



Client's Newsletter August 2017

GET IN TOUCH with Rohini, Jenny or Crystal

9.00-5.00 Mon-Thu, 9.00-4.30 Friday

Phone us 01858 439262

Email: champions@vasl.org.uk

Or call in to

First Floor, Torch House,

Torch Way, Market Harborough LE16 9HL

EXCITING NEWS

We are delighted to be able to announce that we have been awarded funding from the Big Lottery Fund, which means that the project will be able to continue for at least the next five years.

We want to **thank you** for your willingness to try new things, make suggestions, share your feedback and allow your stories to be published. The Consultant who wrote our bid application said it was easy to write, because the project was so good and full of life. Please keep feeding in your ideas.

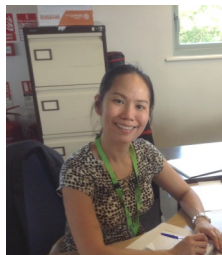
We have received Congratulations from many people and partner organisations who are thrilled that we will be able to continue helping more people connect with others.



News of our funding has been well publicised in local newspapers (The Harborough Mail, The Leicester Mercury), on local radio (HfM and BBC Radio Leicester) and on regional television (BBC East Midlands Today). You can access these on our website:

www.vasl.org.uk/our-projects/community-champions. Please let us know what you think of the website

As a result of the funding, we have now appointed a third member to the team, Sam, and look forward to introducing her to you soon. Rohini and Jenny are changing their hours, so they will both work full days Rohini Tuesday to Friday, Jenny Monday to Wednesday. We also have support from Crystal our Business Support Officer for about half a day a week.



Community Champions is funded by the Big Lottery

VASL Registered Charity No. 1141274

Company Registration No. 7517828



July Gathering

We had another lively Community Gathering at Goodwins in Oadby. This was a new venue suggested by Lin, and feedback has been very positive. People liked having our own room and the fact there was no music so you could hear what people were saying. Thanks Lin! Please do let us know if you have suggestions for places we could go.

There were 19 of us at the Gathering - 7 volunteers, 9 clients, 2 staff and a visitor.

Conversations covered where people had been on holiday, recent volunteer visits, Tea at 3, day outings and the recent local publicity about VASL Community Champions securing The Big Lottery grant.



Rohini thanked everyone in the project for sharing their experiences. The new 5 year funding means that we will be able to help even more people re-connect with their local community and gain digital skills.

Rohini presented all our media stars with a small gift to acknowledge their support. The coverage has resulted in more new people wanting to get involved with the project, which is fantastic.

Jenny encouraged volunteers to change tables so that new connections can be made.



What sort of relationship have you built?

"Warm, reciprocal and we laugh a lot"

"We have mutual respect built on similar humour and interests – the chemistry was right"

Project Celebration Tuesday 19th September at the Conservative Club, Fairfield Road MH.

1.30-3.30. It will include 40 minutes of films from Harborough Movie Makers and time to chat. You can vote on which films you would like to see using the form attached. If you haven't been before why not join us this time? We can provide transport .

New Volunteer Training 13th September, if you know of anyone who might like to volunteer with us, please ask them to contact us before this date.

Wednesday 4th October **Community Gathering** 10.30-11.30, we'd love to go out of MH, do you have any ideas of an accessible venue?

Diary Dates

Steering Group

The Steering Group has volunteers, clients, staff and partners who meet to give us feedback and ideas.

Members of the group suggested new venues for Gatherings and groups we could work with.

Providing transport was identified as essential by the group, so we are now working with the Harborough Community Bus to ensure that we can offer lifts to venues.