

## NEWS FROM HASTINGS VOLUNTARY ACTION

### Ambrose O'Boyle

Everyone at HVA and the wider voluntary sector was saddened to hear of the death of Ambrose O'Boyle recently after a brief illness.

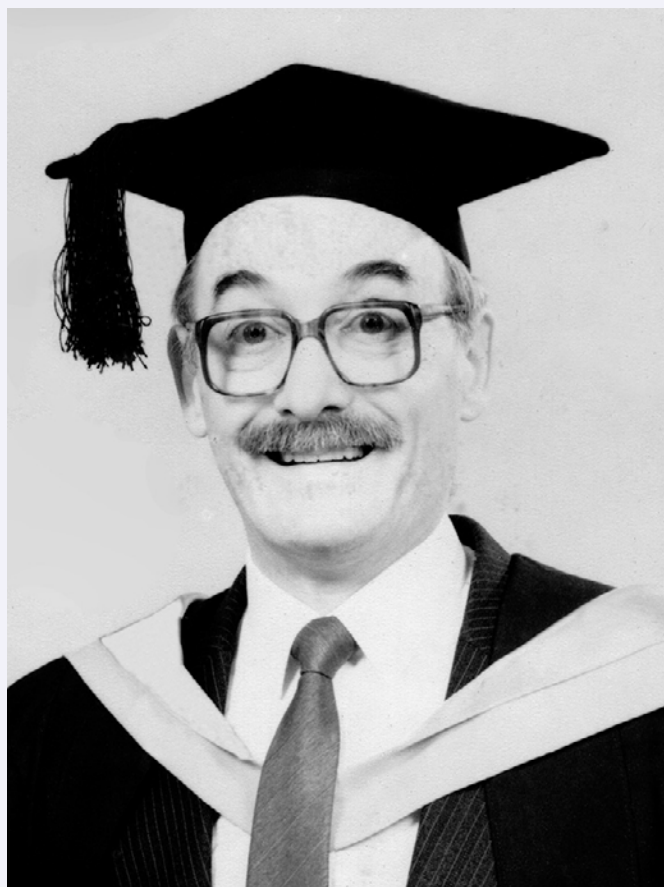
Ambrose was a real force for justice, equality and inclusion. A tireless advocate for LGBT rights and someone who had enormous experience in the field of health and social care.

He was an active member of the Hastings and Rother Rainbow Alliance and a longstanding member of the Health and Social Care Forum.

Our thoughts are with Ambrose's partner Les, his family and friends. He will be greatly missed but leaves a powerful legacy of work and activism.

Director of HVA – Steve Manwaring said:

"Ambrose was a tireless campaigner for justice and equality on behalf of the LGBT community. A man of integrity with many interests who will be remembered for his compassion, commitment, kindness, determination and humour. He will be much missed by us all".



### Land, Sea and Blue Sky Thinking!

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October

09.30am – 1.30pm

St. Mary in the Castle, Hastings

We hope that you will be able to come along to our next Hastings Community Network (HCN) event which will focus on ways to improve the local environment.

While we all want to protect and improve the quality of our environment – not to mention the quality of life we enjoy as inhabitants of a seaside town, an awareness of the social, economic and cultural

importance of sustaining and improving our local environment is vital for the future of the town. This event provides an opportunity to be informed about a number of important environmental issues & initiatives on the horizon plus a chance to share ideas, develop support networks and identify issues to take forward to strategic partnerships and policy making bodies.

We are delighted to welcome representatives from the following community projects:

#### *Clean Seas Please:*

is a project funded by the Environment Agency, (in partnership with Rother Voluntary Action) to raise

*Continues on page 2 →*

awareness within the communities of Hastings, Bexhill and Littlestone (Kent) of the changing standards for our sea bathing water quality being brought in by the European Union in 2015 and what we can all do to ensure that we meet the standard.

If we don't meet the standard we will see notices along the foreshore warning residents and visitors that the sea is not safe to bath or paddle in, which could have dire consequences for our tourist and fishing economy for years to come.

**The Hastings Greenway Project:**

Representatives from Hastings Urban Bikes (HUB) and the local Ramblers with Health Service input formed the Hastings Greenway Group in November 2012 to resurrect the drive to create the Greenway network.

This was actually designed in 2003 but very little progress was made in the ensuing years. The Hastings Greenway, which forms a largely traffic-free network of leisure, amenity and utility walking and safe cycling routes, which will also be accessible for people with disabilities, was widely publicised in the Hastings Observer in 2012 attracting support from many individuals and organisations. It would bring huge benefits for sustainable and cheap transport, health and fitness and social opportunities.

