

NEWS FROM HASTINGS VOLUNTARY ACTION

Thank You to our Members!

We have been carrying out our annual refresh of the voluntary and community organisations who are members of Hastings Voluntary Action over the past couple of months.

HVA's primary beneficiaries are our member organisations, and it is important for us to have a strong membership. Thank you to the 202 people so far who enabled their organisation to join or renew as a member of HVA for 2013.

Some of you will have encountered our new online system, which allows you to see the records that HVA holds on your organisation, and update your details straight onto our database. This development, led by HVA's Information Officer John Humphries, has made our membership renewal process significantly more efficient, and has allowed us to concentrate on other matters.

The next stage is for us to compile the latest edition of our Directory of Voluntary and Community Organisations using the information that you have provided. Feedback that we gathered in 2012 indicated that you still value a printed version, and so these will be available in April. We also have an online searchable database of local voluntary and community organisations on HVA's website which is constantly updated during the year as soon as we know any changes.

<http://digbig.com/5bhctc>

To check whether your organisation is a 2013 member of HVA, contact John Humphries on john@hvauk.org or 01424 444010.

Tough at the Top?

Chief Executives of local voluntary organisations are working in a complex and volatile environment with key policy changes and reductions in public spending. Things have never been tougher and the pressure on Chief Executives never greater.

Would you benefit from a structured opportunity to discuss with your peers key issues facing the Voluntary Sector and your organisation? If so we would be interested to hear from you.

HVA are considering the establishment of an Action Learning Set for Chief Executives of medium sized voluntary organisations to help them receive peer support in a confidential and positive environment.

If you are the head of a voluntary organisation, lead a team of staff and feel you would benefit from this please email steve@hvauk.org we are hoping to set up an introductory meeting if we receive sufficient interest.

If you want to know a little more about Action Learning Sets please click on the following link:

<http://digbig.com/5bhcsj>

Rate Relief

For several months HVA has been making voluntary sector organisations aware that Hastings Borough Council were reviewing their policy on rate relief for buildings that are owned or occupied by Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs). The proposals were published in late December, and HVA responded with views that had been expressed to us. Through this we saw changes in the policy around charity shops and how organisations will be judged whether they met HBC's priorities.

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Editorial dates:

Next copy deadline – 22nd April

Paid attachments deadline – 29th April

Copy to: John Humphries

Email: infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org

Newsletter Distribution dates:

Email distribution – 30th April

Postal distribution – 3rd May

Hastings Voluntary Action Website:

www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org

The new policy is complex, and means that depending on the purpose of the building, from April 2013 Charities and CASCs may get 100% rate relief or may have to pay 10%, 20%, 50% or 100%.

The proposed policy can be found on HBC's website at: <http://digbig.com/5bhctd>

and the minutes of the meeting are at:

<http://digbig.com/5bhcte>

For information about rate relief contact Steve Manwaring at steve@hvauk.org or 01424 444010.

Healthwatch East Sussex Partner Framework

East Sussex Community Voice is a new independent community interest company (a social enterprise) acting for the benefit of the community. This company will be the primary vehicle to deliver the functions of Healthwatch East Sussex

As Healthwatch East Sussex is nearing launch, an event is being held on the afternoon of Friday 15 March at the International Lawn Tennis Centre (Hardwick Suite), Eastbourne. The event is to launch the Partner Framework Agreement for Healthwatch East Sussex, to talk through how you can become involved and answer any questions you may have. Spaces are limited, with further details available from

polly.pomfrey@eastsussex.gov.uk

Peter Thorpe from HVA is looking at running a briefing session on the Partner Framework on Friday 12 April. If you are interested in attending this contact peter@hvauk.org or phone 01424 444010.

Volunteer Co-ordinators' Forum Event

The March event will be on the 19th March, 10am – 12 midday, at Hastings Voluntary Action, Jackson Hall, Portland Place.

This months topic is **"Promoting your volunteering opportunities on the website, do-it.org"**.

Among items discussed will be how the process works and how to present your organisation and its' voluntary opportunities to attract a high number of suitable applicants.

Peter Thorpe, from HVA, will also be attending to consult with attendees to establish what services they value from the Volunteer Centre East Sussex (VCES), and if there are any other services they would like to see provided in the future.

