

Save The Date, HVA AGM: Thursday 29 November!

We are planning to hold Hastings Voluntary Action's AGM & Conference on Thursday 29th November 2012, and you are welcome to attend. It will be held at the Christ Church Parish Centre and the Magnet Centre, London Road, St Leonards on Sea, TN37 6GL, with the AGM taking place between 9.30am and 10.15am, and the Conference finishing at approximately 12.30pm.

The theme this year is "Stronger Together". At a time when voluntary and community organisations are facing many challenges, funding is scarce and infrastructure services are stretched to the limit, HVA's 2012 Conference examines how the sector itself can provide its own solutions to many of these problems. It will focus on the "social capital" potential of having so many local community organisations and how we can share resources, learning, contacts and experience at such a crucial time. It seeks to address questions like:-

- How can we use our networks to offer genuine benefits to local groups and build worthwhile relationships between organisations?
- What kind of links and partnerships are needed between VCOs in this new environment?
- How can HVA enable community leaders to share experience, learn from each other and have genuine influence?
- What support would local groups need if they wish to share resources, space or services with others?
- How can we build on the massive network of community intelligence and contact with service users we have to ensure that responses to consultation exercises are comprehensive and meaningful?

We are pleased to announce that the guest speaker will be Kathy Atkinson, the Chief Executive of RAISE. RAISE aims to inform and involve voluntary and community organisations, enabling them to influence the wellbeing of local communities in the

South East. There will also be a choice of workshops, looking at issues including purposeful networking, learning and funding.

Formal notification will be sent to HVA members shortly, but if you would like to attend HVA's AGM and Conference, please book your place here ...

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

Do you Want to Play a key Role in HVA's Future?

As a charitable company, HVA is governed by a group of trustees, who bring a range of skills and expertise to HVA.

There are a few vacancies on the committee, and we are keen for there to be a range of our member organisations represented. To find out more about becoming a trustee of Hastings Voluntary Action, contact Steve Manwaring on 01424 444010 or email steve@hvauk.org

Share Your Photos

As in previous years, we are seeking photos that show the breadth of activity across the voluntary and community sector in Hastings. These could be used in HVA's Annual Report or as part of our AGM presentations or other ways that we promote what we do.

Please send any photos you would like to share to peter@hvauk.org by 12 November, together with confirmation that anyone in the photos has given their consent for the photo to be used in this way.

What do you Think of HVA?

We always welcome feedback from people who have benefited from our services, but we are particularly looking for quotes that we can use in HVA's Annual Report or as part of our AGM presentations or other ways that we promote what we do. Have you appreciated some support that you have received from HVA recently?

Contact peter@hvauk.org by 12 November.

Volunteering Support Services in Hastings Face an Uncertain Future

For many years HVA has run a volunteer recruitment service in Hastings, connecting potential volunteers with organisations that need volunteers, and helping organisations to improve how they recruit and retain volunteers.

The level of demand for this service is unprecedented and in 2011/12 HVA handled 755 registered volunteering enquiries, and worked with a wide variety of volunteer involving organisations. Unfortunately, not only is the funding for HVA's service in jeopardy, but also are the other volunteer support services that operate in Hastings.

While all are hopeful that continuation funding can be secured, as this edition goes to press we are in a position where there may be a significantly reduced volunteer recruitment, brokerage and placement service in Hastings.

HVA are seeking solutions, and on behalf of the sector are making representations to Hastings Borough Council inviting them to look at the implications of losing these services. We wanted to let our members know about this as early as we could.

We will follow up this article to keep you updated on any developments but if you wanted further information contact Steve Manwaring on 01424 444010 or email steve@hvauk.org

We also welcome your feedback about whether you value HVA's volunteering service.

Hastings Council Budget

For the financial year starting on 01 April 2013 the full impact of the government's 50% reduction in grant to Hastings Borough Council will come into force and the Council are looking at a shortfall of £2.5 million in its budget for 2013-14.

A consultation exercise called "Another Conversation" is now open enabling residents to comment on the Council's priorities and areas of service. THE RESULTS OF THIS EXERCISE COULD HAVE MAJOR IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN HASTINGS.

When Hastings Borough Council did a similar consultation in 2010, several council services/ areas that affect the voluntary and community sector in Hastings were ranked low.