The planned routes run from the Town Centre to Ore, Silverhill, Hollington & Mayfield and the Conquest hospital.

The draft Hastings Local Plan includes a network of proposed cycle routes that mostly follow the alignment of the Greenway route and a Cycle & Walking Strategy is currently being drawn up by East Sussex County Council and Hastings Borough Council with HUB and Ramblers involvement.

**Hastings Environmental Network (HEN):**

An opportunity to hear from HEN about the work they do, explore the views of local groups and individuals on environmental issues and look at ways in which to engage interest and enable Community groups and individuals to pledge support.

Please book for this event. For further details and to book please click on this link:

[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/hcnevent](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/hcnevent)

The person to contact with any enquiries about the event is Carolyn Jackson:

[carolyn@hvauk.org](mailto:carolyn@hvauk.org) or tel 01424 444010

**Hastings FLAG**

Hastings Voluntary Action is a partner in the Hastings FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group).



Hastings FLAG project is moving fast and new projects are coming on stream rapidly and this one needs your help.

**HELP GET HASTINGS RECONNECTED**

Parrabbola, a cultural organisation that specializes in finding creative ways for people to discover the heritage of where they live, is developing a new project in Hastings. As well as working closely with the fishermen and fishing community, Parrabbola want to work with people who live away from the seashore, or who are new to the town, to reconnect them (and anyone else who wants to get involved) with Hastings' rich maritime and fishing heritage.

What comes out of this process will be a community performance developed by and with the people of Hastings, in which anyone can be involved, at any level, regardless of age or ability.

If you'd like to get involved in helping to support people to research Hastings' past, talk to people about their memories of the town, learn about family history, try out singing songs of the sea, learn about writing for the stage or fiction from historical sources, find out how the sea, fishing and boats have helped shaped the town throughout history, or share what you know already and support others to find out for themselves, get in touch. The project will be running (funding permitting!) from October this year until the final performances in Hastings Week in 2014, so there are plenty of opportunities to get involved along the way. We'd love to hear from you – the more the merrier!

Please email [nicky@parrabbola.co.uk](mailto:nicky@parrabbola.co.uk) for more information and an expression of interest form.

For more information on Hastings FLAG contact [hastingsflag@hvauk.org](mailto:hastingsflag@hvauk.org)



Supported by the European Fisheries Fund

## Clean Seas Please

The campaign is slowly building momentum with people liking our Facebook page and sharing with their friends.

This project, created by Hastings Voluntary Action, Rother Voluntary Action, and the Environment Agency, has received support from a wide range of partners including Hastings Borough Council, the Local Strategic Partnership, the Economic Partnership, General Dynamics, Hastings Community Network, Hastings Environment Network, the Old Town Preservation Society and over 200 local people from our community.

We have been out and about in the community, launching the campaign at St Leonards Festival and taking part in Pirate Day.

The postcard and sticker competition will be running until the end of December, have you got yours?

There are currently two stickers available – the third sticker will be released in September and it will be available at the Sea Angling Festival in Bexhill on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September and Rock a Nore market during Seafood and Wine festival, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September.

We are very excited to be partnering Hastings Borough Council and Sussex Wildlife Trust in organising a Beach Clean on Sunday 22nd September as part of the Marine Conservation Big Beach Weekend.

Keep checking our Facebook page:

*Cleanseasplease*

or our twitter feed:

*@Cleanseasplease*

for details of time, place and fun activities.

Also look out for the launch of the Yellow Fish campaign in October. Another sticker will be available then.

Lastly, working with Hastings Community Network, we will be taking part in the next HCN environment themed event on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October at St Mary in the Castle.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer for any of the above events please do let us know by contacting Jan Cutting

*jan.cutting@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk*

or phone 01424 217259, 07866 637574

## Consultation on Draft Southern Water Business Plan

This important consultation is now live until 22 September 2013.

The business plan sets out proposals for future services, which would cost in the region of £3 billion to deliver. These proposals include a range of promises about what will be achieved by Southern Water by 2020. Among these promises are the following, which focus on the areas where customers have said they want to make significant improvements:

- Providing customer service which is responsive and tailored to customers' individual needs, with 90 per cent of queries resolved the first time customers get in touch by 2020
- Achieving a 25 per cent reduction in sewer flooding inside homes and businesses by 2020
- Achieving a 15 per cent increase in the number of beaches with excellent bathing water quality in the region

HVA members will be aware of our interest in Hastings achieving the new EU Bathing Water standard in 2015. If you are making a response you may wish to advocate for Hastings to be among those beaches receiving infrastructure support to have excellent bathing water.

