

Land, Sea & Blue Sky Thinking

The Hastings Community Network event on 10th October 2013 focused on two environmental issues impacting on Hastings – The Greenways Project and Clean Seas Please.



Hastings Greenway Project – Greenways are largely car free, off-road routes connecting people to facilities, open spaces and countryside within and around our towns. They are shared by walkers, cyclists and are easily accessible. The planned routes for Hastings run from the town centre to Silverhill, Hollington, Mayfield and the Conquest Hospital.

Clean Seas Please! – is a project funded by the Environment Agency, (in partnership with Rother Voluntary Action) to raise awareness within the communities of Hastings, Bexhill and Littlestone (Kent) of the changing standards for sea bathing water quality being brought in by the European Union in 2015 and what can all do to ensure that we meet the standard.

If the standard are not met notices will be erected along the foreshore which could have dire consequences for Hastings tourist and fishing economy for years to come.

Visit: www.cleanseasplease.net

A total of 25 HCN members attended the event representing 21 different voluntary sector or community groups. The HCN welcomed the discussion and endorsed both projects.

The next Hastings Community Network event is provisionally booked for 16 January 2014 and will focus on Housing and Homelessness.

For more information about Hastings Community Network please contact Catherine Watson, Community Engagement and Representation Manager, at catherine@hvauk.org or phone 01424 444010.

Meet the New Community Engagement and Representation Manager

My Name is Catherine Watson and I joined HVA as Community Engagement and Representation Manager in September.

My role within HVA is primarily to support and facilitate the work of Hastings Community Network (HCN).

The network comprises of local voluntary and community and faith groups, networks and forums, based in the Hastings and St Leonards area.

HCN seeks to proactively develop and promote clear channels of communication between the voluntary and community sector and those who make decisions about local service development and provision.

I am delighted to have joined HVA in this very exciting role. If you require any further details about HCN please contact me on 01424 444010.

Or email: catherine@hvauk.org

HVA Website Update

We've been getting our website updated over the past few weeks and unfortunately this has been more difficult than we expected.

We use our site to do quite a lot of different things; to advertise events, take bookings, process newsletter requests, record meeting room bookings, give us reports and provide blogging space. So updating and moving to a new host has been quite complex.

If you've been unable to reach the website through links in the past few weeks or have ended up at our old website then we're very sorry this has happened.

We think we've resolved most of the glitches now, so hopefully the site will provide you with information, search for organizations, allow booking onto courses and register for publications.

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If you find you have difficulties reaching our site or getting access to different pages please can you tell our Information Officer:

John Humphries, 01424 444010

email: john@hvauk.org

...so we can improve its functioning for everybody.

Accredited Volunteering Qualification



Joanna Batkin was presented with a Certificate of Achievement by the Mayor.

Jo was nominated by assessor Ian Rabbett for her work on the Community Volunteering Qualification at HVA.

The certificate was awarded by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE).

The awards are to recognise outstanding achievements of adults who have undertaken learning of any kind.

Jo completed the accredited qualification alongside her voluntary role at SEAP, despite facing health challenges.

Julie Absolom (manager) and Sharon Dewey (advocate), from SEAP, attended the award and paid tribute to Jo's hard work and commitment to her volunteering role.

Working Together to Strengthen Local Communities

In the June 2013, East Sussex County Council (Adult Social Care and Public Health departments) organised a series of workshops looking at "Working Together to Strengthen Local Communities", and HVA co-hosted the Hastings workshop. The ideas gathered during these sessions have been collated into a report which has now been published. This report pulls together the background and content of the workshops, together with the outcomes and suggested next steps to build on the good work that is currently happening.