For example "financial support for voluntary and community groups" was ranked 26th out of 33 options, "support community groups" was ranked 30th, and "subsidise charities and sports clubs by paying part of their property rates" was ranked

lowest out of 33 services.

Hastings Voluntary Action are keen to ensure that as many people as possible contribute to this exercise so that Hastings Borough Council receive a good response informed by all parts of the community and all sectors. To this end we encourage you to:

- Respond to the consultation or complete the online survey
- Raise this consultation at meetings of your committee and promote the survey to your service users or members
- Ensure that the importance of the voluntary sector is made clear to the Council.

Whether it its funding, rate relief, HBC staff time, or other forms of support, we think it is vital that Hastings Borough Council's decisions on its budget take place against a backdrop of a well informed consultation process.

Please fill in the survey at the attached link:

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

Hastings Borough Council's consultation will close on 30th November 2012.

As well as completing HBC's survey, you are welcome to share your thoughts with us so that HVA can gain a better understanding of the views within the voluntary and community sector – contact Fran Mckeown on fran@hvauk.org or 01424 444010.

Getting Your Message Across

Would you like to get more free publicity for your organisation or group, identify the important parts of a story for newspapers, radio or regional TV, explore what makes a good picture for publication, learn how to write a press release, or develop ideas and practical skills for making leaflets?

Hastings Voluntary Action is running a free half day introductory course on 13 November 2012 for staff, volunteers or management committee members of organisations.

Further details at: <http://digbig.com/5bgqrc>

South East Regional Volunteer Managers' Conference 2012 – Date Announced

Volunteer Centres East Sussex (VCES) are supporting the next South East Regional Volunteer Managers' Conference organised by McCrudden Training which will be taking place on Dec 5th 2012 at the AMEX Stadium in Brighton.

The Conference coincides with International Volunteer Day and promises to be an excellent opportunity for groups of all sizes to learn about all

aspects of volunteer management, network with other organisations from the sector and make new links with the commercial sector too.

The early-bird booking discount has been extended until 5 November – so you can still book your place for just £45.

Further details can be found on HVA's website:

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

Hastings Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum

The next meeting of the Forum will take place at HVA on 7th December from 10.30am to 12.00pm.

Further details of the topics to be covered will be advertised later but please book now to ensure your place. Contact Rose Austen on 01424 444010 or email rose@hvauk.org

A Voice for Health and Social Care in Hastings & Rother – Update

Elections are likely to run for voluntary and community (VCS) representation on the new local structure in Hastings and Rother.

A six person Core Group is being established with four of those sought through VCS elections, to cover issues on behalf of Hastings and Rother groups. For Hastings, four nominations have come forward and if all accept, we will go to election.

Do not be surprised if ballot papers arrive in your inbox in the near future. However, if we do not arrive at more than two accepted nominations, a consensus will be sought from health and social care groups. For further information contact:

Fran fran@hvauk.org or Cheryl cheryl@hvauk.org or call 444010.

Hastings Community Network (HCN) – Next Event : 17th Jan 2013

This is just a heads up on the date for the next HCN event. Although we have not yet firmed up the full theme, we are able to say that one of the agenda items will look at the new Community Organisers who are now in post across Hastings and St Leonards. The Community Organisers are part of the Coalition government's Big Society programme which aims to have 5,000 trained organisers by 2015.

According to their website:

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

'...the Community Organisers programme will create a new home-grown movement of community organising for the 21st century, emerging directly from the strengths, concerns and hopes of all kinds of neighbourhoods across England'.

Amongst other things, you will be able to find out about this approach to community development at the event. Further updates about the 17th Jan programme will be emailed around nearer the time, but contact Fran fran@hvauk.org if you have any questions at this stage.

Accountancy – The Basics and the Dangers!

But with appropriate action and proper advice, problems can be minimised and fines and penalties avoided.

That was the message from Steve Sampson and Mark Weeks-Pearson of Ashdown Hurrey LLP at a recent seminar for charities and voluntary groups, hosted by Hastings Voluntary Action on behalf of the Transforming Infrastructure East Sussex project.

Ashdown Hurrey has extensive experience working with the local not-for-profit sector, as well as being involved in fundraising events for various organisations.

