



# The History of Harrogate & Area Council for Voluntary Service





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## Acknowledgements

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We have been able to produce this booklet for our HACVS 25th anniversary because of the ideas, enthusiasm and dedication of our historian, Hazel McGrath, who has volunteered many hours to researching and sharing our history. All connected with HACVS really appreciate the skills Hazel has shown in telling the story so well and are grateful for the opportunity to read about where it all began.

### Disclaimer:

This history was written using press cuttings, annual reports and other material in the HACVS archives, as well as the memories of staff past and present. We apologise for any errors or omissions.



# Introduction:

## What's in a name?

Today's Councils for Voluntary Service are descendants of the Councils for Social Services (CSS's) that existed at local level in many areas for much of the 20th century. The very first CSS was established in Hampstead in 1907 by an "indefatigable philanthropist and busybody", Thomas Hancock Nunn. Nunn's aim was to establish a broadly based body that would combine the resources of "all the churches, all the municipal bodies and all the voluntary organisations in a given local government area" in order to address the social needs of its residents.

## Quality of Life for the whole community

Nearer to home in Yorkshire, the Bradford City Guild of Help was established in 1904 and by 1906 was issuing a monthly magazine entitled "Help". Across the Pennines in Liverpool the Liverpool Council for Voluntary Aid was established in 1909 and included amongst its purposes "That this service should be efficiently and wisely directed towards large ends" and "That voluntary charities should maintain their proper sphere, and that for three reasons: expense, flexibility, and 'voluntary kindness' is beneficial to him that gives and to him that takes". The impetus for these organisations arose from the wish to tackle the disease, poverty, ignorance and crime which prevailed in the UK in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Many organisations were formed to give relief to individuals but CSS's aimed to broaden out from the limited concept of relief work to a concern for the quality of life for the whole community.

By the end of the First World War a new movement was underway which flowed into the establishment of the National Council for Social Services in 1919. The new organisation was funded by a legacy from Edward Vivian Birchall, who had died in 1916 after being wounded whilst fighting in France. Before the war Birchall had been very active in setting up the National Association of Guilds of Help and left £1,000 to his friend, S P Grundy, 'to do some of the things we talked about'.

The NCSS eventually became the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and throughout the 20th century helped to establish many key charitable organisations, including Rural Community Councils, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Relate, Age UK and our own National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA). It is worth noting that representatives from central and local government were involved from the very start of NCSS, with the Local Government Board sending out the initial invitation to lord mayors, mayors and chairmen to request their support.

## Harnessing the potential of volunteers in Harrogate

Research does not currently show why Harrogate citizens came relatively late in the day to embrace the potential of a Council for Voluntary Service but the town's history offers some explanation. Developed as a spa resort, Harrogate escaped much of the impact of rapid industrialisation felt by neighbouring cities such as Leeds, Bradford and York. As a magnet for wealthy visitors from both home and abroad the town developed an air of prosperity and gentility which in turn attracted new residents keen to set up home in fine houses and enjoy the town's impressive parks, open spaces and cultural life. Here indeed was the opportunity for a healthy lifestyle, far from the pollution and poverty of many Yorkshire towns and cities. The history of Harrogate & Area CVS starts with a focus on harnessing the potential of volunteers rather than tackling disease, poverty and ignorance, followed by a recognition that a thriving voluntary & community sector can make a huge contribution given a modest investment in co-ordination and support.

### Sources:

National Council for Voluntary Organisations:  
<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/about/NCVO-from-1919-to-1993>

Voluntary Action History Society: <http://www.vahs.org.uk/>

# Foreword

**By Joe Irvin, Chief Executive of NAVCA**  
(National Association for Voluntary and Community Action)

This history of Harrogate CVS is filled with examples of people seeing a local need and doing something about it. At the heart of it is Ann Morris. She saw the need to provide support for volunteering as a result of both her own experiences and her knowledge that other people in Harrogate had a similar need. Her drive, enthusiasm and ability to get other people involved as well as her vision started the story of Harrogate CVS.

Ann's desire to make a difference led to the setting up of Yorkshire's first volunteer centre and from here the CVS has its origins. The CVS is now established at the heart of voluntary action in Harrogate. They have developed into a really good example of what a NAVCA member can be, last year supporting 350 organisations, helping 52 groups to set up or develop, giving funding advice to 66 organisations and helping over 700 people get involved in volunteering.

And this is also the story of how small actions can grow. In 1973 a midnight walk raised £120 – Harrogate's most recent Midnight Walk raised over £100,000 for St Michael's Hospice. The first training sessions were set up specifically for volunteers in 1973. The CVS now has courses covering a wide range of topics including fundraising, governance and volunteer management that attract attendees from across Yorkshire.

This history also gives us an important lesson about the importance of working together. The success of the CVS is only possible because of the wide range of people and organisations that have been prepared to support the idea of having an organisation to support local charities, community groups and volunteering. This includes the invaluable support from local businesses and the councils as well as other voluntary organisations.



As the national membership charity for CVS and other similar organisations, this history of Harrogate CVS confirms what we already knew - that Harrogate CVS is a great example of what our members can do. In 2006 Harrogate CVS was one of the first six organisations nationally to be awarded with our Quality Award. An award that demonstrates they are a leading provider of services to voluntary and community groups. We were delighted to be able to renew this award in 2011.

This publication is a fitting tribute to the 25 years the CVS has worked to support people, communities and charities in the Harrogate area. It shows the value of having such a strong supporter of local voluntary action. Times change and different challenges are thrown up but this history shows that the CVS will always be there to help.



# The 1970s

## The Volunteer Centre Opens

Harrogate CVS celebrates its 25th birthday in 2013, but the story of the CVS begins much earlier - in the 1970s with the opening of the Volunteer Centre.

The Harrogate Herald of 16 May 1973 carried an article with the headline:

**'Volunteer Centre opens this month'**

to announce the opening of Harrogate's, and indeed Yorkshire's, first Volunteer Centre. Ann Morris had put the show on the road that led to the organisation we know today.



## Volunteer centre opens this month

*"Volunteer Centre Opens This Month" - Harrogate Herald 16/5/73*



## Helping the helpers

*"Helping the Helpers" - Harrogate Herald, August 1973*

## Harrogate in the 1970s

In the 1970s Harrogate was a much smaller place compared to the town of today - a video of the time <http://www.yfaonline.com/film/harrogate-boardroom-north> promotes Harrogate as an attractive Conference venue, with facilities such as the Exhibition Halls. There were many other local attractions featured, including the brand new Coppice Valley leisure pool, now replaced by the Hydro.

An important development featured in the video was the brand new Leeds/Bradford airport, which was promoted alongside the introduction of town centre disc parking! One of the most important employers of the time was ICI, and Harrogate was famous for the development of miracle fibres such as Terylene and Crimplene.

The floral displays and the Stray were, as they still are, features to bring visitors to the town.