To find out more or to book a place please contact Su Reece, Volunteering Support Officer for Hastings & Rother, on 01424 220769 / 0753 8780776 or email: susan.reece@vces.org.uk

East Sussex Largest Voluntary and Community Sector Conference

The fifth annual Big Event Conference and Advice Fair takes place on 17 April at the International Lawn Tennis Club in Eastbourne.

There are a limited number of places and the bookings are coming thick and fast, so please make sure you reserve your place.



This year the theme is **"Communicating and Influencing Effectively"** and will try to help groups explore how we can better influence commissioners, design of local services and policies. Programme includes panel debate with the commissioners, the Advice Fair, networking time and a choice of great masterclasses.

There is a range of organisations from across the county already booked to take part with a large number of delegates from the Boards of Trustees, CEOs and senior staff. We also have a number of key partners from the public sector attending.

The event is free but booking is essential, visit:

www.speakupforum.org.uk or call SpeakUp on 01323 727872.

Community Safety that Matters – 26th March 2013

Sussex Safer Future Communities is running Networking & Learning events to give you a chance to meet the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne, East Sussex Community Safety Partnership and other voluntary sector organisations working in this field.

We will also offer free training sessions on “Funding & Commissioning” and “Impact Assessment of Volunteers”. The East Sussex event takes place on Tuesday, 26th March at WRVS in Eastbourne.

The event is free as well as the training sessions, but you need to book – on-line booking and more info available using the following link:

<http://digbig.com/5bhscsp>

If you have any questions please contact Anke Thurm – e-mail: anke.speakup@3va.org.uk or ring 01323 727 872.

Looking for a Meeting Room?

Come to HVA!

Our town centre meeting rooms are still at inflation-busting 2011 prices, with spaces to suit 2 to 30 people.

Hot drinks are included in the prices, as is equipment such as a digital projector or a flipchart. We also have free wifi in the main meeting room, and we can arrange catering or minute-taking on request.

For more details contact 01424 444010 or visit www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/rooms

Business Support

Could you use some help? We are looking for community and voluntary groups who would welcome some support with, for example, things like business planning or marketing, free of charge from local businesses.

If you are interested please get in touch with Jan Cutting.

Email: jan.cutting@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk

This is part of the TIES project, involving RVA, HVA, 3VA and AirS.

Calling All Social Enterprises

Hastings Voluntary Action, in collaboration with Let’s Do Business have received some funding from Hastings Borough Council to support our work in 2013/2014 with Social Enterprises.

We are keen to hear from local groups who regard themselves as social enterprise so that we can discuss

with you how best to offer support.

Please email your details to steve@hvauk.org to register for this service.

Legal Update – Charitable Incorporated Organisations

Some 6 years after it was originally planned it is now possible to register as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This is subject to a phased implementation programme which is as follows:-

Wholly new CIOs with cash and assets of over £15,000 can apply now

Conversion of non-corporate Charities with an income of over £25,000 applies from 1 March

Wholly new CIOs with cash and assets of less than £5,000 can apply from January 2014

It should be noted that conversion of charitable companies, CICs and Industrial provident societies is not yet possible but will become so during 2014.

For further queries please contact Pat Weaver at HVA.

Welfare Benefit Changes Pages

New welfare reform pages are on the East Sussex County Council website and are now available to the public at:

<http://digbig.com/5bhscsk>

The website has up to date information on all the benefit changes under the 2012 Welfare Reform Act. It is the place to go to find all the briefings issued so far, a detailed report on the impact of welfare reform for East Sussex and links to other useful national and local sites.

HVA have been participating in local discussions about the impact of the new changes and how best to publicise them to those who are going to be most affected.

Regular updates will be included in Hastings Community News.

NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

Stade Hall and Open Space

Stade Hall and the Stade Open Space have quickly become a focal point for cultural, artistic, and community events.

The last 12 months have seen the ‘Stade Saturdays’, the Olympic Torch, exhibitions and events. A group of local residents and community organisations known as the Stade Advisory Group have been meeting to work with the Council and other organisations to advise and input to future plans and

the running of the facility. The group are keen that its work is informed by a variety of different perspectives and are inviting expressions of interest from individuals to join the group which meets monthly. The group are particularly keen to hear from individuals with a background or experience in education or learning. If you are interested or would like to know more please contact Yasmin Ornsby

01424 722322 hfps@btconnect.com

Change4Life

Residents of Hastings and St Leonards will be invited to get to know their food on Saturday 16th March when the Change4Life Be Food Smart Roadshow comes to town. The free road show, which will be in Wellington Place in Hastings town centre from 10am – 4pm, will show families that simple and healthy food can be created easily and tastes great.