The seminar covered a number of topics in brief, to give the attendees an overview of the accountancy issues they are likely to encounter and the potential pitfalls of getting things wrong.

The attendees were also introduced to the current payroll issue of Real Time Information (RTI), the proposed new pension regime and a review of the Gift Aid rules.

The overall message from the seminar was "Ask, don't assume or guess", as there are many information sources to tap into, whether these be the regulatory bodies, your local voluntary service organisations or professional advisers, such as Ashdown Hurrey.

As part of their commitment to the voluntary sector, Ashdown Hurrey offer free initial meetings as well as discounted rates for not-for-profit organisations (discounts rates are considered on an individual base to allow some work for free and some with a smaller discount).

They also run workshops and training and are involved in one-off assignments as well as the full accountancy package. Ashdown Hurrey can be contacted on: 01424 720222

We are looking to hold a further briefing about RTI and auto enrolment in December – contact Pat Weaver pat@hvauk.org for more details.

Hastings Achievers

Hastings Voluntary Action would like to congratulate all the recipients of the recent Hastings Achievers awards which proved yet again the amazing work being undertaken by the Towns volunteers and community activists.



Pictured here receiving the award for “Services to Education” is Ron Bennett – Hastings Community Network Executive member whose work promoting lifelong learning and educational achievement in deprived communities was recognised at the event.

Big Thanks to Carole Bailey

Hastings Community Network and Hastings Voluntary Action would like send their thanks and

appreciation out to Carole Bailey.

Carole has recently resigned her position as Chair of the Greater Hollington Association (previously the Greater Hollington Partnership) also marking the end of her involvement in a large number of representational positions she held for both the residents of Hollington and wider community interests.

Carole has been a committed old school community activist who understands the importance of neighbourhood and resident involvement. She loves Hollington and always strived to improve the area and facilities available to residents.

She will be missed.



NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

Are You Ready to Vote?

On Thursday 15 November 2012 elections are taking place across Sussex for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for local police forces.

Sussex includes: East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove. Information on candidates will be available from <http://digbig.com/5bgqqf> from 26 October.

The PCC will make and influence key decisions that will impact on how your local area looks and feels – from CCTV, street lighting and graffiti to tackling

gangs and drug-dealing. They will ensure the policing needs of their communities are met as effectively as possible, giving the public a voice at the highest level and the ability to ensure their police are accountable.

The Police and Crime Commissioner will:

- hire and fire the chief constable and hold them to account for the delivery of the police force
- set and update a police and crime plan

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- set the force budget and precept and control a budget which covers both policing and community safety
- regularly engage with the public and communities

For more information on how the Voluntary and Community Sector can get prepared and what Sussex Safer Future Communities is doing to support you, visit:

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

The Future of Adult Learning: a Plan for Hastings & Rother

Wednesday 14th November 10am – 3pm at The Sussex Exchange

Please join us for a conference to explore the national and regional context for adult learning, and to discuss the content of an Adult Learning Strategy for Hastings & Rother.

The conference is being planned in conjunction with NIACE and Sussex Coast College Hastings.

Speakers to include Mark Ravenhall (NIACE) and Dan Shelley (Sussex Coast College). (Additional speakers tbc).

Registration, coffee and pastries at 9.45am. A light lunch will also be provided.

For details of the venue and directions, please see:

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

RSVP to Ron Bennett at:

hastings.education@yahoo.co.uk by November 5th

Adult Social Care- Key Funding Challenges Ahead

You may have had the 'Adult Social Care business planning for 2013/14 letter emailed to you which outlines the arrangements for service changes and budget setting.

The letter summarises proposals and tells us that more detailed information will be available from 5th November on:

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

We urge organisations involved in this agenda to mark this date and read the proposals on offer in preparation of your own future planning.

Dementia Campaign Launches

The Department of Health has launched a campaign, supported by the Alzheimer's Society to encourage people to talk to loved ones showing signs of dementia.

The three-month campaign in England, launched on World Alzheimer's Day, will raise awareness of the condition, early signs and symptoms and how to seek help. It includes television and print advertising.

The campaign is part of the Prime Minister's Dementia Challenge. It will encourage people to have that first 'difficult conversation' with a friend or family member when they spot the signs and symptoms of dementia, and encourage them to visit their GP.