But then, as now, behind the prosperous facade there were disadvantaged areas of the town and always a need for volunteers.



# Where it all Began

In the early 1970s Ann Morris, a young parent of three children, was keen to train as a Red Cross Nurse. Part of her training involved spending time at Harrogate Hospital and, because of family commitments, for Ann this meant going along on Sundays. Unfortunately the hospital in those days was not well equipped for training volunteers and Ann found herself cleaning the wards.

Her frustration increased when she returned home one Sunday to find her young son Michael nursing a badly burned hand after he had touched a live wire on the family train set. His father had treated the burn by rubbing on butter. This was the last straw and ended Ann's career with the Red Cross. Michael's hand healed but he bears the scar to this day!

However the seeds were planted and, after discussions with others, Ann developed her ideas about how to give people a proper volunteering role. The next step was a 10 week Workers' Educational Association course where representatives from voluntary organisations came along to explain how they could use the skills and enthusiasm of volunteers. Ann then read about a government funded Volunteer Centre in Berkhamstead and the rest ... is history!

## The First Volunteers are recruited

The first Volunteer Centre office was based at the back of 17 James Street, at the side of what is now Hoopers store for men. The rent and running costs of £800 per annum were reported by the Advertiser with some concern. The office was decorated by nine boys from Granby Park Secondary School (now Harrogate High), and was staffed for 21.5 hours each week by Ann Morris and a team of fifteen volunteers. Some of those volunteers were friends of Ann's and their husbands demanded an alarm in the office be connected to the local police station.

The new Volunteer Centre was warmly welcomed by many in the community - by local people who were keen to embrace the idea of volunteering and by officers and elected members of Harrogate Borough Council who shared Ann's vision. Volunteers were quickly being recruited and placed throughout the community, especially in local play schemes and in assisting older and vulnerable people in a variety of ways.



Ahead of its time the Volunteer Centre was encouraging children to volunteer in the school holidays, in many cases supporting older people with gardening, decorating and other tasks. That first summer involved children being supervised to clear litter from local playgrounds. The volunteers were undeterred by other local young people throwing the litter back!

The next summer saw the development of play schemes – a huge organisational achievement – with a wide range of activities, including children going out to conservation projects, and also visiting residential homes to perform plays, sometimes with the puppets they had made.

These annual summer schemes became an important feature in the following years, with 120 teenagers taking part in 1973, with adult supervisors to support the young people. CRB checks were something for the future!



"Working Holiday" -  
Harrogate Herald, 24/07/74



From the earliest days, one of the most important features was activities and outings for disabled children, at a time when the needs of disabled children were often overlooked.

Fundraising was also taking place with £120 raised by a 41 mile sponsored walk by pupils at Granby, the funds being shared between the Volunteer Centre and Botton Village.



*"Midnight Walk raises £120" -  
Harrogate Herald 27/6/73*

Ann also recognised the importance of training and, in September 1973, set up the first courses at Harrogate College designed for volunteers working with hearing impaired and visually impaired people. The cost was £1 per head.

The 1970s saw many new ideas developing into local support schemes – from companionship for isolated older people at Christmas to volunteer car drivers helping people to get out and about.

In January 1975 the Volunteer Centre announced it had helped over 200 people find volunteering opportunities, and that year moved to 101 Station Parade to share offices with the Guild of Help and the Citizens' Advice Bureau – a move that helped the Volunteer Centre to meet increasing demand. Once again Granby Park students helped to decorate the new offices.



*"Children From Granby High School" -  
Harrogate Herald 26/6/74*

By the late 1970s mental health support was added to the activities of the Volunteer Centre and, working closely with the Community Health Council, the first training in mental health awareness for volunteers was delivered.

In 1979 the annual grant from North Yorkshire County Council was increased from £400 to £1,200!

**For youngsters looking for 'something to do'—**

# IT'S 'HOLIDAYS WITH PLAY'—

SIX WEEKS' summer holiday can be a long time for children to amuse themselves, but nowadays schemes to help them to put their time to good use are organised throughout the country.

In Harrogate there are two such schemes—the Council-run play scheme for five to 11-year-olds and the community service summer scheme for the over 12s run by the Volunteer Centre, in particular its chairman, Mrs. Ann Morris, and Mrs. Rosemary Boyle.

The "Herald" has been taking a look at the activities children are enjoying during the first week of both schemes.

## Team games popular

Screams of delight and encouragement came from teams at many of the play scheme centres where games of cricket and rounders were being battled out. The most popular teams were girls against boys, though at Rossett Acre Primary School the boys are generally victorious. However, the teams will have a chance to prove their skills in equipment including skipping ropes, hoops, balls, and rubber rings. Even though the weather was bad a group of children at Hookstone Chase School were taking advantage of the wind to fly a kite. The centre has also held an obstacle race and the children are practising for a sponsored jump round the netball court to raise funds for more equipment. An added excitement at Woodlands Junior School was

*"It's holidays with play" -  
Harrogate Herald 27/6/73*



# CVS & Technology

An independent evaluation of the Volunteer Centre in 1982 advised that a computer and a photocopier were unnecessary and would only lead to 'an excess of paper'.

By the late 1980s relationships were developing with local businesses, such as Vital Online. With help from Vital's owner Bernie Cook, who was a pioneer in web usage, the CVS was able to set up an early website with the prestigious address of [www.harrogate.org](http://www.harrogate.org), later with associated email addresses for all staff.

But it was only in 1992 during the early days in Victoria Avenue that the first Apple computer was purchased and it was not until later in the 1990s that all members of staff were routinely using computers.

August 2001 saw the launch of a new, much-improved website, again with help from Vital Online. By 2006 a server requiring a daily change of tape was installed, with all its ups and downs aptly recorded by a member of staff in the following poem entitled:

## 'An Ode to the Server – aka Getting Wilder by the Day'

*Monday's tape is on the blink  
Tuesday's tape is duff we think  
Wednesday's tape is pretty weird  
Thursday's tape has disappeared  
Friday's tape is not much fun  
Saturday's tape? There isn't one  
Sunday's tape is quite ok  
If only we were in that day ...*

By 2012, with the Volunteer Centre leading the way, the use of social media was an essential tool for CVS communications. Regular social media surgeries were soon offered to other organisations to help them stay up to date.

## Our hi-tech help



**NEW hi-tech** desktop publishing equipment has been provided for Harrogate's Council for Voluntary Service on Victoria Avenue.

**Trusts**

Three trusts have provided the money for the items which CVS staff hope will help voluntary groups in the town.

The money has been given by the Harry Bolland Trust, the George Martin Trust and another anonymous trust.

● ANN Morris and Diane Griffin of the Council for Voluntary Service talk computers with Tony Foster of the Harry Bolland Trust. (A1852)

# The 1980s

## Towards becoming a CVS

By 1980, just as in the early 21st century, rising unemployment and cuts in government spending led to greater recognition of the importance of volunteering. The Volunteer Centre was important in helping unemployed people to find volunteering opportunities to gain experience and skills. It also became increasingly recognised as a place where support for people in need could be found.

