

Annual Report

April 2006 - March 2007



LEDBURY AND DISTRICT

*Reg Name : Council for Voluntary Services Ledbury & District
Charity Reg No: 700663*

**Promoting and Supporting
Local Voluntary Action**



Annual Report
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Chairman's Introduction

This has been quite an eventful year, but, then, are there any that are not eventful in some way or another.

Geoff Knock's illness in the early part of 2007 was unfortunate, but we are all pleased to see him back at his desk, fully recovered. His absence caused a certain amount of problems, but I was very impressed to see how everyone rallied round. I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank Anne Bradshaw for all she did to keep things running smoothly, coping with little hiccups like damaged minibuses as if they happened every day!

Life in all departments carried on as normal I am glad to say, so that we were able to maintain our usual high standard of service with the transport and mobility functions, and the volunteer bureau.

Which brings me to the sad remembrance that we said goodbye to Rosemary Speck in March as she sailed off into the wide blue yonder (or maybe it should be narrow blue) as she and her husband went off to sail and to baby-sit. Rosemary has done a sterling job in the last seven years and she will be missed by many, not only here in CVAL but across the wider community of the voluntary organisations.

Chris and Jean have continued to carry on the work of the volunteer bureau for which we are very thankful, and Geoff will be getting more involved with this in future.

Reg has done sterling work with all his ladies and gentlemen who keep the wheels turning, now assisted by Clive on the minibuses.

I would like to thank Roger for the way he has kept an eye on our financial situation and been very involved, particularly when Geoff was away and I am very sorry that he feels the time is now right for him to step down from being a trustee and, particularly from his post as treasurer. He has been a sterling member of the team.

And to our trustees who help in making the decisions we have to face month by month, thank you as always.

And lastly, thanks to all our loyal volunteers, without whom this organisation could not function.

This is my last report as chairman. I have been on the committee for six years, so must stand down. I can do so knowing the organisation is in good hands, and I wish you all well for the future.

David Gegg – Chairman



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Community Voluntary Action is an umbrella organisation supporting and encouraging voluntary activity for the benefit of the community.

It is made up of representatives of bodies sharing common areas of interest and brings together organisations in the voluntary sector to link common goals with those of the statutory sector.

Area of Benefit



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Chief Officers Report

During this past year we have continued to provide a wide range of projects which provide support services to both voluntary and community groups and to individual persons. Reports on the past years activities, in regard to these projects/services are presented, on an individual basis, within the main body of the Annual Report. I hope that you will find these reports both informative and of interest.

Two members of our project Staff team, Rosemary Speck and Allison Rex, have left the organisation during the year and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to them for the much valued work they did during their time with us.

Teamwork is the key to attaining a high standard of service delivery and I wish to record my thanks to the trustees and staff of Community Voluntary Action for their support and dedication to duty and also express my gratitude to our 'in-house' volunteers without whom the services could not be delivered.

Geoff Knock
Chief Officer

Community Development & Support Services for Voluntary Groups

During the course of the year we have been engaged in a wide variety of Community Development work including the provision of infrastructure support services to the local voluntary and community sector.

Both embryo and established local groups have sought assistance from us, on many different topics, and we have been pleased to be able to help them with appropriate information and advice.

Work to facilitate routes of representation liaison and consultation for voluntary groups has continued to be undertaken jointly, with the other Development Agencies of Herefordshire, through the Voluntary Sector Assembly project. In addition we have been collaboratively working with the other members of the Herefordshire Infrastructure Consortium to enhance the provision, marketing and delivery of our various infrastructure support services to the local voluntary and community sector.

Our quarterly published newsletter has continued to provide a medium for local groups to publicise their activities, and our Community Lunches/Volunteer coordinators forums have afforded local groups an opportunity to network, and to benefit from informative presentations given by our own project staff or by guest speakers.

Geoff Knock
Chief Officer



Ledbury Town Council



Ledbury & District Volunteer Bureau

The Ledbury & District Volunteer Bureau has continued throughout the year to match potential volunteers to appropriate volunteering opportunities in Ledbury and the 23 surrounding rural parishes.

Local voluntary groups and national charities with local bases, continue to register their volunteering opportunities with our V-Base for entry onto the national database www.do-it.org.uk

In the past year the number of volunteers, both from the Ledbury area and other parts of the country, applying to our Bureau via the Internet has considerably increased.

Activities during Volunteers' Week in June were again held locally.