The Alzheimer's Society has provided advice on how to bring up the topic with a loved one who may be showing signs of dementia.

Full details can be found at:

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

Disclosure and Barring Service

The new national organisation responsible for carrying out security checks on volunteers and others in the charitable sector is due to be launched on 1 December.

The Disclosure and Barring Service will replace the existing Criminal Records Bureau and the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

In Hastings, In2Play run a monthly CRB service at Jackson Hall on the first Thursday morning of each month – visit:

<http://www.in2play.org.uk/crb-checks/>

for more information or phone 01424 432742.

NEWS FROM GROUPS

Mobile Information and Advice Service to visit Hastings

East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre is a registered charity working in partnership with Adult Social Care to provide a no charge mobile information and advice service for deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people living in East Sussex.

The vehicle, which is funded by the Big Lottery, is equipped to offer demonstrations of assistive equipment and hearing screening tests (if time permits).

The mobile unit will be visiting Hastings on Monday 26th November, and will be outside Debenhams in Robertson Street from 10.30am – 3.30pm.

The bus is accessible to wheelchair users and representatives from both the East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre and Adult Social Care will be available to provide individual information and advice on all aspects of hearing loss.

For further information please contact:
East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre,
Tel: 01323 722505 (voice/text/fax)
Email: info@eshrc.org.uk

Is Your Organisation Looking for Volunteers?

Active Student is the University of Brighton's volunteering service, which promotes volunteering opportunities for community, not-for-profit and public sector organisations.

Could you benefit from a student volunteer to help with a specific project or the more general running of your organisation?

The Hastings Campus of the University offers a wide range of degree courses including Media Production, Applied Social Sciences, Business, Computing, Education, English Literature, Community History, Biology, and Maths.

See: <http://digbig.com/5bgqqp> for the full range.

Through Active Student your opportunities will reach students who want to volunteer in addition to their studies, and students who are doing a Community Participation and Development module as a part of their course.

We aim to promote safe, supported and rewarding volunteering opportunities for students, and will provide support and guidance to organisations if required.

To find out more about registering your volunteer opportunities with us, please contact:

Tel: 01273 644145

Email: volunteering@brighton.ac.uk

Website: <http://digbig.com/5bgqqq>

St Michaels Hospice Neighbours

St Michael's Hospice is currently researching the possibility of launching a new volunteer service aimed at supporting people in their own homes.

Called 'Hospice Neighbours' the scheme will be run by local volunteers in towns and villages across Hastings & Rother who, trained and supported by the Hospice, will provide practical help to people with life limiting illnesses.

The volunteers will undertake tasks such as walking the dog, light gardening, hanging out washing, collecting prescriptions or simply providing companionship.

This will extend the ability of St Michael's hospice to support patients choice to remain at home. The scheme is still in the early stages of early planning,

but we hope to implement it next Spring.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for this scheme then please contact Jane Cave at:

jcave@stmichaelshospice.com

or call on 01424 445177 ext 6012.

Lights of Love



St Michael's Hospice Lights of Love 2012 takes place on Sunday 9th December at 3pm, with the official illumination ceremonies following at 4pm.

Lights of Love offers the opportunity to make a tangible act of remembrance to loved ones no longer with us.

The simple act of writing a dedication on a silver star has been taken to the heart of the St Michael's community and last year several thousand stars were dedicated and placed upon beautiful fir trees at six locations across Hastings and Rother.

Each star was placed near a tree light which, when illuminated, created a very moving spectacle which attracted many hundreds of people to view the trees and locate their own individual star.

The trees will remain lit until Monday 31st December. For more information You can find us at:

[facebook.com/stmichaelshospice](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelshospice)

or telephone Fundraising on 01424 445177

FUNDRAISING

Health Improvement Small Grants

Does your organisation help to improve people's health, such as increasing physical activity, improving mental health, or reducing accidents?

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

In the September round there were no applications from Hastings – make sure that there are bids for the November round!

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

Lloyds TSB Foundation

The Lloyds TSB Foundation support registered charities whose core work helps disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in their community.

They are particularly interested in work that achieves this through improved social and community involvement, improved life choices and chances, and helping people to be heard.

