

Welfare Reforms

At one of its best attended events over 60 groups attended the Hastings Community Network conference on the Welfare Reform changes.



The aim of the event was to ensure that groups were briefed on the changes and could begin to discuss how best to create a strong community network of support to those affected by them.

The event discussed a wide range of issues from access to affordable loans, food-banks, advice, energy costs, furniture and emergency items.

The report of the conference will be fed into a local group led by HBC which will be taking forward actions at a local level.

The event also welcomed the Community Organisers and heard about their work engaging with local people.

A report of the event will be available on HVA's website shortly.

Connect to HVA's website for regularly updated information:

www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org

With RSS feeds and Google calendar.

Job Vacancy at HVA

**Hastings Voluntary Action is recruiting a:
Community Engagement
and Representation Manager**

Do you:

- Understand the national and local policy agenda?
- Possess a real 'gift' for networking?
- Have the flair to organise events – large and small – which are meaningful, memorable and enjoyable?
- Work creatively in partnership with the public and private sector on issues of common interest?

If so please read on:

Hastings Community Network (HCN) is the predominant organisation to represent the voluntary and community sector "voice" on key strategic bodies in Hastings and across East Sussex, and enable groups to learn from each other and work together for the common good.

We are seeking a skilled, creative and effective person to coordinate Hastings Voluntary Action's community engagement and representation activity as well as being a member of HVA's Senior Management Team with an opportunity to shape the future direction of the organisation.

To get an application form and recruitment pack, visit HVA's website:

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

or phone 01424 444010.

For an informal chat, contact:

Steve Manwaring (HVA Director):
on 01424 444010.

Sylvia Bennett

At the latest Hastings Community Network event, members of the network made a presentation to Sylvia Bennett to mark the end of her period of office as HCN Chair.

Speaking to the latest sector wide event HVA Director Steve Manwaring said:

"At a time of rapid change Sylvia has chaired the Community Network with huge commitment, energy and skills."

"She has played a key role such as Chair of the Towns Local Strategic Partnership and ensured that the Community Voice was always presented fairly and in an accountable way."

Everyone in the Network is grateful to Sylvia for the work she has done and wish her well in the future.



During the past year ...

HVA facilitated

29

free or low cost
training sessions

HVA handled

560

volunteering
enquiries

HVA provided
individual support to

170

voluntary and community
organisations

HVA created
or sustained

60 jobs

"Without the support of HVA we would not be still running".

HVA levered in over

£1,253,000

for the people
of Hastings
and the surrounding area

Benefit Awareness Campaign and turn2us event

Free training in Eastbourne

Turn2us www.turn2us.org.uk

is inviting front-line workers and volunteers who are familiar with using the internet to attend a free training workshop. This will enable you to understand how to use the Turn2us tools and services to support clients in financial need.

Date and times:

24th June, 10am-12.30pm: Workshop 1 Morning only, 'Maximising Income workshop – Benefits and Grants'

1.30-4pm: Workshop 2 Afternoon only, 'Grants Searching and financial resources for individuals'

Venue: East Sussex Disability Association, 1 Faraday Close, Eastbourne

To register your interest, or for more information email Megan Wheatley, training coordinator at training@turn2us.org.uk

During April, Turn2us has been running its third annual Benefits Awareness Month to raise awareness of the upcoming changes and encourage people to manage their benefits.

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

Give and Gain Event

Wednesday 15th May, 6 – 8.30pm
Azur Marina St Leonards

A free fun event, for voluntary and community groups and local businesses to meet together. What skills or support could your group benefit from and what could you do to support your local businesses Refreshments and light buffet. Arranged in partnership with Business in the Community and sponsored by Azur.

For more information or to book a place contact Jan Cutting:
jan.cutting@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk
or 01424 217259

New Payroll Service

In response to the introduction of HMRC's Real Time Information (RTI) reporting in respect of payroll, HVA has set up a new Payroll Service to

relieve member groups of the burden imposed by the new rules.

This is part of the Community Accountancy Service in partnership with RVA and 3VA. If your group employs even one person, compliance is mandatory, so please check out the link at www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/payroll

FLAG Programme Animator Post



Hastings Fisheries Local Action Group

£24,000 per annum – 18 month contract, full-time post

Hastings FLAG has been allocated just under a £1 million from the European Fisheries Fund which is targeted at making the local Hastings fishing industry and associated community more sustainable – this is an exciting opportunity to work with the local fishing industry, local businesses and community groups to develop and bring forward already identified and new projects.

This post will appeal to individuals who are self-motivated, with a strong desire to get things done and to make a difference.

Good communication, project management and business analyst skills essential

For an information pack contact Lara Bolch on lbolch@hastings.gov.uk or call 01424 451781.

The application closing date is Mon 13th May and interviews will be held on Thurs 16th May 2013.

This post will be hosted by Hastings Voluntary Action



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

NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

Celebrate Learning At Work

Thousands of organisations nationwide will celebrate National Adult Learners Week and National Learning at Work day during May, and in Sussex a programme of free events is scheduled.

The programme includes the Sussex Workplace Learning Awards, which recognise dedication to workplace learning on Thursday 23 May, and individuals and organisations are invited to enter and recognise their commitment to workplace learning (nominations close on 10 May).

More information about the awards and events going on in East Sussex during National Adult Learners Week is available through:

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

Community Matters

Community Matters have recently made some changes to their My Community Space website, their free premises resource.

They have also launched a new regular bulletin for building owners and prospective renters.

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

Acas Launches six Steps to Success for Small Firms

Small organizations who are thinking about taking on their first member of staff or who may have had a bumpy experience managing staff for the first time can now access new guidance launched by workplace experts, Acas.