We wish to record our appreciation to the volunteers who continue to support the satellite bureaux that were introduced several years ago into the surrounding parishes at the following locations:

Blacklands Garage - Canon Frome

The Village Centre - Bishops Frome

Much Marcle Memorial Hall being temporarily relocated to the Church

John Goodwin Estate Agents Office - Colwall

Newtown Crossroads Garage and Post Office - Yarkhill

Lady Emily Community Hall - Tarrington

The Memorial Hall - Wellington Heath

The Parish Hall - Woolhope and

The Post Office and Stores – Cradley

Project Co-ordinator

Rosemary Speck



Ledbury Town Council



LEDBURY SHOPMOBILITY & INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE

The past 12 months has seen continued and regular use of all the equipment that we have at the centre by local residents of the Ledbury area and considerable use was also made by visitors and holiday-makers.

Range of equipment: Electric Bath Seat Electric Self Raising Seat Electric Scooters
Powered Wheelchair Linked Chair Riser Crutches
Pressure Cushions Walking Sticks Wheel Walkers
Manual Wheelchairs Commodes

Wheelchair and scooter covers: *(enabling clients to use equipment in inclement weather).*

Several items of equipment have been donated during the year, including an electric scooter and wheel chair for which we are very grateful.

The centre continues to be operated by volunteers:

David Turner, Robert Hughes, Dennis Greensmith, Frank Lister, David Goodwin, Barton Yates and Alistair Snook. Thank you all for your support: without you the centre would not operate.

The members of staff at the Council Office are always helpful and we thank them for their continued support. We extend our thanks also to members of staff at Halo who accept equipment returned out of the mobility centre opening hours at weekends.

The continued financial support throughout the year of the Eveson Charitable Trust and Herefordshire Council is much appreciated

Rosemary Speck

Project Coordinator.



**The Eveson
Charitable Trust**



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Community Transport

Ring and Ride

The Ring & Ride service has been in operation since 1989 and during the period from establishment to date the service has experienced constant user growth. During the past year, single passenger journeys, provided for regular, existing and new clients, have averaged in excess of 350 per month. Data also shows substantial growth in journeys related to Medical treatment, (Medical practitioners surgeries/Hospital treatment and patient visiting). In addition to journeys to Herefordshire located hospitals clients have also been transported to hospitals in Birmingham, Worcester, Gloucester and Cheltenham. During this period we also transported people to and from MIND in Hereford on a regular basis and received praise for doing so.

We record our gratitude to both our Ring & Ride Volunteer drivers and our Journey booking (R&R desk) volunteers. Without these volunteers, who willingly give freely of time, we would be unable to provide this much used and much valued service.

Community Minibuses with Disabled Access.

This year saw 10,368 miles clocked by the two minibuses. Usage of the minibuses was predominately by elderly and disabled people which well utilized the hoist facilities. However there has also been considerable usage by young persons and social groups. Our Mercedes minibus is in its second year now and we are grateful to The Big Lottery Fund for making this possible.

During the course of this year, we provided MIDAS minibus driver training and testing for eight volunteers to the benefit of local voluntary and community groups.

Multi-Purpose Vehicle with Disabled Access.

Once again this year this practical vehicle with wheelchair access was invaluable to an increasing number of people who experience difficulties accessing other vehicles. The total number of trips for all three vehicles totalled 572.

Reg Taylor - Transport Coordinator



Ledbury Town Council



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Voluntary Sector Assembly

The past year has been a challenging one for the Voluntary Sector Assembly (VSA).

There has been some real progress in extending our influence within the Herefordshire Partnership, as well as regionally and nationally. The VSA featured strongly in the 2006

HM Treasury consultation which looked at the role of the sector in regeneration.

The Voluntary Sector held its' eighth Assembly in June 2006 and elected eight representatives to sit on the restructured Herefordshire Partnership groups, which follow on from the old Herefordshire Plan ambition groups. There are three representatives on the on the management group of the Partnership, and five on topic groups namely, Volunteering, Funding, Economic Development, Learning and the Compact.

The VSA has had excellent feedback from the Partners about the role our Representatives have played in the new structure. This allowed us to bid for continuation funding to provide continued support to our representatives, through our bursary scheme, and to support the post of the VSA Coordinator.

The VSA is currently planning its ninth Assembly for June 2007.

The VSA: A project initiated by Herefordshire Voluntary Action, Community Voluntary Action Ledbury & District and Community First. Herefordshire Voluntary Action being the Accountable body. During the year ended 31/03/07 the project has received funding from 'Capacity Builders', 'Change Up' and the 'Herefordshire Partnership'.

