

## Newsletter 06

STOP PRESS.....£6251 Big Lottery Fund grant award

This great news from BLF means that we've raised enough to apply for another 28-day restricted service Ofcom broadcast licence on FM.

Group management committee members will be discussing potential dates for our second broadcast which we hope will be even better than the very successful RSL in March last year.

To date we have raised over £36,000 to develop the project....much of which was spent on the first broadcast and converting 90a Front Street East, Bedlington into a professional grade radio studio.

The £6251 adds to recent grants from West Bedlington Town Council (£1000), Northumbria Police (£500), The Sir James Knott Trust (£3000), the Co-op Community Fund (£1000) Blyth Town Council Community Chest (£500) and an anonymous donation of £250 from an ex-Bedlingtonian listener now living overseas. We've also had a promise of £250 from RES UK Ltd who are planning the North Blyth Biomass project.



SNRG chairman Colin Heathcote receives £1000 cheque from Olga Potts representing the Co-op Community Fund

### FIVE YEAR LICENCE

The management committee has worked long and hard to complete the exhaustive Ofcom five-year licence application form for Synergy – it runs to more than 30 pages – which was submitted on deadline day, January 29. A decision regarding the awarding of a full-time licence is expected to be announced by Ofcom this autumn.

### SUPPORT

Town and parish councils and the county council have sent letters of support as have many organisations such as the Bedlington Forum, the Samaritans, Salvation Army, British Red Cross, Wansbeck Centre for Voluntary Service, Northumberland fostering and adoption service, Friends of Gallagher Park, Age UK, Carers Northumberland, and Skills North East.

In addition we've had messages of support from Alan Shearer, former local author Paul Mann (now living in the USA), MPs Ronnie Campbell (Blyth Valley) and Ian Lavery (Wansbeck), the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, Blyth Spartans, Ashington FC and Bedlington Terriers, and Sir John Hall who is currently chairing a committee which aims to breathe new life into Ashington town centre.

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Synergy supporter Alan Shearer



#### VOLUNTEERS

We hope we can count on your continued support for what we are trying to achieve and look forward to contacting you again in the near future to invite you to again get involved in what we believe is a very exciting project which will prove to be a great asset to the community.

We will continue to keep you up to date with messages on Facebook, Twitter, the Bedlington.co.uk and snrgroup.co.uk sites.

#### MEETINGS

Our group has met 99 times since the inaugural formal meeting in May 2008. And the management committee has been expanded to include new members Margaret Eagle Clark, a professional photographer who was our principal news and information gatherer during the first RSL and Brian Oliver, who chairs the Bedlington Forum. Brian was one of the small but enthusiastic band of people who devoted many hours of their own time to help build the Synergy studio.

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