



Faith Links E-Newsletter

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Contact Us

faith_links@yahoo.co.uk

Mark Phillips

07980 002676

Welcome to our Newsletter

Feel free to pass this newsletter on to others that may be interested and let us know if there is someone else we should add to our list.

News from Faith Links and other communities

“This year with the promotion of Holton Lee as a centre of wellbeing we are building a labyrinth, which will be available for everyone to use, and will offer people the opportunity to come and use this quiet space for quiet reflection and relaxation.

To fit in with the ethos of Holton Lee, the path is being built by volunteers; has a multi faith ethos and includes all faiths and all abilities in the build and on-going development and use of the labyrinth. It is also being built to cater for the needs of a cross section of our disabled visitors.

We have had great support so far on the path build including ongoing volunteering from Norco a local boat building company who regularly come to lend a hand. On Sunday 21st November a Mitzvah day where members from the Jewish, humanists, and Christian communities were joined by others with a multi faith interest came together to dig out a section of the Labyrinth. A similar event will be repeated in May 2011.

Faith links, who already have a close working relationship with Holton Lee will be supporting this exciting project both financially and through the involvement of local world faith communities in its initial construction and ongoing development and maintenance.

Once the path is open and in use we will look at including workshops around outdoor/environmental sculpture where finished pieces will be used to adorn the path. We hope that mixed community groups will work together on pieces that stay with the path and therefore create a sense of ownership over the space for our local communities.”

Dorset Probation Trust's Community Payback Team are keen to develop partnerships with voluntary organisations in the community who would be able to offer supervised individual placements to offenders who have been sentenced to Unpaid Work in the Dorset Community. Organisations would need to provide a minimum of one days supervised work per week, in areas such as conservation, retail, horticulture and painting and decorating. Dorset Probation Trust would provide ongoing and comprehensive support to any organisation which is interested in offering individual placements to offenders, including a full assessment to ensure any individual is suitable for the placement and type of work.

If your organisation wants to find out more about the work we do, or if you have work suitable for offenders, please contact Gordon MacPherson, Individual Placement Supervisor, on 01929 557653 or gordon.macpherson@dorset.probation.gsi.gov.uk.

The Big Heat campaign is encouraging all those who can afford to, to donate all or part of their Winter Fuel Allowance to help fund support and services for vulnerable older people in Dorset who are affected by fuel poverty. Fuel poverty particularly affects older people and according to published the figures

- Over 100 people in Bournemouth and Poole died at the beginning of the year due to cold weather related illness
- More than 2,500 people died this year from cold weather related illness in the South West
- The cold weather period in question last just 8 to 12 weeks
- Bournemouth and West Dorset has amongst the highest percentage rate of people affected by fuel poverty in the country?
- More than 17,000 people living in Bournemouth and West Dorset suffer from fuel poverty

instructions. This will also assist the local authority in being able to rapidly and effectively utilise the faith communities personnel and buildings in the event of a local emergency. It is also a good opportunity to show-case your facilities to the wider community and statutory sector, with the possibility of generating exciting and creative opportunities and income through partnership working. Events and articles can also be promoted on this website and we invite you to take advantage of this free service. If you need assistance contact Michelle on 01202 733580.

Footprints (a volunteer mentoring service) has expanded dramatically over the last 12 months and is now working with 40-50 ex offenders including female ex offenders, the over 50s and include those serving a community sentence (an alternative to custody). Volunteer mentors are urgently required. Full training, support/supervision and expenses are provided. Contact Mark Phillips on 07980 002676 or m.phillips@poole.gov.uk. Footprints (a volunteer mentoring service) requires donations of toiletries for male and female clients who are returning to the community from local prisons.

Events

Dorset Race Equality Council are holding 2 police focus groups regarding how minority ethnic individuals feel about reporting incidents to the police, how incidents have been handled in the past and whether any changes need to be made when reporting a crime. Please help us by coming along and having your say; your views will help shape the way Police deal with crime reporting!

The first focus group will be held in Bournemouth (Bournemouth Islamic Centre) on Monday 13th December between 6.00pm-8.00pm.

The second will be held in Dorchester (West Dorset District Council) on Wednesday 15th December between 12.00pm-2.00pm

Food and drink will be provided as well as £10 for attendance. Please ring **Mevan Kattan** Community Development Officer, Dorset Race Equality Council 01202 553003 www.dorsetrec.org.uk for further details and to confirm a place as soon as possible.

Training courses

Tendering Masterclass – 15th December

This course is aimed at those who have a good understanding of the procurement process already and so the trainer will not spend time setting out the legal and good practice aspects of commissioning and procurement. This day is aimed at those of you who do, or may well have to, complete tenders, improving your skills to make your tender as good as possible. This course usually would cost you £298.45 to attend, and is usually held in London or Birmingham. We are offering this at £55, including lunch, with funding from the BIG Lottery Fund. Please contact Jacqueline.salazar@bournemouthcvs.org.uk for more information or to book your place. 01202 466130.