Bringing with it cookery demonstrations, interactive supermarket and kitchen zones and fun games, the event will show, in a colourful and engaging way, that being healthy can be also be fun. The local NHS Health Trainer Team will also be attending the event, giving people more information on the support that is available locally if they wish to live a healthier life.

Change4Life online: <http://digbig.com/5bhctf>

Hastings Local Plan – Consultation

The Plan that identifies sites for development and provides specific policies to be used in the determination of planning applications is nearing completion. The final stage of public consultation on the Development Management Plan commenced on 21 January and will run until 15 April 2013.

This stage is different to past consultations and is only concerned with two questions:

- 1) Has the Development Management Plan been prepared in accordance with legal requirements?
- 2) Is it legally sound?

We would like as many people to get involved as possible, and to assist local community groups and individuals we are holding drop in surgeries to explain more about the process, "legal compliance", "tests of soundness", and to answer any queries.

As this is a formal stage of consultation, all responses need to be made on an official response form, or through our online consultation software.

All of the consultation documents are available online at: <http://digbig.com/5bhcsn> or alternatively, please contact Planning Policy on 01424 783319 for further details.

Charity Commission Returns

The Charity Commission have issued a new annual return for 2013 including new questions on whether a charity is registered for gift aid, owns or leases land /buildings and whether these are used for charitable purposes. Questions on volunteers which were optional are now mandatory and all annual returns must be submitted online.

NEWS FROM GROUPS

Successful AGM

Southwater Area Community Centre held its AGM on Monday, 21st January 2013 and was pleased to welcome three new volunteers to the committee, all who have experience working in and with the voluntary sector in the town.

The Committee would like to work in partnership with other community groups to maximise the use of the centre (opposite the north platform of Warrior Square Station). The centre was opened in 2002 and is a registered charity designed to serve the whole community. It provides meeting and training rooms, has its own café, full disabled access with a lift available to the first floor. For further information, including hiring rooms, please contact: Annie Hunter, the Centre Manager. 01424 461414

Email: support@southwatercentre.org

Volunteers Wanted

The West Hill & District Community Association is looking for new management committee members to help run the community centre – can you help? We are looking for volunteers who can bring new ideas for raising funds and generating income, and who are willing to help run and maintain the centre for the benefit of the local community. The association was formed in 1945 to serve the people of the West Hill of Hastings. We have a small, friendly and well maintained community centre used by a variety of groups, including a youth club, and by local people for parties. It is set in a beautiful location with a grassed area and car park, close to a multi-use games area; a play area with equipment for young people and adults is nearby. The community centre is easily accessible from central Hastings, the Old Town and from Ore Village. If you are interested please get in touch with the association's Chairman, Edwin Rew, at ecrhastings@aol.com for an initial chat and a look around the community centre. The centre is available for hire at reasonable rates. We have some vacancies during weekdays.

For bookings and enquiries please email: dave.hobden@btopenworld.com

Streetlink

Homeless Link has launched Streetlink to allow concerned members of the public to report rough sleepers and help them get access to the help they need. Since the widespread media attention at the launch, 10,000 people have contacted the service.
www.streetlink.org.uk

Electoral Registration

This year East Sussex County Council elections are being held on 2nd May. If you want to vote then you will need to be on the electoral register by noon on 17th April.

<http://digbig.com/5bhcth>

FUNDRAISING

Commissioning Grants Prospectus 2013

East Sussex County Council and the local NHS have published their 2013 Commissioning Grants Prospectus.

They would like to invest in the following outcomes:

- independent advocacy for vulnerable children
- Living Well and stroke services
- support for people with learning disabilities and autism
- improved wellbeing for people severely affected by anti-social behaviour and targeted harassment
- improving mental health through cultural activity
- Children's Centre services
- health improvement.

There will be a "Meet the Commissioners" event on 20 March for people to find out more information about this year's programme. More details can be found at: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/cgp

HVA will run a clinic on Wednesday 27 March to help small organisations with their CGP application.

To book an appointment contact Peter Thorpe on 01424 444010 or email peter@hvauk.org

Cautious Collection

The Charity Commission has just issued guidance on safer collections and fundraising for charities:

<http://digbig.com/5bhcsq>

Need Useful Statistics for Your Funding Bids

East Sussex in Figures ESIF is the local information system (LIS) for the county.