High youth unemployment led to the setting up of the Manpower Services Commission with the Volunteer Centre acting as sponsor to the programme with responsibility for 50 young people who engaged in the 'Community Venture Youth Training Scheme'.

**THE Harrogate Volunteer Centre is facing a cash crisis, and may be forced to reduce its services to the needy in the community.**

That was the grim warning given to the organisation's volunteer workers last night by Volunteer Centre organiser, Mrs. Ann Morris, at the group's annual meeting.

Mrs. Morris told members their work filled many gaps that the statutory services cannot cope with because of shortages of manpower and money. But she spelt out bad news for the future.

"We do not have the finance we require to take on additional administrative staff. We have the offices and the volunteers, but we need additional resources to fund at least two workers.

"I have failed dismally over the past 18 months to find the new money that we so urgently require, and it is not through lack of trying," said Mrs. Morris.

The Volunteer Centre was promised a grant by the social services department earlier this year to help pay for a worker, and Mrs. Morris



like part-time do-gooders."

Mrs. Morris warned that if no grant is forthcoming from the council the Centre's work will not be able to expand to meet the growing needs of the community.

She said that on current income the centre would have to cease to expand and turn away requests for help.

"With our day-to-day expenses bound to raise we may even find that we are obliged to reduce our services."

Mrs. Morris pointed out that many local voluntary organisations pay their administrative staff a reimbursement, such as the WRVS, the Citizens' Advice Bureau, MENCAP, Spastics Society, Dr. Barnardo's and the Harrogate Guild of Help.

She urged people not to underestimate the usefulness of volunteers, and not to underestimate the need to finance the administration of their work to ensure volunteers' time is used as efficiently as possible.

borough council with a begging bowl is not my forte.

"We are performing a professional and necessary function in the community. If the borough council and the Social Services agree with me that they should see we are funded properly like other such organisations of our size in the country.

© Mrs. Ann Morris

"Concern as crisis looms at Centre" - Harrogate Advertiser 11/10/85

Celebrating first  
10 years of the  
Volunteer Centre



## Shining decade of achievement

1983 was the 10th anniversary of the Volunteer Centre, and was described by the Yorkshire Post as: 'A Shining Decade of Achievement'.

However, financial problems were looming and Ann Morris, still an unpaid volunteer, was by then working 35 hours per week, and was feeling under pressure. In addition new accommodation was needed urgently. A lifeline came from North Yorkshire County Council Social Services and, in October 1983, the Volunteer Centre was able to move to larger premises at 6 Victoria Avenue, opposite the Library.

1984 saw the Volunteer Centre rapidly expanding with the Annual Report describing a growing demand for community support, especially for older people. A number of projects were launched, including Be a Friend Visiting Scheme (still around as Supporting Older People and now an independent charity), RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Programme), and the Community Transport Scheme (later becoming part of the Little Red Bus operations).

By 1985 Ann described the work of the Volunteer Centre as 'snowballing' with the finances still not keeping pace. Harrogate Borough Council at last agreed to give additional financial support to employ a Volunteer Bureau Organiser and a Development Worker. This was not before an initial rejection of a request for £5,000 and much resistance from some Harrogate Borough Councillors who, as the Harrogate Advertiser reported, were against the idea of paid workers and felt that this sort of expansion was quite unnecessary! The Volunteer Bureau's new worker, located within the Volunteer Centre, interviewed and sign-posted 150 volunteers in 1986.





"Invaluable Guide" -  
Harrogate Herald 17/06/94

1987 saw the first ever National Volunteers Week and a range of events and activities to celebrate and thank the many volunteers involved in the growing voluntary and community sector.

Two publications launched in 1988 continue to meet voluntary and community sector needs today. The 'Where to Turn' Directory of Voluntary and Community Organisations and the 'Care in Action' Newsletter have both stood the test of time, albeit more often than not circulated electronically today.

## The CVS is formed

The expanding role of the organisation meant steps were being taken towards becoming a Council for Voluntary Service. In November 1988 an inaugural meeting was held at the Parliament Rooms (now Wetherspoons pub) chaired by Leslie Fox in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate. 90 organisations affiliated to show their support for the new organisation.

By now the CVS was receiving further financial support from the County Council and the Health Authority, as well as the Borough Council. However in 1989 the issue of paying salaries to people working in charities was once again on Harrogate Borough Council's agenda when elected members voted to cut the CVS grant by half. The grant was restored the following year but still with the Harrogate Advertiser reporting comments from Councillors such as '...they are not voluntary organisations if they are paying salaries to staff' under the heading: 'Harrogate Charity Group Pay Storm'.

First ever National  
Volunteers Week



1987

Harrogate & Area  
Council for Voluntary  
Service formed



1988



# The 1990s

## Forums, Projects & Much More

The early 1990s was a time of great activity with the successful development of five Harrogate and Knaresborough Toy Libraries.



"Just The Ticket" -  
Harrogate Advertiser November 1991

This period also saw the establishment of the first CVS Forums which brought together representatives from all sectors to share information and ideas to improve and develop local community services.

The first Forums included the Learning Disabilities Forum, the Children & Families Forum and the Physical & Sensory Disabilities Forum, as well as the Disability Action Group. The Forums played a major part in flagging up gaps in services and campaigning for improvements. For example in 1994 a Learning Disabilities Forum survey warned of a looming crisis in the shortage of accommodation for learning disabled people living at home with aging parents. The early Forums no longer exist but they laid the foundations for the multi-agency working that continues today in the shape of many other CVS-led forums and partnerships.

Ahead of her time again, Ann Morris had seen the need for the Forums, and for related events for sharing information with the wider public. In the later 1990s very popular events on topics such as bullying and the challenges of parenting teenagers ('Help! I've got a Teenager') were held with large audiences and strong local support.

The early 1990s was a time which also saw the development of several local charities and much-needed support was given to them. These included organisations such as the Disability Information Service (later becoming part of Citizens' Advice Bureau), Shopmobility, Electric Rainbow Arts, Harrogate Advocacy Scheme, Time Together, and Essential Needs Furniture Store - many of which continue to this day.



■ Ann Morris from the Council for Voluntary Services,  
Victoria Avenue, Harrogate. (A2053)

## Parents who share agony

Harrogate Advertiser 7/11/97

The provision of information and advice was also becoming a greater part of the CVS work. 1993 saw the publication of the first Transport Leaflet designed to help people to find alternative forms of transport when they were unable to use buses or trains. This was one of several achievements noted at the AGM that year.



In 1994 the first Funder Finder software package was installed to assist voluntary and community organisations to find funding. In 1995 the Directory of Sport and Leisure for People with Disabilities in the Harrogate District was published.