Four meetings have now been organised to focus on and follow up the initial next steps in relation to the different areas of recommended action:

- Increasing Volunteering and Encouraging People to Lend a Hand – 20th November 2013, 09:30 – 12:00, Wellshurst Golf Club, Hailsham
- Capturing Information about Services, Support and Assets & Navigating the Options – 22nd November 2013, 09:30 – 12:00, Uckfield Civic Centre
- Encouraging Mainstream Business and Services to Play a Part – 25th November 2013, 09:30 – 12:00, Hastings Centre
- Strengthening Relationships between Care and Support Services – 26th November 2013, 09:30 – 12:00, All Saints, Eastbourne

You can book a place on any of these sessions through <http://digbig.com/5bjcas>

To get a copy of the report, or if you have any questions, please contact Liane Ingram at liane.ingram@eastsussex.gov.uk or telephone 01273 335697.

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 11 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 11 November.

HVA's Festive Season Opening Times

Hastings Voluntary Action will be closed to the public from Monday 23 December and running a reduced level of service during the Christmas and New Year weeks. We will re-open to the public on Monday 6 January 2014.

NEWS FROM GROUPS

Change to Credit Union Town Centre Information Point

Hastings & Rother Credit Union will be moving their Town Centre Information Point on Fridays.

This will now be based at The Community Contact Centre in the Town Hall from 18th October from 2pm – 4pm each week.

Full details at:

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

Silver Room Pops up in Shopping Centre

Hastings shoppers were intrigued by the arrival of a mysterious box in their shopping centre this week, and were invited to peek through windows of various shapes and heights to view the contents.

Inside, a silver room sparkled with a range of furniture and decorations made from reused and recycled materials by Hastings Furniture Service (HFS) workshop team to celebrate their silver anniversary.

"We wanted to make something that might interest and engage people while representing both the furniture reuse and the craft skills training that the charity provides." said HFS chief executive Naomi Ridley. "Our workshop team is really talented and ingenious, even using a box of old spoons in their creations!"

The room will form the centerpiece of the charity's silver anniversary exhibition at De La Warr Pavilion next weekend (19th-20th October), alongside furniture challenge pieces by professional artists and entries in the public art competition.

For more information click:

www.hfs.org.uk



Marie, Clair and Ed
from HFS Workshop Team

Hastings Chinese Association News



The Hastings Chinese Association Seniors went on a Sunny day trip to Leeds Castle on the 12th September. Other members went to Leeds Castle on the 19th September. Funding was provided by HBC. Almost all of the Chinese Seniors have been in the UK for a few decades, but they had never been to Leeds Castle!

They were really happy and smiled as the sun shone on them. The funding also funded them to learn how to use computers and Chinese websites such as QQ. The course started on 9th September and it will last for 12 weeks. They are really excited after the first lesson.

Social meetings started on 13th October, with meetings being held every two weeks.

The Seniors Small Grant makes a real difference and really works to help stop loneliness and isolation, giving a sense of mental well being.

Hastings Chinese Association are also funded by the Sussex Community Foundation.

AGM – Southwater Community Centre

Southwater Community Centre is holding its AGM on Monday, 18th November 2013 (10.30 for 11 am) This will be held at the centre venue: 1 Stainsby Street, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN35 6LA

The Centre is also looking for possible new committee members, directors & local support. All are very welcome to attend & refreshments will be available. For further information, please contact: Annie Hunter. Tel: 01424 461414 Email: support@southwatercentre.org

Free Computer Repair and Support

Here to Help:

Hailsham based charity "Computers for Charities" has launched a free Computer repair & IT technical support service to aid Sussex based charities, schools & church groups.

For more information either call:

01323 848588

Or email:

simon@computersforcharities.org

NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

Sussex Uncovered at AGM

Sussex Community Foundation will hold its annual Public Meeting on Thursday 14 November 2013 (3.30-7.00pm) at Pelham House Hotel (St Andrew's Lane, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UW) where their new report, Sussex Uncovered, will be launched.

The report evaluates the needs and strengths of our Sussex communities. Sussex is often perceived as being very affluent but many people are facing hidden disadvantages, such as lack of access to services and affordable housing, and severe social isolation. However, many communities are finding their own low-cost solutions to the problems they face.

You can hear more about Sussex Uncovered at the meeting and will have the opportunity to give your views and help the Foundation shape its future strategy. There will also be a chance to see the work of some of the groups the Foundation funds and to meet others working in the voluntary sector in Sussex.