It's a website that provides access to essential data, information and analysis.

If you are preparing a funding proposal you will find ESIF a useful searchable resource. It also has up to the minute information as the latest information from the Census is released and can be accessed via resource you will find useful:

<http://digbig.com/5bhcsch>

If you need any help with finding suitable statistics contact Peter Thorpe (HVA) at peter@hvauk.org or 01424 444010.

Backing Britain's Charities

The Backing Britain's Charities campaign is promoting a new Give Guide which can be found at: <http://backbritainscharities.org.uk>

'a varied and innovative directory of the ways that people can help good causes. Many of which are somewhat unorthodox...

For example, have you ever considered micro-volunteering from your desk during lunchtime? Been sponsored to work out? Dined at a social enterprise restaurant? Would you give while you shop or consider a charitable wedding list? There is certainly plenty here to inspire the charitable-at-heart'.

TRAINING

What Training do You Need?

At HVA we are planning our training programme for 2013, and we are keen to hear what training you need to enable your organisation to thrive. Please let us know by completing this form:

<http://digbig.com/5bhctj>

We know that affordable training is important for many of our member organisations, and like most of you, HVA is under financial pressures as our grant funding decreases. We have secured funding through East Sussex County Council, local NHS and Hastings Borough Council to provide some free training to small grassroots organisations. However there may be some charges for larger organisations and non HVA members. If you have any questions about the training that HVA facilitates, contact Peter Thorpe at peter@hvauk.org or 01424 444010.

Social Media Training

Thursday 11th April – 9.00am-1.00pm (lunch provided) Fellowship of St Nicholas, 66 London Road, St Leonards, TN37 6AS. In partnership with Ian Noble, Business in the Community, we are offering community and voluntary groups free training in the use of social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and Linked-in. The training is being undertaken by Mark and Amanda Baldwin who run a successful social media business called Talkative on Line. If you are interested in attending please contact Jan Cutting jan.cutting@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk

Low Cost Training

Counselling Plus Community (formerly Hastings & Rother Counselling Service) is offering a programme of low-cost Personal Development courses in Hastings & Eastbourne designed for members of the caring professions.

Courses include: Working with children, Working with resistance, Personality disorders, Introduction to sex therapy, Anger, Therapeutic writing, Neuroscience, Happiness, Low self esteem, Sandtray work, LGBT clients

Counselling Plus also designs and delivers bespoke training for volunteers and staff for local charities. For further details call 01424 428300

Give and Gain Event

A date for your diary – Wednesday 15th May – 6 – 9pm Azur. Refreshments provided. An opportunity for community and voluntary groups and local businesses to get to know one another. So come along with an idea of what support you could use, free or at a reduced cost, from a business and what you could help a local business with. For more information please contact Jan Cutting, jan.cutting@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk (working on behalf of both HVA and RVA)

NEWS FROM STATUTORY SECTOR

Farewell to Jan and Jocelyn

As part of the changes within Hastings Borough Council two HBC officers Jocelyn Tilbrook and Jan Papworth will be leaving their posts over the next period. Members of HVA will be familiar with Jocelyn and Jan who we have worked closely with us to support the development of local community groups and networks, Area Coordination in specific parts of the Borough and the development of the Big Local project. Hastings Voluntary Action would like to record with thanks the contribution Jocelyn and Jan made over a long period and wish them well for the future.

SMALL ADS

Tutors Wanted

Pestalozzi is looking for volunteer academic tutors to assist our students with Economics and English Literature.

We would prefer tutors to have experience with the International Baccalaureate curriculum, but ability to tutor to at least A Level standard is a must.

Our unique two year scholarship programme in the UK offers academically bright, but economically disadvantaged 16-19 year old students from developing countries the chance to realise their potential.

Join us and help make a difference in the world!

Please contact Mags Alexander on 01424 871926 or mags.alexander@pestalozzi.org.uk

Day Centre Worker (Re-advertisement)

30.5hrs per week, £13,540

(SCP 16-19 £16,604 – 17,980 pro-rata)

Closing date for applications:

Wednesday 10 April 2013

Interviews: Wednesday 17 April 2013

More details at: <http://digbig.com/5bhctm>

For information and an application pack contact Mike Cornish or Sue Burgess at:

Seaview Project, Southwater Centre, Hatherley Road, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN37 6LB

Phone 01424 717981

Email: admin@seaviewproject.org.uk

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