They are willing to fund running costs, including salaries to ensure that charities can maintain and develop their core work or services. Grants typically range from £10,000 to £30,000.

The application process starts with a self-assessment questionnaire and includes a visit from a Grant Manager.

Visit: <http://digbig.com/5bgqqq>

or phone Lloyds TSB Foundation on 0870 411 1223, or contact Peter Thorpe on 01424 444010 for more information.

People's Health Trust

The Active Communities Funding Programme (run by the People's Health Trust) is now open in Sussex.

Grants of £5,000 – £25,000 are available for small community and voluntary organisations working with people living in the poorest neighbourhoods.

The deadline is 26 November.

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

Castle Ward Community First Panel



Earlier this year, with the help of Hastings Voluntary Action, the Castle Ward Community First Panel was able to make over £12,000 of grants to local projects which are already making a positive difference in the ward.

By the end of March 2013 it will be able to agree another round of funding worth just over £15,000.

The Panel has been made up of eight volunteers who have strong connections to Castle and who are from

a wide range of backgrounds, but we are now looking to refresh the Panel.

If you want to learn more about the work of the Panel and help decide which projects should be funded over the next few months, please come along to our next meeting on Wednesday 21 November at 6.30pm.

Please contact Jane Wright on:

standrewsneighbourhoodwatch@yahoo.co.uk
or 07792 469799 for more details.

Last Chance for ESF Community Grants

Voluntary or community organisations that support people who are not employed to access learning or employment then you can apply for a grant of up to £12,000.

Priority will be given to groups who work with:

- Lone Parents
- Women
- People with health / disability issues
- Older people (50 years plus)
- People from ethnic minorities and diverse communities

The next deadline is 11 January 2013.

For an application form and further details contact Action in rural Sussex on:

01273 407305

or email: claire.reynolds@ruralsussex.org.uk

Does Your Organisation Need Money?

HVA can help voluntary and community groups to improve their effectiveness at fundraising.

Some of the ways we can help include:

- Reviewing funding bids before they are submitted and offering feedback and further guidance.
- Providing specific funding information and advice for your organisation
- Facilitating large scale partnership bids
- Arranging training on aspects of fundraising.

For further information please contact Peter Thorpe at Hastings Voluntary Action on:

01424 444010

or email peter@hvauk.org

TRAINING

Substance Misuse Training Courses

The NHS Substance Misuse Team offers a range of training courses to people who have contact with problematic drug and / or alcohol users.

Current courses include:

- Alcohol Identification & Brief Advice
- Drug & Alcohol Basic Awareness (DABAC)
- Alcohol & Older People.

All courses are offered free of charge to anyone working in East Sussex in a paid or voluntary capacity.

We are also able to provide free bespoke training to groups and organisations.

For further details visit:

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

or contact Caroline Bunker on 01323 418990

Getting Your Message Across

Would you like to get more free publicity for your organisation or group, identify the important parts of a story for newspapers, radio or regional TV, explore what makes a good picture for publication, learn how to write a press release, or develop ideas and practical skills for making leaflets?

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Further details at: <http://digbig.com/5bgqre>

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SMALL ADS

Horizons SPEAK Plus Coordinator Vacancy

Horizons Community Learning CIC wishes to recruit a full-time SPEAK Plus Coordinator for its new ESOL and Volunteer Partnership Pilot to join an established community learning organisation in Hastings and St Leonards.

9 or 10 months fixed-term contract commencing November or December 2012.

£25,000 per annum pro rata, 37.5 hours per week.

For an information pack and application form please email:

horizonscourseenquiries@gmail.com

Closing date for applications:

13th November 2012

Interview date:

Friday 16th November 2012 with immediate start.

Sessional Workers Sought

Care for the Carers are recruiting to the post of Young Carers' Clubs Sessional Workers.

Deadline for applications is Friday 30th November 2012.

Weblink: <http://digbig.com/5bgqrb>

Help Hubline Operator

Care for the Carers are recruiting to the post of Hub Helpline Operator.

Deadline for applications is 12.00 noon on Wednesday 7th November 2012.

Weblink:

<http://www.cftc.org.uk/index.php?page=354>

Editorial dates:

Next copy deadline – 7th January
Paper inserts deadline – 16th January
Copy to: John Humphries

Email: infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org

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www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org

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