

Seconded from business working locally

Business management trainee **Clare Inglis**, from the Halifax, is part of a two year development programme working towards a management role within the company. It is part of a pilot project where trainees are seconded out through Business In The Community.

What were your thoughts about us before you got involved?

At first I wasn't completely sure what the Partnership Council was all about and I wasn't sure whether I would be able to fulfil the task I had been given. I also had some preconceptions about voluntary sector groups. I had concerns that the Partnership Council would be all disorganised, and that because it worked in a challenged community that it might be a bit 'badly done to' kind of thing. To be honest I was worried because I thought the voluntary sector was disorganised and too laid back, and maybe that they lack the professionalism that we perceive bigger organisations would have.

I suppose it was through a lack of understanding. I think we all have preconceived ideas about any sector that is not our own.

So what has been your main task?

To look at the voluntary sector in the area and try and identify if there is any demand or benefits from a scheme in which voluntary sector groups could share resources, skills and so forth.

It has been a feasibility study to see if it could work and how. The work is nearly completed now and it has been a very positive challenge for me. I've found the project really enjoyable and the time scale of the project has been ideal to fit into the secondment.

It has certainly changed my perceptions of the voluntary sector. It has also increased my knowledge of this community within Nottingham. With regard to customers, when I go back to the Halifax, that gives me a better understanding and that is an advantage. I have always worked with the Halifax and because of that you get used to a certain environment.

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All companies have their own procedures and their way of doing things. So to come and actually see a different approach is really useful. It might mean I can go back and challenge certain things and suggest changes to the way we work.

From a personal point of view it's been extremely useful because I have had opportunities to experience things I would have never have done in my normal day to day life. Things like attending the voluntary sector planning group, and the forum meetings. It has all been immensely useful.

So what has changed from your initial thoughts?

Everything. I have realised that although the challenges which the Partnership Council face are different to the Halifax it is still a very professional organisation, very dedicated and with very clear goals and objectives. There's a clear strategy and a clear outline to where the organisation is going. I've also learnt how the wider voluntary sector really works and what problems they have to face and the opportunities they have to offer.

How does a secondment into an environment like ours benefit a business?

The benefits are two fold. Firstly I think the experience and opportunities that have arisen from this secondment will benefit me in terms of my development within the company and, hopefully, the more I develop the more I add in terms of value to the Halifax. Secondly, I am able to go back and share the experience with colleagues, you talk about what you have found out, for example about the voluntary sector, the local community, and that can be very useful.

Obviously there's also the side which raises the Halifax's profile in terms of it actively trying to add something back to the community but the main point is that the secondment has been a win win situation. I feel happy that I haven't just come totally for my benefit but that by getting involved I've been able to add something to your organisation and that you have been able to get something from me. It's an ideal situation. ■

Photography Exhibition



'Postcards from the City' is a photographic exhibition of works by Rachel Prescott. Rachel has lived in the NG7 area for ten years and during this time has photographed much of the area and its residents.

The exhibition moves far away from the stereotyped ideas of 'landscapes' with an underpinning concentration on the Urban landscape embodied through images of decay and evidence of human life.

You can find this exhibition at

24th May - 6th June
The Vine Centre, Bobbersmill Road, Hyson Green.

7th - 16th June
Lenton & Radford Library, Lenton Boulevard, Radford.

Local views

A collection of water colour paintings of Victorian houses and buildings in Forest Fields, Hyson Green & Radford is currently on display at the Brewers Yard Museum on Castle Boulevard.

The work is by Anthony Meats who now lives in Buckinghamshire but was brought up in Forest Fields.

'Portrait of a Red Brick City' by Anthony Meats is at the **Brewhouse Yard Museum** until **May 31st**.



