

## February / March 2008

### Release... Severn Trent Fund

Hello my name is Annetta Smith and I am the Senior Money Advisor for Release (Financial) Charitable Trust. Following a successful bid for funding from the Severn Trent Trust Fund, I am able to help local people with water debts.



I developed an interest in money issues when I returned to the UK in 1994. Following a four year term

with Tearfund UK working in aid and development in Nepal Asia, I was shocked at the high level of debt in our country and I wanted to do something to offer workable solutions to people with debt needs.

I became a trainee advisor in 1999 at Derby Citizens Advice after my third child started school. Money advice training followed for two years.

I later moved on to other roles and projects in Derby that included setting up a money management and debt project, training volunteers. I eventually moved onto other bureaux in Burton and Uttoxeter East Staffordshire where I was employed as a money advisor, outreach worker and guidance tutor. I left the CAB in April 2007. *continued over...*

### Continued Release...

I joined Release (Financial) Charitable Trust in January 2007 as a volunteer money advisor. Using the experience I gained in the CAB I want to continue helping people with debt in South Normanton and Pinxton areas.

Release aims to help people to manage their finances and help with any debt issue. We have a number of volunteers in Release who are able to support clients in managing their money. Clients who are in debt are helped, supported and listened to without judgement.

The Severn Trent Trust Fund is a separate charity and is funded by Severn Trent Water. If you have a water debt with Severn Trent and have other debts too, you can contact me Annetta Smith at the Cyber Café on 01773 306289 or on my mobile on 07932 088331. All our services are free and confidential.

#### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HAVE BEEN AND GONE

With Christmas now over, however well intentioned we are, we have probably spent more than we wanted to, and the real 'cost' of it may be beginning to bite! You may be asking the question 'what should I do?' Money worries affect nearly all of us.

If you find that you are falling behind with your bills and worried about how to pay your debts, you are not alone, many people will be going through the same thing, and most of us just

put a brave face on things and 'muddle along'.

SO 'WHAT SHOULD I DO IF IT HAS ALL GONE WRONG?'

Don't ignore the problem; it won't go away and the longer you leave it, the worse it will get.

- Don't borrow money to pay off your debts without thinking carefully. Get advice first.
- Work out your personal budget to send to your creditors, when you tell them about your difficulties.
- Make sure you tackle your priority debts first, for example, debts which could mean losing your home or having your gas or electricity cut off.
- Contact everyone you owe money to and make arrangements to pay a reduced amount that you can afford on your credit debts.

**For more top tips, and free, confidential and non-judgemental advice on creating a budget and dealing with debts, contact RELEASE (Financial) Charitable Trust on 01773 306289 or 07854 296344. [www.releaseonline.org.uk](http://www.releaseonline.org.uk)**

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