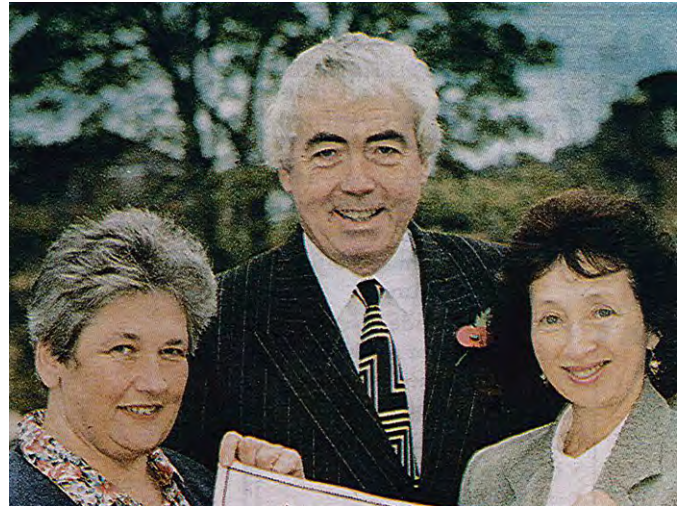


*"Computer system to trust in" -  
Harrogate Herald 02/04/94*

## Ann's work is recognised

Where there was a community need, with the help of the CVS, a way forward was found. Fittingly in 1992 Ann Morris was awarded the MBE in recognition of her work and then, in 1995, was chosen to receive the Woman in the Community Award by the Soroptimist International Group in Harrogate.

Later in the 1990s the front page of the Harrogate Herald dated 6 November 1996 carried a headline 'Progress through Partnership'. The Council Leader of the time, Phil Willis (now Lord Willis of Knaresborough after a successful career as the local MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough), described his intention to 'establish a Voluntary Sector Forum to coordinate the partnership between the Council and voluntary groups'. The article featured positive responses from both Ann Morris and Lynette Barnes of Ripon CVS and the Harrogate Borough Council Voluntary Sector Forum was launched.



*"Progress through Partnership" -  
Harrogate Advertiser 6/11/96*

In 1997 attention was also focusing on local community events known as 'Voice of the People', which were intended to give local people a voice in the development of local services. The CVS played an important part in organising and raising awareness of these events.

## CVS People

From its earliest days the CVS has been fortunate to have some of the best and brightest people working and volunteering for the organisation.

Nina Muir, the longest-serving member of staff, is an example of the kind of commitment, flexibility and enthusiasm shown by so many members of staff and volunteers over the years.

Nina was recruited in 1990 as the Volunteer Bureau Manager and now leads the CVS Funding Advice and Development Service. Over the years Nina has also been the CVS Liaison Officer and Lifelong Learning Development Officer.



*An early sighting of Nina (centre)*



# CVS Projects

By the early to mid-1990s the Volunteer Bureau, still at the heart of the CVS, played an important part in identifying local needs which were then met by new CVS projects such as Carers' Time Off, the Help at Home scheme and Opening Doors for Disabled People, all of which continue to support some of the most vulnerable people in the Harrogate community today.

With the help of Big Lottery Reaching Communities funding in 2011 these projects came together under the umbrella of the Harrogate Easier Living Project (HELP).





CVS Projects  
supporting  
vulnerable people  
were set up



Supporting Older  
People, Carers' Time  
Off, Help at Home  
Scheme, Mental Health  
Project, Opening Doors  
for Disabled People





# Mental Health and the role of the CVS

In the early 1990s the move to 'care in the community' focused attention on mental health and the Mental Health Project was established as a very small scheme to give volunteers opportunities to support people with mental health problems in local day centres such as the Acorn Centre.

In 1995, as well as the need for more support for local people that was being met by the rapidly developing Mental Health Project, attention was focusing on the development of another CVS Forum - this one covering mental health. The Mental Health Forum has flourished with the involvement of service users and many organisations from all sectors.



By 1996, the first Mental Health Handbook was completed, and this was followed by the setting up of a new pilot service, the Mental Health Telephone Helpline.

The Mental Health Project has developed over the years, and now offers a range of services to people with long term mental health problems. These include one-to-one support, post-natal support, and Sunday drop-in sessions, all delivered by a team of trained and well-supported volunteers.

From 2003 onwards, after taking under its wing the counselling service from the closing Women's Centre, the Mental Health Project's newly-named Talking Space Counselling Service saw a huge demand for counselling from both men and women, which is now met by a team of volunteer counsellors across the District.

In 2012 with help from the Big Lottery Fund the Mental Health Project with its associated services and the Talking Space Counselling Service joined together under one name - Talking Spaces.

Over the years training for volunteers has developed from the initial mental health awareness course and now also includes training for workers, as well as volunteers, on issues such as Rape Crisis.

The Mental Health Project has come a long way!

In 2012 Lizzie Rosewood the Talking Spaces Manager was named as Employee of the Year in the Ackrill Business Awards - a first for the voluntary sector!





# A Community House for Harrogate

By 1996 it was clear that the Victoria Avenue office could no longer accommodate the enthusiastic and growing CVS team. At the same time Harrogate's Community Transport Scheme (now Little Red Bus) was outgrowing its office base. A local businessman, Roy Bousfield, who was a supporter of Community Transport, spotted a Community House building in Kendal. It was agreed a Community House was needed for Harrogate and a small steering group was formed. Another local businessman, Richard Inman was introduced and the group set about finding a new home.

At last, a suitable building became available at 46-50 East Parade. Originally known as Norman House the building had initially been a day centre for mental health patients before services were modernised with the opening of the brand new Briary Wing and the Belmont Road Centre.

More recently the building had been known as Nidderdale House and was home to the North Yorkshire Health Authority's Health Promotion Service, but had become surplus to requirements. After some negotiation and significant fundraising the building was purchased by the group who set up a new charity called the 'Community House Trust'. Community Transport was the first tenant to move in early in 1997, followed by the CVS team later that year.

Working closely with the Community House trustees, the CVS established the Community House Information Centre to give much-needed support to the tenants of Community House and the wider voluntary and community sector.

Community House was thriving with a waiting list of prospective tenants and in 2001 more fundraising led to the building of an extension with new ground floor Meeting Rooms to improve accessibility.

Ten years on in 2006 Community House still proved popular with tenants and visitors alike. Improvements to the Meeting Rooms and the Information Centre were welcomed by all.

Move to  
Community House





# The late 1990s

This time saw the establishment of a volunteer-led initiative, the Domestic Abuse Forum, which was to find a home with the CVS alongside the other Forums.

The CVS has always been keen to acknowledge its own volunteers, whether they have supported the work of the CVS-managed projects or assisted in the office. During National Volunteers Week in 1997 three of those volunteers were given long-service awards for their commitment.