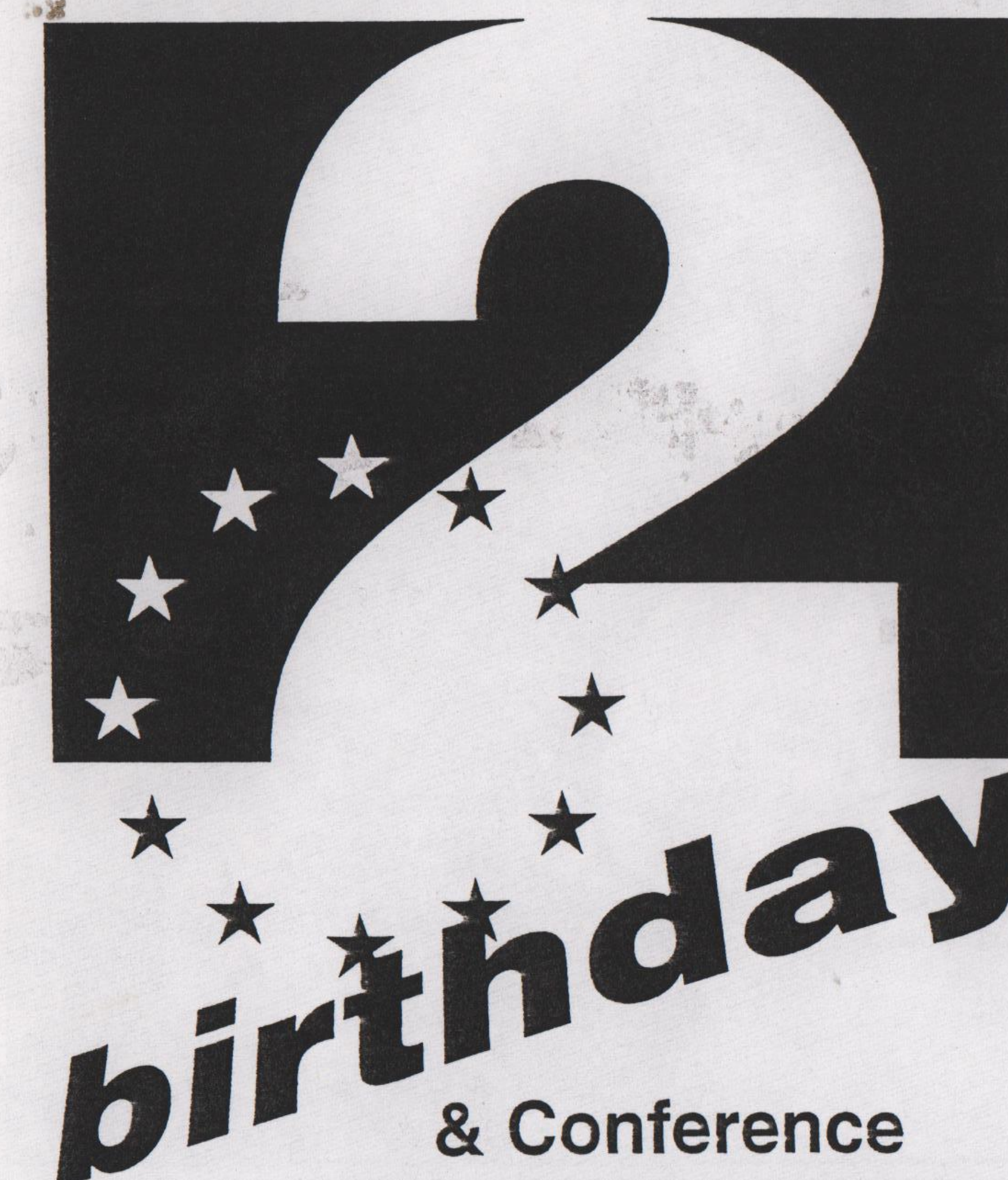
£8,000 Funding opportunities

April

Forum Members
mailout

A date for your diary

Saturday 17th July



& Conference
"Social Exclusion"
just another label?

We are celebrating the 2nd birthday of the URBAN Action Plan written together by local Residents, Businesses, Voluntary & Public Sector organisations and local Councillors.

The day will include stalls and displays, from organisations and groups working locally and info on the progress of the Partnership Council & URBAN Action Plan. The day will also have entertainment and activities for young and old alike.

The URBAN Action Plan has been at the forefront of our work up to now. Whilst it has brought many headaches it has also enabled us to prove that Residents, Businesses, Voluntary, Public Sector, and local Councillors can work together to agree a common agenda and develop projects to benefit the community.

In the afternoon there will be a major conference on the issue of **Social Exclusion**. Encouragement will be given to ensure local Residents and interested professionals can discuss the challenges faced by our community in a balanced way. One which acknowledges our strengths as well as our weaknesses. After the conference the Partnership Council will hold its formal AGM.

Then we will round off the day with a social in the evening with bar, food and local musicians.

The Vine Centre, Bobbersmill Rd, Hyson Green

We are looking for support for the event

We are looking for... **Sponsorship or financial support.** - For key elements of the day or the whole event.

Support in kind including. - Transport for moving equipment. A small bus or minibus to bring people to the event. Help with publicity material and printing, etc. Childrens entertainers. PA equipment, and staging. Internet access for the day. Donations for a BBQ, Creche support. Volunteers to help set up and guide people, and any help you think you might be able to suggest or give..

Stalls & displays etc. - Groups and organisations, involved with the Partnership Council, its Forums or URBAN who may like to have stalls and displays. Space will be limited and groups with displays will need to have people with the display throughout the morning. Some stalls will be available for groups or small businesses who wish to sell items.

If you can help please contact Joe Robinson on 970 8200

Open Day Success

Radford Resident Forum held an open day on Saturday April 10th. The day ran between 11am and 4pm at the John Carroll Community Centre and over a hundred people visited during the day.

The theme of the day was Radford, *Past, Present and Future* and a 'memories group' attended with some fascinating photographs of old Radford. A 'wishing wall' encouraged

people to write down ideas for changes they would like to see in the area on paper bricks and to build an imaginary wall, and someone was there to talk about New Deal for Communities.

The day also saw the beginning of a new 'Rubbish Art' project which has come from an idea by Phil Matias (local street cleanser) who through the Partnership Council is now developing an anti litter project. On the day Phil and his assistants helped make objects and structures from thrown away materials.

