



Lottery money where it's needed most

Media Release

23 February 2010

Share your Skills with Parnwell's Fair Share Trust Skill Exchange Scheme

Parnwell residents are invited to come together this Saturday to help give Parnwell's Community House garden a revamp. The makeover will celebrate the launch of Parnwell Skills Exchange Scheme, which helps residents swap their skills for mutual benefits.

The Skills Exchange Scheme is part of the Fair Share Trust's work in Parnwell which aims to bring communities together through projects which stimulate local people's community involvement and skills to assist in the future development of Parnwell. The Exchange Scheme enables people to share expertise and interests with others and be rewarded for it, as well as a great way for communities to get to know each other

Parnwell Skills Exchange Time broker Faye Panchal explained more saying, "We all have skills that are useful and valuable to other people - and they have skills that could help us out too. Parnwell Skills Exchange makes it easy to share these skills within the community. For example, by walking a neighbour's dog you can be repaid by another neighbour cleaning your car or painting a fence. You deposit time in the scheme by giving practical help and support to others when it's needed, or by sharing your skills and the hobbies you enjoy. Then you withdraw time when you need something doing yourself by other members of the Exchange Scheme."

Skills to exchange can include anything, a few examples are dog walking, gardening, painting and decorating, help with computers, baby sitting, car washing, cooking... the list is endless. One hour of everyone's time is equal regardless of the activity, and you do as much or as little as you want.

This is the first time a Skills Exchange program has been held in the Peterborough area. Faye added, "It is exciting to start such an innovative project in Parnwell. We have already had a great deal of interest in the scheme from a number of Parnwell residents. So far members have been swapping their skills in cooking, gardening and giving lifts. We are really looking forward to more and more people joining to swap their skills."

Everyone is invited to Community House, 74 Whittington, between 10am – 2pm on Saturday to take part in the renovation of the Community House garden and conservatory area. People interested in becoming part of the Skills Exchange can take part in the makeover and receive time credits which they can exchange for the skills of other members.

Emily Barber, Community Development worker for Parnwell said, "I'm really looking forward to the Skills Exchange team giving the Community House conservatory and garden a makeover as we use the area for many Fair Share Lottery funded community events and activities, including our new Monday night youth club for 7 – 13 year olds. I know the youngsters will really enjoy playing in the revamped area."

If you would like to learn more about the Parnwell Skills Exchange or become involved please contact Faye Panchal, Parnwell's Skills Exchange Time broker on 01733 553251 or email faye@skillexchange.org. You can also visit Parnwell's Community website for more information www.positivleyparnwell.org.uk.

To find out more about the Chill Out Zone Youth Club, call Emily Barber on 01733 342184.

Ends

Notes To Editors

You are invited to send a photographer to the launch of the Parnwell Skills Exchange on Saturday 27 February between 10am and 2pm, at Parnwell's Community House, 74 Whittington Parnwell.

The National Lottery's Fair Share Trust aims to distribute Lottery generated funds into communities that have received less than their fair share of Lottery funding through individual grants. Parnwell is one of those areas. Set up in 2003, Parnwell's Fair Share Trust will see over £800,000 distributed for projects related to community empowerment, the environment and community safety over a ten year period. The Parnwell Fair Share Trust programme is managed by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and a panel of local people are involved.

The programme has already delivered significant benefits for the people and communities of Peterborough, including

- Funding a community development worker who coordinates a range of activities to build links within and between communities to promote trust and participation.
- Funding a number of environmental projects involving local people in their planning and delivery
- Installing/upgrading bus shelters and re-routing bus routes to improve accessibility
- Supporting older people in Parnwell, including facilitating the Parnwell Friendship Club
- Installing new play equipment in three play areas in Parnwell
- Bringing the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) to Parnwell to build community gardens and make improvements to green spaces.

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