The Business Plan consultation document is available via our website:

*www.southernwater.co.uk/haveyoursay*

## Review of Day Services for Older People

East Sussex County Council are consulting on options some of the older people's day centre services run by the Council in East Sussex which are likely to have major implications for the following centres

- Isabel Blackman Centre, Hastings
- Orion Centre, Hailsham
- Phoenix Centre, Lewes
- Pinehill, Hastings

Hastings Voluntary Action have convened a meeting of local interest parties including carers groups, local Councillors, the Old Town Residents Association, the Hastings and St Leonards Seniors Forum and Age UK (East Sussex) to discuss the

*Continues on page 4 →*

consultation. The consultation closes on 14 October 2013 and will be of interest to all groups supporting Older People in the local area.

We are keen to ensure that as many of our members as possible know about this consultation and have an opportunity to respond.

Further details are available via

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

Speaking after the meeting HVA's Director Steve Manwaring said:

"We all appreciate the difficult financial decisions faced by Adult Social Care but cannot over-emphasise the importance of this consultation as it embraces options which could result in the closure or reduction of current services. We will be making our own response together with the Hastings Community Network but would urge all groups to brief themselves on this issue and respond to the consultation."

East Sussex County Council are also running a related consultation on dementia care services, with the same deadline of October 14th. They want views about their proposals for changes to the way long-term residential, respite and emergency care services are provided for people with dementia in the Hastings area.

Consultation website:

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

## Lobbying Bill – Will it affect Charities?

Since the Transparency of Lobbying Bill was introduced to Parliament before Summer Recess, most of the attention has been on the proposals to regulate lobbying and to set up a register of lobbyists. However within the detail of the bill which is a section which introduces new rules on 'non-party campaigning' during election time, which could be cause for concern for Charities.

Crucially, the bill introduces a definition of 'activities for election purposes' which is so broad and unclear that it could capture a range of the day-to-day activities charities carry out, entirely legitimately, as part of their campaigning and advocacy work. Furthermore, the limits of expenditure for carrying out such activities have been drastically reduced, in some cases by up to 70%.

Staff costs are to be included in these amounts, even though political parties are not expected to do the

same. Charities are already bound by charity law and therefore cannot be party political. But these changes would be likely to put the frighteners on charities that campaign on important issues and may want to use election time as an opportunity to raise awareness.

HVA have written to Hastings MP Amber Rudd asking for the provisions of the Bill to be reviewed very carefully as this legislation could have some unforeseen consequences for the legitimate role of charities to campaign on behalf of their beneficiaries.

For more information contact Steve Manwaring at HVA on 01424 444010 or email [steve@hvauk.org](mailto:steve@hvauk.org)

---

## NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

---

### Celebrating Community Transport

On behalf of the Community Transport Operators Forum we are pleased to announce that we will be holding a week of events across East Sussex to celebrate Community Transport starting on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September through to Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.

The event for Hastings will be on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 10am – 2.30pm in Queens Square, Priory Meadow.

Come along and find out about the services offered or how to volunteer for your local operators – Hastings Community Transport and the WRVS.

For more information please contact Jan Cutting – [jan.cutting@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk](mailto:jan.cutting@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk) or phone 01424 217259, 07866 637574

### Commissioners need more Awareness of Voluntary Sector

A new briefing from the Third Sector Research Centre backs up the view that GPs and commissioners need greater clarity about what the voluntary sector can offer for health and social care.

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

### Increasing Voluntary Sector Influence

NAVCA has developed a new training programme called Increasing Voluntary Sector Influence specifically designed for both new and experienced representatives.

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



**NEWS FROM GROUPS**

**Heritage Open Days**

Heritage Open Days is a national celebration of history that takes place in September every year. All over the country historic buildings and locations will be throwing open their doors and welcoming the public from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>. The scheme gives people the chance to see inside special places of historic interest that are usually closed or not well known. And best of all everything is free! For full details of the programme in this area go to [www.1066heritage.org](http://www.1066heritage.org) for the full programme

**Heritage Open Days (2)**

St. Leonard’s Parish Church TN38 OLU (the parish of St. Leonards-on-Sea, St. Leonard and St. Ethelburga will be open to welcome visitors on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September from 10.30am to 3.30pm. On offer will be a tour and talk about the church (and history of St. Leonards-on-Sea also), the chance to meet the Street Pastors, St. Leonards Writers, and buy at the Fairtrade stall. Listen to the organ during lunch.

Refreshments will be available all day and between 12.30 and 1.30 ploughmans' lunches will be available.

Please book for lunch – 01424 422189 or 719639.

There is disabled access. Limited on-street parking but a large car park opposite the church on the seafront. Literature in large print available on request and signing also bookable in advance.