By the summer of 1998 the CVS said farewell to Ann Morris who entered a well-deserved and very active retirement. From her initial idea of bringing volunteering opportunities to local people had grown a well-respected CVS; an organisation at the heart of Harrogate's voluntary and community sector, and with volunteering still an integral part of the organisation.

## CVS volunteers are recognised



*"Here's to a total of 23 years voluntary service" - Harrogate Advertiser, June 1997*



**Ann Morris who has retired from the CVS. A3338**

## Ann steps down after 25 years



# Moving towards the 21st Century

At the end of the 1990s, Hazel McGrath, having managed the CVS Mental Health Project for five years, was appointed to the new role of CVS Director. The CVS continued to respond to local people's need for support services, and was always pro-active in seeking opportunities to support the needs of its growing member organisations, and to ensure the sustainability of the CVS and its projects.

## New Forums and Partnerships

Collaborative working, always an important feature of CVS work, stepped up a gear as new partnerships, both formal and informal, were developed.

Over the years churches and faith groups in Harrogate have been instrumental in leading new developments, such as the Harrogate Homeless Project, and have also played their part in supporting the CVS in many ways, from being a supportive voice to involvement in the governance of the organisation.

Other successful partnerships with the private sector also developed as they became increasingly aware of their corporate social responsibility commitments. In one case this led to a mentoring scheme called 'Generations in Action' with the CVS in a new relationship with the North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership. Although this was not a long-term project, the stronger links made with Harrogate College and other education providers proved more enduring.

Another CVS Forum was established in 1999 to meet local needs - the Children and Young People's Mental Health Group. Membership flourished and a new directory and website of support services for workers and parents of children and young people was produced called 'Express the Mess' - a name given to it by the children of the Women's Refuge - which proved popular enough to be reprinted twice in quick succession. This was followed in 2002 by 'Connect n' Cope'; for lower and middle school students. Later in 2008 the provision of information still played an important part in the Forum's work with a new publication produced - this time children and young people's needs at years 9 and 10 were addressed directly with the new pocket-sized 'Guide for Life', with a cover designed by young people at Trax - the drop-in centre for young people on Station Bridge.



"Guide For Life Launch"



# 2000 and beyond- A maturing CVS

And so the CVS moved into the year 2000, with the establishment of a long overdue pension scheme for staff, and also playing host to a field worker for a new project called Better Government for Older People.

By 2001 there were new structures in place in health, and positive relationships were formed with the Primary Care Group, leading to a new CVS initiative - the Voluntary Sector Health Forum - a forum for voluntary sector representatives to engage with and influence health services.

The CVS Annual Review of 2000/01 listed 17 multi-agency partnerships, many led by local government, health and social care, in which the CVS was involved. This involvement was an important indicator of the recognition that the needs of local vulnerable people would best be understood and met by listening to those closely connected to local communities - the voice of the voluntary and community sector was being heard.

The Cancer Support Network was established in 2001 with the help of local interested people, an information booklet was produced, and the group continues to this day as the Cancer Action Partnership. Two successful events to bring information to people living with cancer and their families were held in 2004 and later in 2011. The Cancer Information Event in 2004 at Pavilions attracted wide attention, possibly because of the presence of the famous Calendar Girls.



*"Calendar Girls' date with Health Trust " -  
Harrogate Advertiser 17/09/04*

A new version of the Cancer Support Services booklet was produced in 2011 on behalf of the Cancer Action Partnership and launched at the second information event at Pavilions.



*"Event supports cancer patients and families" -  
Harrogate Advertiser 21/10/11*

## CVS awarded Commendation for Excellence

These were the days of the newly emerging Compact between the Government and the voluntary sector and, in Harrogate, the CVS led the process to develop a Compact between Harrogate Borough Council and the local voluntary and community sector. At this time Hazel McGrath was working closely with a Borough Council colleague, Karen Weaver. Little did they know what the future would hold for Karen by 2009! In 2007 the CVS was awarded a Compact Commendation for Excellence for their joint work with the Council.

But still in 2001 greater awareness of the CVS role followed as a result of the Compact work and when the Harrogate District Strategic Partnership was formed by the Borough Council the CVS was an early member, with Hazel later becoming vice-chair.



United Nations  
International Year  
of Volunteering



Over the years the Volunteer Bureau was continuing to thrive – 2001 was the United Nations International Year of Volunteering and a celebration in the International Conference Centre attracted representatives from more than 80 groups, and many potential volunteers were recruited by them. A highlight, thanks to Procter & Gamble, was the guest appearance of the 'Daz dogs' famous in TV adverts at that time. The event was a resounding success in spite of the shadow cast by the events of the previous day – 11 September 2001.



"Daz dogs" - 2001

In December 2002, in a new partnership, the CVS produced a report commissioned by Harrogate Hospital. The report aimed to show the difference made by local organisations over the previous four years as a result of surveys and consultation events. The ever-present need for information about services and support was highlighted, as well as the description of actions taken by a range of organisations, in the public and voluntary sectors. The report was an important step in raising the profile of the CVS once again and led to the commissioning of a later report on the needs of the black and minority ethnic population of the district.

In 2003 the first 'Volcano' was produced – a newsletter for volunteer-involving organisations. Another photo competition was organised by the Volunteer Bureau to celebrate National Volunteers Week.



"The rewards of being a volunteer" - Harrogate Advertiser 06/06/03

Internally the CVS was improving its policies and procedures, always a challenge when there was so much to be done in the community, and the first step towards quality assurance was taken with the achievement at Level 1 of Pqasso (Practical Quality Assurance for Small Organisations).



# Lifelong Learning Development Project

Earlier connections made with learning providers led the CVS to a new project later in 2003 to develop lifelong learning opportunities.

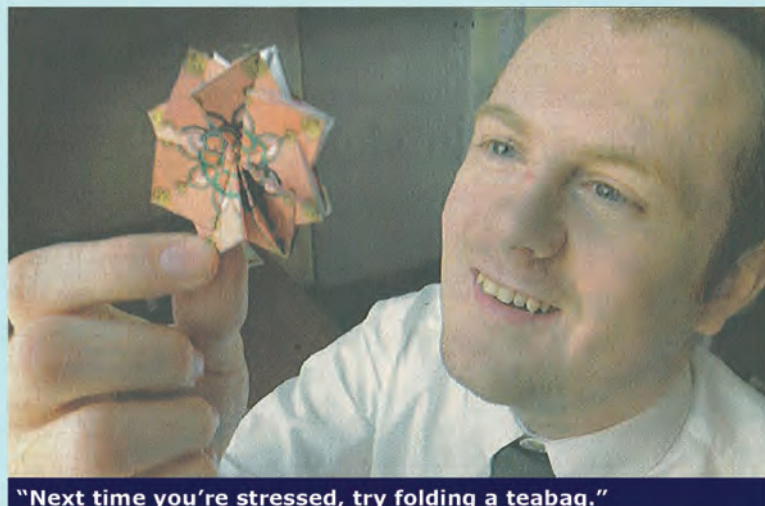
Funded by the Learning and Skills Council, the Life Long Learning Development Project developed and supported a huge range of lifelong learning opportunities.

Life Long Learning  
Development  
Project set up



Once again the CVS was pro-active in making this a great success over the next three years with members of the Area Learning Partnership.

Particularly popular were the Bite Size short courses designed to build confidence and encourage people into learning. These included the very popular 'Teabag Folding' courses!



"Next time you're stressed, try folding a teabag."



# Lottery grants for CVS

Funding advice was becoming increasingly requested and the CVS responded by developing its first successful lottery bid to appoint a development worker to offer funding advice and support.

## First Big Lottery grant for Funding Advice

This grant also enabled the Meet the Funder event at the St Robert's Centre, led by Harrogate CVS. In later years this continued as a partnership event with Harrogate Borough Council and Ripon CVS.

## Largest ever grant from Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities for CVS Partnership Development Project

Again in 2007 a lengthy funding application process culminated in a five year grant from the Big Lottery Fund – the largest grant ever for the CVS, and which enabled the appointment of a Deputy Director, Mark Hopley to lead the Partnership Development Project. By 2009 the CVS was actively involved in 28 partnership groups – ample evidence of the success of the project.



Big Lottery  
Grants for CVS



## Seeking a slice of the cake



**Meet The Funder Day – From left, Harrogate Borough Council Project Development Officer Helen Bowles, Mayor of Harrogate Alan Skidmore, Harrogate CVS Development Worker Laura Sanders. (2603038)**

MEET the Funder, a special event for local voluntary and community groups who need money to get their ideas off the ground, proved an outstanding success.

Twenty-one funders and advisors set up their stalls at the Robert's Conference Centre, Harrogate.

The official opening was performed by the Mayor, Coun Alan Skidmore. Event co-ordinators Laura Sanders of Harrogate Area Council for Voluntary Service and Helen Bowles of Harrogate Council helped the Mayor cut a slice of the "funding" cake.

More than 250 people from around 150 groups flocked to the event to find out if their project ideas could be supported by any of the funders or qualify for a grant.

Funders came from Awards for All, the Prince's Trust, Hanson Environ-

ment Fund, Lloyds TSB Foundation, European Funding, Community Fund, Nationwide Foundation, The Scarman Trust, Football Foundation, New Opportunity Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Yorkshire Arts.

The event was planned by four partners who work alongside voluntary sector groups: Harrogate Council, Harrogate and Area Council for Voluntary Service, Ripon Council for Voluntary Service and Yorkshire Rural Community Council. Funding came from the County's Single Regeneration Budget, Council for Voluntary Service and Harrogate Council. Support was also received from Harrogate Spa Water.

● Further information and advice on funding opportunities can be obtained from all four organising partners.



# A New Era

By 2004 a new era for the CVS began with the Government's introduction of 'ChangeUp – Capacity Building and Infrastructure Framework' (how Mark Kennedy, always one to challenge jargon and needless bureaucracy, would have laughed at that name!). The joint working that had always existed between Harrogate CVS and Ripon CVS was set to be formalised and, with the support of consultant Linda Mitchell and Ripon CVS Director Lynette Barnes, the first joint plan was produced. Commitment to joint newsletters and other partnership working between both staff and boards was made, and the road between Harrogate and Ripon, always well travelled, became even more so.

The mid-2000s were again a time of rapid development:

Support for new organisations such as Remap was given. Help was also given to the Harrogate Lions in setting up their 'Message in a bottle' scheme'

## CVS receives National Quality Award



A new Where to Turn Directory was produced and was set to reach an even wider audience.



*"Find out where to turn in case of emergency" - Harrogate Herald 26/07/05*

In addition there was further partnership working under the heading of the 'Working with Local Communities Initiative' with the new Primary Care Trust, and the setting up of a Voluntary Sector Chief Officers' Group, all taking place in a short space of time.

In 2006 another celebration of volunteering was held in National Volunteers' Week.



*"Giving something back can be a lot of fun" - Harrogate Advertiser 02/06/06*

The CVS was also rising to a new challenge. Whilst there had always been a strong focus on making a difference in the local community now it became important to provide the evidence. The CVS began focusing explicitly on demonstrating outcomes by working towards becoming one of the first six CVS in the country to achieve a National Performance Standards Quality Award and this recognition was celebrated in the summer of 2006. This was no mean feat for a relatively small CVS and it was equally rewarding when the award was renewed in 2011.



In 2006, new links were forged with Harrogate Library with CVS support for their successful lottery bid for funds to modernise the library on Victoria Avenue, and then later the introduction of volunteering opportunities in the newly-refurbished library.

Another opportunity was grasped and a Volunteering Development initiative was set up, funded by the District's Strategic partnership, to raise the profile of volunteering and to take volunteering to new places and people. It seemed the CVS had come full circle!

But that was never going to be the end of the story. Much had been achieved in the previous ten years. The CVS income, still never wholly secure, had increased from £66,000 in 1998 to £517,000 in 2008 and the range of income streams had considerably diversified. A record number of 11 Forums were being facilitated by the CVS. By now Hazel felt the need for part-time working - it was time to hand over to someone else.

## Sad farewells



In March 2004 a cloud fell over the CVS with the death of Mark Kennedy. Until its abolition, Mark had been the Chief Officer of Harrogate's Community Health Council, and had also been the Chair of Harrogate CVS and a great support to the organisation for many years. He was, and still is, a much missed figure.



A popular and hard working member of staff, Lesley Wilson, the Help at Home Scheme Supervisor, also died after a short illness in 2009.



Mayor of Harrogate Coun John Fox visits volunteers, trustees and staff at Community House and CVS. (GS2705081a)

## Why the mayor is saying 'thank you' to volunteers

THE year of the volunteer is the chosen theme of the newly-inaugurated Mayor of the Harrogate district, Coun John Fox. He is set to dedicate his time in office to his two chosen charities, the Carers' Resource and Harrogate Hospital Friends, and has pledged his support to highlight the help of volunteers and the work they do in the community.

Coun Fox said: "It really is a year when I am hoping to say thank you to as many volunteers as I can and to encourage as many people as possible to come forward to give up their time and skills."

This week he met with volunteers, trustees, and staff at

Community House, the home of the Harrogate Council for Volunteering Services (CVS).

He looked at some of the projects based there and was escorted on a tour of the building, which has just completed the first phase of a redecoration project.

Next week, from June 1 to June 7, is National Volunteering Week, and he has been invited by the CVS to attend an open day at the Wesley Chapel to thank the great number of volunteers who work throughout the district.

Coun Fox (Lab Dem, Granby) said: "I have been in local politics for 35 years and it has always amazed me the amount

of time people put in to helping others."

"One of the things I am hoping to do is meet as many volunteers as possible to say thank you, and to meet organisations like the volunteers centre to meet the people who give up their time and their skills."

"I think that volunteering work is our community life, really."

"There are many charities and services that the council provides that wouldn't exist otherwise - they rely on volunteers."

"A lot of these things wouldn't survive if people didn't give, such as the Mercer Gallery."

The open day event has been

organised by Harrogate CVS, and is a chance for potential volunteers to hear more about the possibilities and positions available in Harrogate.

Among other things, the CVS works to coordinate volunteers with the best match volunteering positions, and there will be information displays, crafts and goods from different charities, as well as a presentation to thank the current volunteers.

● The open day on Tuesday, June 3 will be held at the Wesley Chapel from 1.30pm to 4pm. For more information contact the Volunteer Centre on 01423 569004, or visit the website at [www.harrogate.org](http://www.harrogate.org).

"Volunteers: The heart of our community" - Harrogate Advertiser 30/05/08



# Minority Ethnic Project Set Up

The CVS reputation was enhanced in 2007 following a piece of work to map support for minority ethnic groups which led to the Minority Ethnic Project being set up. This was with financial help from Harrogate Borough Council and the Harrogate District Strategic Partnership, to provide support to newly arriving migrant workers. As ever, Harrogate CVS was moving with the times and responding to new local needs. As with other projects led by the CVS new relationships were also developed, this time with the police and fire services. Events to support newcomers to the district were held with information about the district and about health services available to them. Later, in 2010, a group was formed to support the Chinese community.

Minority Ethnic Project set up



## Vietnamese Boat People

There were earlier precedents for this work in 1980 when newly arrived Vietnamese 'boat people' were settling in Harrogate. The CVS was on hand to help the newcomers to understand their new home.

## Kosovan Refugees

And in the summer of 1999 a different need was emerging with the arrival of a large group of Kosovan refugees to accommodation in both Harrogate and Ripon. Thanks to a rapid multi-agency response, and the warmth and generosity of local communities, the Kosovans' needs were met. With everything from clothes to interpreters, from toiletries to emotional support, from medical aid to lipstick, all calls for help were answered, with the CVS leading the response from voluntary and community groups in Harrogate.



FIRST EVENT: Above, guests, including representatives of the police, fire and rescue service and library service, at the new year celebrations and, right, the traditional lion dance

### New year, new start for Chinese group



## Hope lies ahead for Clever Lily

by Jill Parkin

Lam Tue Linh was born in Harrogate Hospital five weeks ago. Her name means Clever Lily, and her parents Lam An and Co Ngoc Cieu hope that England will be a kinder environment for her than the Vietnam they escaped from in a boat. Lam An was a metalworker in his native country. He and his family are now among the boat people at the "reception centre" in Linton, near Wetherby, the Roman Catholic ecumenical centre Woodhall. Last November, the centre was lent to the Ockenden Venture, which works to find homes and jobs for the refugees. It is one of several reception centres, and specialises in taking families. At the boat people arrived at Heathrow, people from Woodhall meet

Finding jobs is even more of a problem than the search for somewhere to live. Of those who have been through the centre, some have yet found work. The greatest difficulty in the way of jobs is language. The people at Woodhall range from unskilled to skilled workers and few of them have any English when they arrive.

### Barrier

It is a barrier which Ockenden sets about removing almost as soon as they arrive. Specialist teachers come from the Leeds Education Authority to teach English in the centre's classroom.

The language problem is also shared by the Vietnamese who have made their home in Harrogate, although it has not stood in the way of their finding employment.

The Phung family have lived in two houses on the Jansfield estate, Harrogate, since February, when they arrived from a town near



The children who will grow up far away from their native country, with Mr. Bernard O'Connell, the Ockenden administrator. Laing says, it has meant starting from the beginning.



First Volunteering  
Oscars



# Volunteering Oscars

Greater recognition of volunteering was highlighted by the Mayor's designation of 2008 as the Year of the Volunteer. Councillor John Fox went on to host the first Volunteering Oscars ceremony at the St George Swallow Hotel in November of that year.



Volunteer Oscars 2010



Volunteer Oscars 2011



Volunteer Oscars 2012



## Hazel hands over to Karen

Another new era began early in 2009 with the appointment of Karen Weaver as CVS Director. Karen's was a popular appointment, being a familiar face to many in the voluntary and community sector from her successful work with Harrogate Borough Council.



**from left are new CVS director Karen Weaver, outgoing director Hazel McGrath, Mayoress of Harrogate Maggie Fox and Prospective Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate for Harrogate and Knaresborough Claire Kelley. (090123M4)**

*"CVS gets new director" -  
Harrogate Advertiser 30/01/09*

Now in place for the first time was a five year strategic plan for the CVS complete with a performance management framework, strategic objectives, and performance indicators.

New Forums were developed to keep pace with the changing times – including the Actively Involving Children Network and an End of Life Care Forum.

The need for greater support for voluntary sector managers and trustees was addressed by linking with the 'Get on Board' campaign, the establishment of a Trustee Network, and the re-launching of the Chief Officers and Chairs Group which attracted over 60 members.

Greater support for the voluntary sector in changing times was offered. Other infrastructure organisations across the County were given help to achieve the National Performance Standards Quality Award. In addition local organisations were offered help to become 'tender-ready' for the forthcoming new arrangements in commissioning and procurement.



*All smiles as Chairs and Chief Officers meet.*



## The Big Society

Then the concept of the 'Big Society' was launched by the government – anyone familiar with the work of the CVS and the local voluntary and community sector would already be very aware of such a notion! With cuts to public services looming, the work of the CVS and the voluntary sector was more important than ever. Changes to the delivery of public services led to new groups needing CVS support, such as the group of volunteers now successfully running Bilton library.

The CVS itself was undergoing structural changes in 2011 with the move to becoming a company limited by guarantee; an experience which stood the CVS in good stead to support other organisations embarking on the same process. With 115 member organisations demands for support were as many and varied as ever.

Requests for funding advice and governance support were increasingly complex as many groups moved towards a social enterprise model. A total of 289 groups requested some form of advice, services or information in 2011. Familiar ways of working also continued – not least with the launch of a new Older People's Forum at which more than 80 older people were present.

In 2012 the Volunteer Centre helped 721 people to find volunteering opportunities, 276 organisations and more than 320 opportunities were registered with the Centre. In July the first V in the Park was held in the Valley Gardens to promote volunteering.

And just as young people were involved in decorating the very first Volunteer Centre in the 1970s, so in 2012, with support from the Volunteer Centre, 200 young soldiers from the Army Foundation College were involved in many hours of volunteering to help local organisations.

# Harnessing the power of volunteers at V in the Park

**By SARAH DAWSON**  
sarah.dawson@ypn.co.uk  
www.harrogateadvertiser.co.uk

A FAMILY fun day in Harrogate's Valley Gardens this weekend will aim to encourage more people to get involved in volunteering in the community.