The new free Step by Step guides:

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

will help small and medium sized businesses/ organizations get the best from their people and stay on the right side of the law.

They break down the most common employment issues into a series of practical steps that a manager or supervisor can pick up and put down as needed.

National Minimum Wage

The government has announced that it has accepted the independent Low Pay Commission's (LPC) recommendations for this year's adult and youth National Minimum Wage (NMW) rates.

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

NEWS FROM GROUPS

Walk for Childrens Hospice

Chestnut Tree House Childrens Hospice needs you! Male or Female Volunteers needed to help us keep our Female Midnight walkers safe on their 10 mile walk around Eastbourne Seafront and Sovereign harbour on Saturday 18 May 2013. Other volunteer roles are also available such as serving refreshments and registering the walkers as they arrive and finish this event.

Shifts available from between 8pm and 5am ! Please register to volunteer via our website:

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

or email Angie Bacon on:

fundraising-volunteers@stbh.org.uk

or call me on 01903 706326

Hastings Trust – Managed Wind Down

At a Board Meeting on Thursday 4th April 2013, the Trustees of Hastings Trust agreed to begin a managed wind down of the organisation.

Further details can be found on the Trust website at: <http://digbig.com/5bhgft>

FUNDRAISING

Foreshore Trust Small Grants

A new source of funding has been established by the Hastings & St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust (the Charity) for Community Groups in Hastings and St Leonards specifically to fund events on the Foreshore.

The Charity will be offering grants up to £2,000 to local organisations, with a total of £20,000 available in the first round of allocations.

In addition there will be a further round of the Foreshore Trust Small Grants fund. As in previous rounds the Charity will be offering grants of up to £5,000 to local charitable and voluntary community organisations, with a total of £50,000 available.

Information on how to apply for both programmes will be available via the HVA and HBC websites from Friday 3rd May 2013. The deadline for applications for both funds will be 12pm on Thursday 30th May 2013.

East Sussex Community Voice

This new organisation will deliver the Healthwatch functions in East Sussex. They have launched their Provider Framework and are seeking partners who support them in three service areas: evidence and insight analysis, community research and engagement, information and signposting.

The deadline has been extended to 31 May 2013. For a copy of the application form and guidelines please contact Jane Mepham at 3VA: jane.mepham@3va.org.uk

Hastings organisations can get support in completing their Provider Framework application from Peter Thorpe at HVA peter@hvauk.org

Do you run a Project in Central St Leonards?

Community First grants of up to £2500 are available for community activities that significantly benefit people in the Central St Leonards ward. For more information visit:

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

or phone Peter Thorpe on 01424 444010.

TRAINING

New HVA Training Programme Published

HVA are planning to run several training sessions over the next few months aimed at volunteers, staff and trustees of voluntary and community groups. Topics include fundraising, committee skills, powerpoint, first aid, using the web, training for treasurers, and the new legal structure Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

For more details visit:

www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/training

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

Finding the Funds training

Do you want more ideas about how you can get funding for your group, or improve the success rate of your funding applications?

The popular "Finding the Funds" training workshop will be held on

Tuesday 14 May, 9.30am – 12.30pm

or Wednesday 15 May, 6 – 8pm

at Hastings Voluntary Action, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN.

"Finding the Funds" is aimed at staff, volunteers or trustees of voluntary and community groups who are relatively new or who have little fundraising experience. It will be most relevant for small groups or projects looking for funding up to £10,000.

This training workshop will increase awareness of the range of funding sources available, look at how to complete a funding application, and help your group to plan ahead.

You can book a place online at HVA's website:

<http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/training>

Alternatively contact HVA's admin team on 01424 444010.

For further information about the training contact Peter Thorpe at HVA on 01424 444010 or email peter@hvauk.org

Let's Do Business Learning Lunches

Let's Do Business are recommencing their Learning Lunches in Hastings, including "Employment Legislation – how to avoid some of the common pitfalls" on 14 June.

Cost of £5 includes a light lunch. For more details of the programme of topics visit:

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

or phone Hazel Harper on 0844 415 2272.

3VA's Training Programme

3VA (our sister organisation covering Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden) also run a programme of training for voluntary and community groups.

Forthcoming training includes Child Protection awareness and Effective Volunteer Management. For more information visit www.3va.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE STATUTORY SECTOR

Learning Network Newsletter

Sussex Learning Network have just circulated the Spring edition of their newsletter (edition 13).

The contact to request this be sent to you is Adam Stewart email: a.m.stewart@brighton.ac.uk

Further information about Sussex Learning Network can be obtained by visiting:

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

Shaping Hastings – The Planning Strategy

Following the Hearing sessions as part of the Examination in Public, the Council is now proposing some "Main Modifications" to the Planning Strategy.

These are needed to ensure the Plan is found "Sound" and "Legally Compliant" and can proceed towards adoption. We are also considering the implications of the recent revocation of the South East Plan and the latest population projections.

It is important that local communities and other stakeholders are also given the opportunity to consider these changes and whether they have an impact on policies in the Planning Strategy.

We will therefore be undertaking further consultation during May/June 2013, where you can submit your comments to be passed onto the independent Planning Inspector.

Keep an eye out on our website for the exact dates, or register to receive direct updates via our newsletter at

fplanning@hastings.gov.uk

DBS Newsletter

The Disclosure and Barring Service (formally CRB Checking) have published their latest newsletter, which includes information on the 'portability' of checks.

Viewable as a PDF at:

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

Editorial dates:

Next copy deadline – 20th June

Paid attachments deadline – 27th June

Copy to: John Humphries

Email: infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org


Newsletter Distribution dates:

Email distribution – 28th June

Hastings Voluntary Action Website:

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

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