**Craft, Hobbies and Health Fair**

Celebrate Older People’s Day at the Craft, Hobbies and Health Fair to be held by Hastings and St Leonards Seniors’ Forum at the Sussex Hall, White Rock Theatre, on Wednesday, September 25, from 10.30am-3pm. There’s free tea and coffee, entertainment by Zumba Gold and Bohemia Belly Dancers, and plenty of stalls, with many other attractions. Hastings Observer editor-in-chief Keith Ridley will open the event.

**Charities online – Final Reminder to Sign-up**

A new system for charities called Charities Online went live on 22 April 2013. The new online system

**Southwater Area Community Centre**

**You are invited to an Entertaining Open Evening at the Centre**

1 Stainsby Street, St. Leonards-on-Sea. Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013, 6pm-9pm.

Featuring an art exhibition titled “One Man on the Wall” by Nick Hill with guest artist Sue Wells and live music from singer/songwriter Rachel Wilson.

Information about hiring of the centre. Meet the committee and people who use the centre.

Free Admission & refreshments

For more information please contact Annie Hunter, Centre Manager Telephone: 01424 461414

E-mail: [support@southwatercentre.co.uk](mailto:support@southwatercentre.co.uk)



*From left to right. Artists: Sue Wells & Nick Hill. Singer: Rachel Wilson*

replaces the R68(i) Gift Aid and tax repayments claims form. Charities that submitted claims online are usually paid within three working days compared to 26 days using the old paper form.

From 30 September 2013, HMRC will stop accepting Gift Aid repayment claims on R68i forms and users will be required to use the Charities Online service to make claims. HMRC is currently writing to all charities who have claimed Gift Aid in the last three years to encourage them to sign up for the online service.

Charities Online introduced three new options for charities and CASCs to claim payments from HMRC.

- 1 Claim online
- 2 Claim using external software / own database
- 3 Claim using a paper form – for charities without access to the internet a new paper form called ChR1 is available replacing the R68(i) form.

(with thanks to Ashdown Hurrey for this article)

## FUNDRAISING

### (HBC) Community Partnership Fund Small Grants

Applications are invited for Hastings Borough Council's Community Partnership Fund Small Grants Round 13 2013-14.

A total of £10,000 is available in grants of up to £500 to support smaller voluntary and community groups in carrying out activities that enhance the quality of Hastings and St Leonards residents' lives and increase their involvement in the community.

Grants can be used to pay for things like new equipment, general running costs, repairs/refurbishment, transport, newsletters, or events.

The deadline for the first round is midday on Friday 13th September and applicants will be informed whether they have been successful in October.

*Continues on page 7 →*

## Africa Day Celebration in Hastings



*Members of the Sussex Police and UACH teams, with mascot Marguerite!*

Building upon the existing positive relationship between the police and local community groups in Hastings, the United African Community Hastings (UACH) football team played against a team from Sussex Police on 27 July at Horntye sports complex to celebrate Africa Day 2013.

You may be interested to know the score was 7-5 to the Sussex Police team but we were all winners because it was a great symbol of harmony and togetherness. The event was to promote cultural diversity, peace and safety for all. Thank you to all of you who took part to the event and helped organise it.

For further details, please contact Rene Tolno, UACH, on 07910 485975

For information about the grant programme please visit the HVA website or:

[www.hastings.gov.uk/cpfsmallgrants](http://www.hastings.gov.uk/cpfsmallgrants)

To request an application pack email

[CPFSmallGrants@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:CPFSmallGrants@hastings.gov.uk)

or for the pack to be sent by post telephone Cheryl Chitty on 451397. Applications and guidance are also available in large print.

## Funding for Young People

Sussex Community Foundation have recently secured a donation from the Blagrove Trust to fund grants for activities with young people. This follows their creation of a stream of funding for older people's projects earlier in the year.

This new funding is for charities which support children and young people (aged 0-25) to reach their full potential, including those with special needs or who are disabled and their families. SCF will be able to offer larger grants than they usually do, with grants of up to £25,000 available. There will be a two stage application process, and the deadline for applications will be 27 September, slightly earlier than their main deadline.

For an application form and guidance notes visit

[www.sussexgiving.org.uk](http://www.sussexgiving.org.uk)

or phone 01273 409440.

## East Sussex Youth Bank

The Youth Bank East Sussex Life More Ordinary Grant Scheme is open for grants between £300 and £4,500 for project that encourages organisations to include young disabled people in their activities alongside their non-disabled peers. Closing Date: 14 October 2013.

