cvscentrallancashire.org.uk/> and follow the newsletters link.   Previous issues can be found on the same page in both portable document format (pdf) and microsoft word formats.    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