Some of the younger people attending the open day



Small Ads.

The Partnership Council may potentially be looking to pay or commission one or more photographers to do a series of works or create a collection based on the local area over the next year. Anyone who might be interested should send their details, CV, whatever, in writing to Joe at the Partnership Council.

My favourite launderette

For those of you who have sat there for those many happy hours watching your clothes going round and round in a public laundry you may be interested to know it's been going on for 50 years! May 9th is the fiftieth anniversary of the first self service launderette opened in 1949 at Bayswater, London.

There are a number of Launderettes throughout the area all of which are used by a wide variety of people. So for those of you that use them, do a wash on May 9th and be part of a quiet but significant anniversary.

Small Ads.

Still looking for individuals who are able to do occasional paid audio typing work either at home or at our office. Those with appropriate skills should contact Joe Robinson at the Partnership Council on 970 8200.

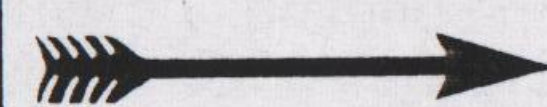
Personnel & Finance skills ?

The Partnership Council is seeking additional members for its Personnel and Finance Sub-Groups. Both groups meet once a month during the daytime and are responsible for advising the PC Co-ordinator on policy and operational issues.

We are looking for volunteers from any of the Forums who want to develop their skills and who would be willing to contribute their knowledge and experience to work on either of the groups. If you are interested or want more info contact Christina at the office . 970 8200

Joke Business Card

To amuse and impress your friends. Simply cut out and use. Next month Maid Marian.



Robin Hood

Archer, Merry Man & Outlaw

The Oak Tree
Sherwood Forest
Nottinghamshire



Funding Opportunities

The Partnership Council is inviting **expressions of interest** for the following service to be provided in the communities of Radford, Hyson Green, Forest Fields and New Basford. -

"Comedy/performance work"

To create a project which focuses on comedy / performance with the key elements of changing perceptions about local people and the area, encouraging personal development and creating partnerships between professionals and local people.

We are looking to develop innovative project ideas and will be completely open to suggestions and involvement with no limits on scale, style or method except to say it should involve and have wide appeal to the people of the area. The development of this project will follow this process:

1. Invite expressions of interest.
2. To invite those who have expressed an interest to discuss possible project developments.
3. A project would be designed and agreed (and passed via the Partnership Council).
4. **The project would then be advertised only to those organisation/s who originally expressed an interest at this initial stage.** (Dependent on interest it may be granted as a service level agreement.)

The URBAN contribution to this work would be a maximum £8,000 which is envisaged to be 47% of the project costs.

- Groups, organisations, etc who may be interested in delivering this service are asked to express their interest in writing (including an A4 Stamped address envelope) to Comedy Performance Project, Partnership Council, 47 Gregory Blvd, Hyson Green, Nottingham, NG7 5JA. For further info contact 0115 . 970 8200.

Deadline for expressions of interest is 5.30pm Monday 24th May 1999.

Deadline 24th May 1999

"Laughter is not primarily about humour but about social relationships. Laughter is instinctive, designed to help us co-operate socially".

Horizon . BBC Television

Do you love Radford, or Hyson Green, Forest Fields or New Basford... or do you think they are ****?

You may not be able to think of an expletive for this title but it is still a fact that while some people are proud of living in our local communities and having their business or work place here, there are many who are nothing but cynics. Those people who just talk about the problems, the bad things, the things that will "never change".

Okay, now if we are honest about it, the fact is we live and work in an area which has both serious social and economic problems, but... we also live in an area which has a strong, vibrant and cosmopolitan community, has hundreds of thriving community groups and small and medium sized businesses. An area which, even though it faced all the challenges thrown at it, still survives and grows. Although cynicism is understandable we also know that there are lots of people who like living here and even say that they 'love their community'.

So what's this all about?

Well as you may have previously read the Partnership Council is funding a Marketing Plan for the area - an idea, which came from the Action Plan written by local people. The idea is to try and promote the area and its strengths, to both counter the negative image it has, and to encourage people and businesses to invest here.

We are just about to start this process with the help of a professional team who have been interviewed and chosen by one of the Partnership Council Working Groups. When things get going we want to try and involve local people who have good ideas.

So do you like your community? Have you got ideas about how we could promote the area, what strengths it has, how we can build a vision which local people will own and that everyone can use to sell our area! **If you have any of this then we want you involved.**

We want residents, businesses, voluntary and public sector people who are interested and can spare just a little or a lot of time. Once the plan is written we are intending to invest £150,000 in carrying it out. So to ensure its success we need you to get involved. Contact Joe at the Partnership Council office.

Voluntary Sector

The Voluntary Sector Forum will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 8th June, 10am - 2.00pm, at Tennyson Hall Youth and Community Centre on Forest Road.

There will be a number of workshops including 'Working with the Media' and latest discussion on New Deal for Communities. Buffet lunch will be available and those attending should contact Martin or Shirley Anne at the Partnership office.