Harrogate Volunteer Centre will stage V in the Park at the Sun Pavilion this Sunday, July 8 from 12 to 4pm.

The event is being held in conjunction with The Big Picnic in the Valley Gardens. A range of games and activities have been organised by around 40 volunteers for the free event, and they will hold advice sessions, a social media surgery, and informal chats on how to get more involved in volunteering.

V in the Park will also see the launch of the 5th annual Harrogate and District Volunteering Oscars, which take place at The Old Swan Hotel in November.

The awards aim to celebrate the unsung heroes in the Harrogate communities and are organised by former Mayor of

Harrogate, County Councillor John Fox, by Ackrill Media Group, and by the Harrogate and Ripon Councils for Voluntary Service.

Launching this year's Oscars on Sunday will be the winner of last year's Lifetime Achievement award, John Batchelor.

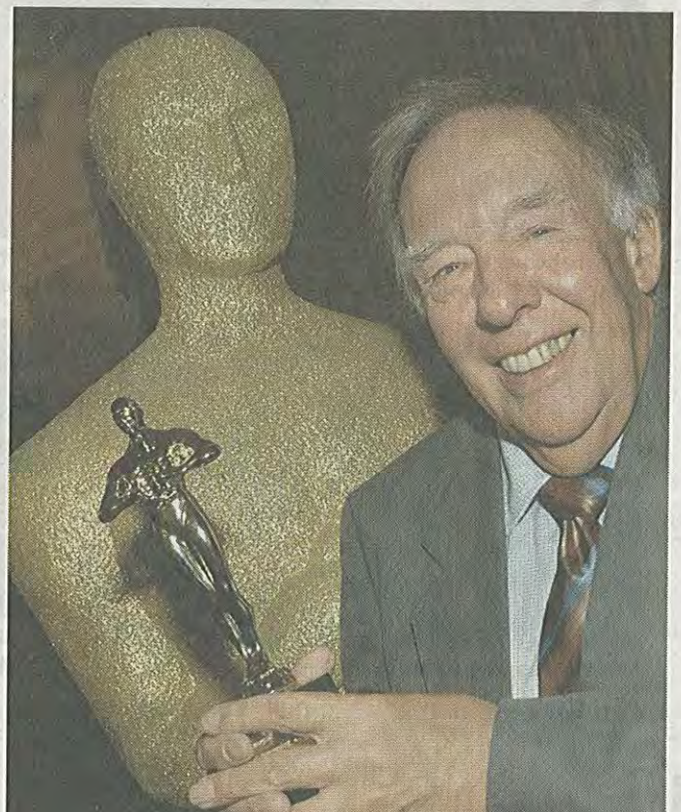
To nominate someone who you think is worthy of an award for their volunteering in the community, visit [www.harrogateadvertiser.co.uk](http://www.harrogateadvertiser.co.uk) and nominate online. Or contact the Harrogate Advertiser for a nomination form by calling 01423 564321 or email [ackrill.news@ypn.co.uk](mailto:ackrill.news@ypn.co.uk)

The event is part of the Big Picnic, which raises funds for children's services at Harrogate Hospital.

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"Harnessing the power of volunteers at V in the Park"  
- Harrogate Advertiser 05/07/12



# A Final Thank You

Harrogate CVS and the Volunteer Centre have always changed with the times to ensure support for local groups and individuals, and volunteers have always been at the heart of the organisation.

Whatever the future brings the CVS would never have reached its 25th year celebrations without the many volunteers who have been involved over the years.

Volunteers have been involved in so many different ways –

- in administrative roles in the CVS offices
- as trustees guiding the strategic direction of the CVS
- with CVS Projects, either supporting people in the community or as Project advisory group members
- representatives from local businesses who have given their time and expertise
- and last but not least, prospective volunteers who have been signposted by the Volunteer Centre to the many voluntary and community organisations in and around Harrogate.

We thank them all on behalf of the whole Harrogate Community.





# Postscript

The Harrogate District remains a fine place to live and Harrogate has recently been described as the happiest town in the UK\*. This is a wonderful accolade but, then as now, if you are not part of that prosperity then life can be as tough here as anywhere. Loneliness, isolation, poor mental health, unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse and poor housing are all to be found and more easily than you might think. Old age can bring challenges to people from all walks of life and access to affordable transport is an enduring issue for many, especially in the more rural areas. As throughout recent times the voluntary sector is on the frontline in providing support to those who are not able to enjoy everything that our area has to offer. The CVS continues to have a key role in ensuring that the support is "efficiently and wisely directed towards large ends" and our charitable objects are as relevant now as when we were founded:

- To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the public, primarily but not exclusively in the local government area of Harrogate District and its environs (the 'area of benefit') and, in particular, build the capacity of charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises and provide them with the necessary support, information and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to any charitable purpose.
- To promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises; and statutory and other relevant bodies in the achievement of the above purpose within the area of benefit
- For the public benefit to assist in the advancement of education, the protection of mental and physical health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness, within the area of benefit.

2013 is a historic year for Harrogate & Area CVS as we join forces with Ripon CVS to provide support for charities and volunteers across the 500 square miles of the Harrogate District, much of it rural in character. There are many challenges ahead but we will strive to carry forward the legacy of our founders and to ensure that the vital role and contribution of charities and volunteers continues to be valued and supported in our area.

\*Harrogate comes out on top in the Rightmove PLC Happy At Home Index for 2013 by virtue of its residents feeling 'happy' across a broad range of factors. Although the town did not rank highest on any single measure, it featured in the top 10 on four of the 12 measures, namely; investment (how much residents choose to spend on their home), safety (how safe people feel in their home and local community), recreation (the extent to which people enjoy spending time in the local area) and neighbourliness (how friendly and polite respondents consider their neighbours).

<http://www.rightmove.co.uk/news/articles/rightmove-news/harrogate-happy-at-home-index-2013>



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Harrogate & Ripon Teams Join Together - April 2013

Welcome to David Allon, Viv Bannister, Malcolm Compton, Helen Flynn, Debs Johnston, Jill Lawson and Alana McGowan.




# How to Contact Us

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If you enjoyed reading this History and would like to make a donation to help HARCVS continue our work supporting charities and promoting volunteering in the Harrogate District, your contribution would be very much appreciated. If you are paying by cheque, please make your cheque payable to 'Harrogate & Area CVS' and send it to the address above (marked Fundraising). There are many other ways you can support HARCVS. You can find out more at [www.harcvs.org.uk/donate](http://www.harcvs.org.uk/donate) or please give us a call on 01423 504074.

If you are interested in volunteering, there are hundreds of different opportunities right on your doorstep! The Volunteer Centre at Harrogate Community House can help find the right opportunity for you.

Contact the Volunteer Centre  
Tel: 01423 509004  
Email: [volunteer@harcvs.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@harcvs.org.uk)

[www.harvolunteercentres.org.uk](http://www.harvolunteercentres.org.uk)

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