For more information email:

[tracey.johnson@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.johnson@eastsussex.gov.uk)

## Are you Interested in Providing Health Improvement Services?

The public health department is currently commissioning / re-commissioning services to support people to lead healthy lifestyles. Following a successful soft market testing event in August opportunities to provide these services are now being advertised on the South East Business Portal, this can be found at:

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

The services advertised are:

- Smoking cessation
- Weight management adults
- Weight management children
- Health Trainers

The deadline for return of tenders for lifestyle service is October 2013, with services expected to commence 1st April 2014.

In addition, information on the council's intention to procure alcohol IBA training and support is also advertised on the portal. The deadline for Expressions of Interest

Alcohol IBA is October 2013.

## Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Fund (IESD) 2014-15

The Department of Health has launched its Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Fund (IESD) for 2014-15. Between £5 and £6 million is expected to be available to organisations that work to improve the health and social care of people across England for funding up to three years. The deadline for Registration and Eligibility is 11 October 2013 (noon). The deadline for Online Applications is 25 October 2013 (noon).

Full details can be found at:

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

---

## TRAINING

---

### HVA's Training Programme

HVA are running several training sessions over the next few months aimed at volunteers, staff and trustees of voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises.

Topics include:

- Fundraising
- Training for Treasurers
- Public Speaking
- Child Protection.

For more details visit:

[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/training](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/training)

Pick up a flyer from HVA's reception, or phone 01424 444010.



## Learning and Skills within Community Organisations

As part of our input to the Hastings and Rother Learning and Skills Strategy we have been highlighting the challenges faced by many organisations accessing training and learning opportunities for their staff trustees and volunteers. We wanted to know more about this issue from the perspective of local organisations and have partnered with the University of Brighton who are undertaking a small piece of research with us. We would be pleased if you would consider completing a short on-line questionnaire which should take no more than 5 minutes provide further information to us. The questionnaire can be accessed via the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/bln7k76>

This questionnaire is important in helping us to argue the sectors needs and I would be pleased if you would participate in this initiative.

## NEWS FROM THE STATUTORY SECTOR

### Switched on Hastings – Save Money this Winter!

Hastings Borough Council is launching a new scheme that could help residents bring down their gas and electricity bills just in time for Winter!

‘Switched on Hastings’ brings together residents who are interested in finding the best price for their energy. Once a large enough number have registered their interest in the scheme, energy companies then bid their lowest tariff in an auction to gain the new customers. The lowest tariff wins the auction and is offered to the residents.

#### Can anyone register?

Yes, the auction covers customers paying dual fuel

or electricity only, paper billing or online billing and those on pre-payment meter. As long as you pay your own household gas or electricity bills for your property, you can register!

You will need a copy of your latest energy bill to hand so you can enter details online of your current tariff and energy usage. If you are on a prepayment meter, you will need to provide an estimate of how much you spend. This information will help determine how much you could save if you switched to the winning tariff.

If you’re not online, it’s still possible to register – see below for further information.

#### What happens after I register?

Two weeks after the auction date on October 16 2013, personal letters and emails will be sent to each registered resident explaining exactly how much they could save. There is no obligation to accept the offer and it’s completely up to residents if they make the final switch.

Once you’ve accepted your offer, your new energy company will contact you within several weeks to guide you through the process of switching energy suppliers.

#### Register now!

Registration for our new scheme is now open and runs until midnight on the October 15 2013 Whilst registration is easiest online, local residents who don’t have internet access can sign up at Community Contact Centre, Monday to Friday from 4.30 to 6pm. There will also be registration drop-ins at the Community Contact Centre, the Town Hall from 10.30am to 12.30pm on the following dates; 10th, 18th, 26th of September and 1st October 2013

Alternatively, you can call Hastings Borough Council on 01424 451055 for more information, or email [switchonhastings@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:switchonhastings@hastings.gov.uk)

Simply follow the link today to register your interest <http://digbig.com/5bhtqt>

#### Editorial dates:

Next copy deadline – 21st October

Paid attachments deadline – 28th October

Copy to: John Humphries

Email: [infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org](mailto:infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org)


#### Newsletter Distribution dates:

Email distribution – 29th October

Hastings Voluntary Action Website:

[www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org)

Disclaimer: Notice of publications, events and services in this newsletter and views expressed by the contributors does not necessarily carry endorsement by HVA or represent HVA's own views.

Published monthly by  **HVA**  
Hastings Voluntary Action

Web: [www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org](http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org)  
Email: [infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org](mailto:infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org)



Hastings Voluntary Action, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings TN34 1QN • Phone (01424) 444010 • Fax (01424) 432877  
Reg. Charity No. 802632 • Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm