

NEWS FROM HASTINGS VOLUNTARY ACTION

Sussex Community Foundation

Some years ago HVA helped to develop the Sussex Community Foundation a body which has now distributed over £4m in grants and has built a permanent endowment fund of a further £4m.

Over £240,000 has been distributed to groups in Hastings.

The Foundation awards grants to community and voluntary groups whose work benefits people in Brighton and Hove and East and West Sussex.

SCF are particularly interested in supporting smaller community based groups where a small grant can make a significant difference.

The Foundation manages a range of funds on behalf of various donors which each have their own priorities and criteria.

The majority of grants are in the region of £1,000 to £5,000.

If you would like to apply for a grant please visit the SCF website at:

www.sussexgiving.org.uk

or contact the Foundation on 01273 409 440.

HVA Director Steve Manwaring will be running the 2013 Brighton Marathon to raise further funds for the Foundation.

If you would like to support his efforts please consider making a donation via:

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

Certificate in Volunteering – Qualification



The Mayor, Cllr Alan Roberts, invited five successful candidates to the Mayor's Parlour at Hastings Town Hall in July, to celebrate them passing the nationally recognised Community Volunteering Qualification (CVQ), known as the "Volunteering Passport".

The Mayor, and Steve Manwaring of Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA), acknowledged the hard work that had gone into the qualification, and congratulated all five for their achievements. They also paid tribute to the volunteers for the work they do in the community, adding that Hastings relies heavily on volunteers, without which many services would not be available.

Since the "Volunteering Passport" project started, HVA have supported over 140 volunteers to gain a formal qualification through their volunteering.

HVA are currently running the CVQ and there are places available on the course, it is free to people who are unemployed, claiming benefits and currently volunteering.

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Hastings Voluntary Action Website:

www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org

Participation is through a combination of one to one work and workshops, it takes around 6-8 months to complete, and is available at levels 1 and 2.

If the organisation you, or your organisation want to find out more about the Certificate in Volunteering Qualification you can visit our website:

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

and contact Ian Rabbett at HVA on 01424 444010 or by email: ian@hvauk.org

Next Community Network Event

The next Hastings Community Network event takes place on Thursday 11th October.

The first part of the event is a networking / information & discussion session. The second part of the event is dedicated to items on the Local Strategic Partnership Agenda. You can find out more details and now register to attend at:

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

Transforming Infrastructure in East Sussex

HVA is one of a number of East Sussex voluntary organisations working closely with VCS groups across the county to try and meet any unmet support needs and develop the capacity, efficiency and effectiveness of the sector. More details of this project can be found on our website at:

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

Volunteers are Key to the Success of London 2012

After 7 years since securing the bid, the 2012 London Olympics has been heralded a triumphant success, bringing a sense of pride and celebration to many people across the UK. And by the time you read this article the Paralympics will be well under way.

And one of the reasons for London 2012 being so successful, and acknowledged at the closing ceremony of the Olympics, were the thousands of volunteers, who made the organisation of the whole event look easy and enjoyable.

If you visited London at any point during the Olympics or Paralympics, you will undoubtedly have been greeted by a sea of eager volunteers in their distinctive uniforms, all keen to make sure everyone had the best possible experience, not only of the Games and of London, but welcoming the world to the UK.

70,000 "Games Maker" volunteers (including at least 30 from the Hastings area) staffed sporting venues, directed the lost and confused, tended to the

athletes and helped make the sport happen on the field of play. The first sound many people will have heard before they even arrived at a venue or Olympic Park was from the volunteers, cheering people on and lifting the mood. As many have commented, they were in fact quite un-British in their enthusiasm.

The Mayor of London recruited 8000 volunteer "Team London" Ambassadors who assisted and directed visitors and were based at transport hubs and other high visibility locations throughout London. In addition, there were 15000 volunteers in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics and Paralympics.

Games organisers LOCOG can't praise the volunteers enough, and there is a Twitter campaign to recognise their efforts under the hashtag: *#bigupthevolunteers*

The Chairman of the British Olympic Association, Colin Moynihan, has even called for the volunteers to be nominated for the BBC's Sports Personality Team of the Year award for the vital role they have played.

When this memorable sporting summer draws to a close, the legacy of the Olympics will no doubt be seen in our sports clubs and groups for many generations to come. But Team GB would be the first to say that they are backed by a huge team of supporters – they are the product of the hard work and dedication of hundreds of people.

Have you been inspired by London 2012? You don't have to be an athlete to get involved in your local sports club, and there are thousands of volunteering opportunities to suit people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities – whether you love sport or not.

To find out more about how volunteering could change your life and help you feel a part of something, why not contact Volunteer Centre East Sussex in Hastings and speak to Rose Austen on 01424 444010 or visit: www.do-it.org.uk

Similarly, contact us if you run a non-profit sports club or community group and are seeking volunteers.

Sarah Hodgetts and Peter Thorpe

Employment Update

If you employ staff it is important to keep your procedures and policies up to date and work towards achieving good practice. To help small employers with this ACAS have produced a Model Workplace assessment tool. It is a quick easy to use resource in which you can assess you current practice by answering a few questions and receive good practice tips and resources. The toolkit is free to use and can be accessed via:

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

Hastings Borough Council Small Grants

Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA) is administering Hastings Borough Council's Small Grants Fund in 2012/13.

A total of £9,000 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 Wednesday 26th September and applicants will be informed whether they have been successful by Friday 2nd November.

Application forms and guidance notes can be downloaded via the HVA website or telephone HVA on 01424 444010 to request a pack.

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

Free Meeting Room Space for New Groups

If you are a new group or in your first year of existence you may be eligible for free room hire at Jackson Hall. HVA have a small amount of funding to support organisations. If you think this applies to you please speak to a member of the HVA team when you book your room. There you are – something for nothing!

All the details of our meeting room hire are available on our website at:

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

NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

Chair Sought to Deliver Healthwatch

Could you lead a groundbreaking social enterprise that will put the voice of local people at the heart of public services in East Sussex?

We are looking for a dynamic Chair to lead the successful launch and ongoing work of an independent social enterprise (East Sussex Community Voice) which will be a powerful new consumer champion for public services, supporting local people to influence and make informed choices about services.

The social enterprise will deliver Healthwatch in East

Sussex, and will develop beyond Healthwatch functions in future.

Established as a Community Interest Company, the new social enterprise will work in partnership with the community and voluntary sector to gather views on all health and social care services. It will create a more holistic picture of health and social care across the county to inform and influence service development and quality.

As the commissioner of Healthwatch, East Sussex County Council is supporting the establishment of the social enterprise, which will be a fully independent organisation.

To fill this high profile role you will have Board level leadership experience in a voluntary sector, public sector or business environment, a passion for improving health and social care services and a genuine commitment to engaging all sections of the community.

Whilst predominantly a voluntary public service role, expenses will be paid and some remuneration may be available for the initial development period, reflecting the additional time commitment required.

Applications must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 19 September 2012, with interviews by an independent panel the week commencing 24 September 2012 in Lewes.

For an application pack and further information please visit East Sussex Strategic Partnership website:

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

For an informal discussion of the role please contact Paul Rideout, on 01273 482911, or email:

paul.rideout@eastsussex.gov.uk

This will play no part in the selection process.

Strategic Plan of Key Decisions

You can keep up to date with the bigger decisions of East Sussex County Council by looking at their 'Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

The latest one (covering September – December 2012) can be downloaded from their website at:

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

The 'Carers Strategy' is being considered on 17th September and The ESCC Statement of Community Involvement is being considered for formal adoption on 12th November.

Future key decisions of Hastings Borough Council can be found in the HBC Forward Plan viewable at:

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

NEWS FROM GROUPS

Hobbies, Craft & Health Fair

Hastings & St Leonards Seniors' Forum Quality of Life Group is planning a Hobbies, Craft & Health Fair at the White Rock Theatre in the Sussex Room on Wednesday 19th September between 10.30-3.00 at which there will be many stalls, demonstrations of flower arranging, Zumba Gold, Tai Chi, Allsorts Singers and a tombola.

Also, the Forum continue with their monthly free Coffee Morning at the Friends Meeting House, South Terrace, Hastings on the last Tuesday of the month (excl. January & December) between 10.30-midday which include various stalls. These give members (or prospective members) an opportunity to chat to various members of committees about current issues. The next one is Tuesday 28th August at which garden produce will be on sale.

AGM Friday 26th October at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Hastings Town Hall

The main committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings TN34 1QN Tel: 01424 444010 ext. 205

Membership is free, enquiries 01424 432295

The Forum deals with specific matters that concern older people. There are 5 interest Groups:

Transport, Health & Social Care, Crime & Safety, Quality of Life and Regeneration & Planning.

Website: www.hssf.org.uk/main.php

Directors & Committee Members

...required for Southwater Area Community Centre To join our existing team, to help us run & guide our thriving community centre. Based in St. Leonards-on-Sea, providing community space for local people. Our mandate is to bring together local inhabitants, authorities & voluntary groups in a common effort to improve the conditions of life. The centre supports: office space, art exhibitions, training programmes, yoga/meditation classes, amongst other events & functions.

This is a voluntary post with no huge time commitment, with a few tasks. Meetings are held just once a month. We are looking for people who wish to contribute their skills & knowledge, with enthusiasm to help reach the aims & objectives, for the centre to succeed. If you would like to be involved, or just want to find out more, please contact:

Annie Hunter, Centre Manager, 01424 461414, e-mail: support@southwatercentre.org

Premises Sought

Artbox-on-Sea is a new Art Psychotherapy service that promotes and supports emotional wellbeing of children, young people and their families. We provide a range of activities designed to benefit the health and wellbeing of the community through working with families in the Hastings and St. Leonards area who require therapeutic treatment and support to improve their mental health as well as improve family relationships.

We are urgently seeking a suitable home for our service in appropriate premises. These need to be located either in central Hastings or central St. Leonards, be easily accessible by public transport and ideally compliant with DDA access requirements. We are looking for two rooms that can be used as art based therapy rooms, plus a reception area and toilet facilities.

If you know of any premises, or if you are a voluntary / independent sector organisation that might be willing to share your premises, please get in touch with Sandie Bell on 077834997216 or email me at sandie@artbox-on-sea.org.uk

FUNDRAISING

Community Partnership Fund 2013-15

Hastings Borough Council have launched their Community Partnerships Funding for the next two years.

The thematic priorities are listed below, with the weighted priority outcomes in brackets:

- Job creation / Employment (Services that result in business start-up and job creation)
- Advice services (Services delivering financial, debt, welfare, legal, housing and general advice in response to demand)
- Safer communities (Support for victims of domestic violence, and support for rough sleepers)
- Active involvement of residents (Services that result in vulnerable or disadvantaged residents being able to access services and improve their quality of life)

Locally based non-profit making voluntary and community groups that work for the benefit of residents in Hastings and St. Leonards can submit Stage 1 applications by 5pm 14th September 2012. Eligible organisations that submit Stage 1 applications demonstrating the closest alignment with the Council's funding priorities will be invited

to develop full proposals depending on the level of funding requested.

Grants will be for two years, with both years subject to the Council's budget decisions in February 2013 and February 2014. The indicative budget is £329,000 in 2013/14 and £299,000 in 2014/15.

For an application form and guidance notes contact Karen Hopkins on 01424 451788 or e-mail: khopkins@hastings.gov.uk

Health Improvement Small Grants

The East Sussex Health Improvement Partnerships (HIMP) have funding available through their small grants programmes, to support organisations to improve health in their area.

Projects are expected to support people in East Sussex to lead healthier lives by:

- Reducing the number of people who smoke
- Increasing physical activity across the life course
- Reducing alcohol harm
- Reducing obesity and improving diet and nutrition
- Improving mental health
- Improving sexual health and reducing unintended conceptions
- Reducing accidents
- Preventing and reducing accidents for 0 – 4 year olds in Hastings

The funding round will be open until 30th November 2012. The funding panel will meet on 18th September 2012 and 17th December 2012. Full details are set out on the guidance notes section of the application form.

For further information visit:

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

Innovations Fund

The Innovations Fund is a limited pot of funding for specific outcomes where we would like to test out new ways to build the capacity of communities to support prevention, independence and wellbeing. The event is your chance to hear about the proposed outcomes with commissioners. These include:

- support for people with autism and their carers;
- support to aid recovery from mental health problems;
- prevention and reduction of accident injury in children;

- support to aid recovery from alcohol and drug dependency.

...and there may be other outcomes as well e.g. for older people and carers.

There is a briefing event on Thursday 20th September, 9-12 noon at Uckfield Civic Centre (postponed from the 6th September)

You can book a place at the event on the 20th September by clicking on the 'register' button at:

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

You can direct any queries about the Innovations Fund to Angela Yphantides on 01273 336 599 or email: angela.yphantides@eastsussex.gov.uk

TRAINING

HVA Training

We are in the process of planning several training sessions to take place over the next few months. Some of these sessions are publicised in this newsletter, and for all the latest details visit the training page on HVA's website:

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

Can we help you get Funding for Health?

Is your organisation interested in developing healthier and more active communities in Hastings and/or Rother?

The Big Lottery Fund is seeking more good quality Reaching Communities applications from Hastings and/or Rother. Reaching Communities makes grants of £10,000 to £500,000 for revenue projects and / or capital projects.

Further details about their grants can be found at:

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

In order to support voluntary and community organisations to develop evidence-based projects that aim to promote health and wellbeing, reduce health inequalities and encourage collaborative working between partners, Barbara Pratt (ESCC Public Health), Gina Sanderson (RVA) and Peter Thorpe (HVA) would like to invite you to a meeting to:

- Make sure you are aware of the Reaching Communities grants and the application process
- Find out about your potential applications and proposed projects

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- Link you up with potential partner organisations that might improve your chances of success
- Source relevant statistics and other data to demonstrate the need for your project
- Offer ways that we can support you to strengthen your funding applications

This meeting will be particularly focussed on Health Improvement activities, i.e.:

- Reducing the number of people who smoke
- Increasing physical activity across the life course
- Reducing alcohol harm
- Reducing obesity and improving diet and nutrition
- Improving mental health
- Improving sexual health and reducing unintended conceptions
- Reducing accidents

The meeting will take place on Tuesday 11 September 2012, 10am to midday at HVA, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN.

If you would like to attend, please register here:

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

Parliamentary Training for Voluntary and Community Groups and Their Representatives

21st September 9.30am – 1pm at HVA, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings


Facilitated by the Houses of Parliament Outreach Service this is an introductory training session for groups who want to learn more about how parliament works:

- the various committees and their functions,
- the role of private members bills,
- early day motions,
- adjournment debates,
- opposition day debates.

There are only 30 places available so please see the following link for more information and an online booking form:

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

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.

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Reg. Charity No. 802632 • Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm



Accounting – The Basics and the Dangers! (Free Seminar)

Local accountants Ashdown Hurrey are running a free morning seminar for organisations which are members of Hastings Voluntary Action or Rother Voluntary Action, to be held on Sept 26th between 10am & 12.30pm at HVA, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings.

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

South East Regional Volunteer Managers Conference

This year's event will be held on 5 December (International Volunteer's Day) at the Amex Stadium in Falmer. As well as excellent networking opportunities for not-for-profit groups across the South East, the event offers a series of hot topic workshops that helps to develop both paid and non-paid volunteer managers.

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

Free Action Research Seminar

'Systemic Action Research with Professor Danny Burns' – Tuesday 11th Sept, 12.30 – 1.30pm.

Room A500, Checkland Building, Falmer campus, University of Brighton.

For further details please see: <http://bit.ly/P2m8IU>

SMALL ADS

Community Support Worker – Job

Horizons Community Learning CIC wishes to recruit a part-time New Initiatives Community Support Worker to join an established adult community learning organisation in Hastings and St Leonards.

Contract: 6 months fixed-term contract commencing October 2012. Salary: £12.10 per hour, 15 hours per week. For an information pack and application form please email:

horizonscourseenquiries@gmail.com

Closing date for applications: 21st September 2012. Interview date: Thursday 27th September 2012