Places are limited so to book your place, email info@sussexgiving.org.uk or call 01273 409440.

FUNDRAISING

2014 Commissioning Grants Prospectus

East Sussex County Council and the local NHS are holding a 'Meet the Commissioners' event on Thursday 28 November 9am – 12.30pm at Uckfield Civic Centre. The event will be a chance for organisations and groups to help shape the outcomes they would like to commission in the 2014 Commissioning Grants Prospectus.

Subject to the outcomes of budget-setting for 2014/15, the areas they would like to explore include:

- Advocacy for a range of client groups
- Carers
- Children
- Health improvement
- Learning disabilities and autism
- Mental health
- Older people

- Physical disability, sensory impairment and long term conditions
- Substance misuse

The 2014 Commissioning Grants Prospectus will be published on the 17 February 2014 and the submission deadline will be Friday 25 April 2014.

To register visit <http://digbig.com/5bjcan>

Should you have any queries, please contact Liane Ingram on 01273 335697

Or email: liane.ingram@eastsussex.gov.uk

Active Communities Funding

Local groups and organisations with great ideas to make their communities even better places to live are now invited to apply for funding to turn their ideas into reality.

Using money raised by society lotteries through The Health Lottery, People's Health Trust has opened Active Communities in HealthWish – East and West Sussex, Brighton and Hove.

Active Communities is a funding programme for community groups and not-for-profit organisations, with an income of less than £350,000 a year, that are seeking investment of between £5,000 and £50,000 for projects lasting up to two years. The projects should take place within a small area for a small group of people such as 20 or 30 streets or a couple of villages.

The deadline for applications is midday on Wednesday 27 November 2013.

For more information visit <http://digbig.com/5bjcap>

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 training for treasurers on Thursday 14 November, and child protection training on Tuesday 26 November.

For more details visit:

www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org/training

pick up a flyer from HVA's reception

or phone 01424 444010.

NEWS FROM THE STATUTORY SECTOR

Your Views on New Hastings Library

ESCC would like to hear about your priorities for library services in the new Hastings Library.

We want to know how the library can help in everyday life and for local residents to achieve their goals and aspirations.

Closes 1 December 2013.

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

Consultations and Reviews by Hastings Borough Council

HBC is in support of a proposal to give it powers to limit the number of betting shops in certain areas, particularly where there are high concentrations of them.

Do you agree that the Council should pursue the initiative which would allow a greater say in determining whether shops should be converted into betting shops?

Comments in writing by Monday 9 December 2013, by email to fplanning@hastings.gov.uk or by letter to Planning Policy team, Aquila House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 3UY

Further details are available at:

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

Voter Registration 2013/14

Hastings Borough Council are beginning a campaign to raise awareness of our upcoming annual canvass of electors and would like your help.

Voter registration forms are being sent to every household in the borough during October and

November. This will be followed by door to door canvassing from late November.

The form lists the names of everyone living at the address that are currently registered to vote, and asks residents to confirm or update their details as necessary. The revised register will then be published on Monday 17 February 2014.

It is very important that residents return their completed form or they could lose their right to vote. There may also be people who aren't aware that they need to be registered in order to vote, and we are very keen to ensure they are included.

We are urging residents to return forms as soon as possible to make sure they are able to vote at the upcoming Local and European elections in May next year.

If you have a venue that could display promotional posters, or would like us to send you more detailed information, please call us on 01424 451 720, or email electoralservices@hastings.gov.uk

Further information on registering to vote can also be found by visiting either:

www.hastings.gov.uk/elections

or: www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

SMALL ADS

Town Centre Offices to Let

Bright Spacious offices in Cambridge Road Hastings, 3 floors available.

Can be let as a whole or by floor. Hi Speed Broadband and some furniture available if required. Short or long term lets.

From £450 per month including light and heat.

Please contact Sandra Lewis, preferably by email:

sandra@harcuk.com

Or phone 01424 814916 / 0794 1911378

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www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org

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