Ledbury Community Resource Centre

Ledbury Community Resource Centre is a project of Community First hosted by Community Voluntary Action Ledbury & District.

As in past years volunteers of Community Voluntary Action Ledbury & District have provided the necessary support to voluntary and community groups, small start up businesses and those seeking employment to enable them to use the wide range of IT equipment (included Broadband access to the internet) and other office equipment that available, for their use, at the Resource Centre.



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Ledbury & District Access Group

The past year has seen changes in the approach to access issues and meeting structure within the Ledbury Group.

We have now implemented a more focused approach to specific issues and projects and as new laws relating to building regulations and disability rights become more commonly accepted the need to scrutinise plans in detail becomes unnecessary.

The monthly meetings we have held in Harling Court for the past twelve years has ceased and shorter, less formal, meetings are to be held in the shop mobility centre on Friday mornings later this year. We would like to thank the management and staff at Harling Court for their support of the Access Group since 1995.

Achievements during the year include the resurfacing of Worcester Road pavement and the successful launch of the 'Guide to Accessible Premises in the Ledbury area'. The uptake of the 2006 edition was so successful that we have now produced a 2007 edition.

We have continued to liaise with the Herefordshire Council on the issue of safe crossings for Bye Street and New Street whilst the issue of an accessible library for Ledbury has become a much larger project.

I would like to thank all who have supported the group over past year and in particular Valentyna Haines, a CVA volunteer, without whose help the Access Guides would not have been produced.

Roger Hughes (Access Group Leader)



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Acknowledgements

Community Voluntary Action is grateful for the support received by way of grants from Charitable Trusts, Local & Central Government/ other bodies, donations from local groups and individuals. We also receive 'help in kind' by way of advice, information and encouragement from many individuals, organisations and statutory authorities.

Our thanks is extended to everyone who has contributed to the overall success of Community Voluntary Action during the past year, with special thanks to Committee members, staff and dedicated volunteers involved in the various activities helping to provide and support numerous community services.

Alexandra Rose Day	Ledbury Town Council
Big Lottery Fund	
Colwall Parish Council	Les Davies Accountant
Community First	McKechnie Foundation
Eastnor & Donnington Parish Council	Ring & Drivers –Donations
Eveson Charitable Trust	R & C B Masefield- Solicitors
Herefordshire Council	Sundry Donations & Supporters
Herefordshire Partnership	

Capacity Builders



Change Up



Personnel 2006/2007

Membership of the Council is open to all voluntary and community groups within the Community Voluntary Action geographical 'Area of Benefit'. The Council normally meets once a year, at the Annual General Meeting when it elects honorary officers and other Executive Committee members who develop and implement policies and strategies for the organisation. The Executive Committee meets bi-monthly; Sub-Committees, Project Steering Groups and Working Parties are set up as appropriate during the year.

Chairman	David Gegg	Staff:	
			Geoff Knock
Treasurer	Roger Hughes	Chief Officer	
			Anne Bradshaw
		Finance Officer	
			Rosemary Speck
Executive Members		Project Co-ordinators	
Cllr. Mrs. N Carless	Mr. T Lafford		Reg Taylor
Mr. J Edgar	Mr. G Lloyd		Allison Rex
Cllr.K.Francis	Mr. J Meredith		
Mrs. V Haines	Mrs. U Morgan		
Cllr. Mrs C. Lumby	Cllr.K.Francis		

Office Volunteers:

Gina Williams, Pat Symonds, Ruth Cannon, Jean Harper

Ring & Ride Clerical Support:

Christine Bebbington, Maggie Clark, Janice Brent, Gwen Rose, Rosemary Ballard, Ann Powell. June Smethurst, Margaret Phillips, Rosalie Cross

Ledbury Community Resource Centre Volunteers:

Rosemary Speck and Christine Stibbards

Mobility and Independent Living Centre Volunteers:

David Turner, Robert Hughes, David Goodwin, Barton Yates, Dennis Greensmith, Frank Lister, Alistair Snook



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We hope you will find the Annual Report of interest and would welcome any comments/feedback on any of the content.

General Enquiries	01531 636006
Community Transport	01531 635503
Shopmobility	01531 636001
Volunteer Bureau	01531 635339
Resource Centre	01531 636006

If you wish to send a fax to any of the above please use our dedicated fax number

Fax 01531 636333

You can also email info@voluntaryactionledbury.org.uk



Charity Reg No:700663

WE ARE A MEMBER OF THE:



