

Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service

Newsletter

August 2011

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Welcome

This week we have seen the worse – and best of human behaviour. Watching the pictures of the riots was very depressing but the efforts of local communities to come together to clean up and rebuild things has given me faith in human kind. There was the story in the newspapers about the graduate who was about to start on a career in social work, before a moment of madness led her to taking goods from a local Comet. However her conscience led to sleepless nights and her turning herself in to the police, together with the goods she took.

We should not tar all young people with the same brush. As a father of teenage children, they and their friends are appalled at what they have seen. I remember a couple of years ago when changing trains at Clapham Junction, a young mother was struggling with a buggy. A young Afro-Caribbean in a 'hoodie' offered to help, which was accepted, and when thanked said that it was a pleasure to help.

There was talk in the House of Commons debate on Thursday of restricting the use of certain social network sites. I hope this doesn't happen. Whilst the use of Blackberries, tweets and the rest have played a part in fanning the fires of the rioting, these sites have also been invaluable in the clean up.

OK there have been some bizarre tweets, but also some wonderful tweets that have brought local communities together (#riotcleanup, #operationcupoftea and #riotwombles). I hope that censorship does not creep into the social network phenomenon because, as with any form of communication, they can be a very real asset to our local communities and this week we have seen the positive side.

Des Shepherd (Manager)

Dates For Your Diary.....

Monday 26th September 2011: RBVS Network Lunch & AGM

Holy Trinity Church Centre, Redhill

Invitations and further information will follow shortly.

Voluntary Sector Forum: September, Date TBC

Reigate Town Hall, Castlefield Road, Reigate

If you would like more information on our quarterly Forums, please do get in touch. Invitations and further information will follow shortly.

Contact Database Reminder

Many, many thanks to all those who have been able to send back their database forms, it has been a real help to us.

If you are receiving our newsletters and e-mails and have yet to return your forms, we would really appreciate it if you could send them in to us as soon as possible. We want to be in the best possible position to represent and support you, and having up-to-date information will help us to do this.

Please see our website or call us if you need a form.

Thank you.

News and Events...

It's All About You! Workshops: 19th August with the R&R Live at Home Scheme

The next session for the over 60's will be focussing on Pensions and the local Citizen's Advice Bureau. If you would like to join this free session please contact Live at Home on **01737 780610** or tanyalah@tiscali.co.uk (those who do not book may not be admitted for health & safety reasons).

Getting Off The Beaten Track: Priory Park, Reigate

Guided walks have been organised to take people off the beaten track and teach them about the different species of trees, plants and wildlife around Priory Park, Reigate. The walks take place every Wednesday over the summer holidays.

Next planned walks:

Lake birds and pond dipping: 24 August, 10am/12pm/2pm

Mini beast hunt: 31 August, 10am/12pm/2pm

Book Now! Each session lasts approximately 1.5 hours and are suitable for all ages. Children under seven must be accompanied by an adult. To book your place, email priorypark@reigate-banstead.gov.uk or call 01737 242179.

The Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF) Capital Growth Fund Has Opened

The fund provides capital grants of £50k – £150k for non-profit organisations providing health, care and well-being services. Additional loan funds are available for larger projects or where some working capital is needed.

The Capital Growth Fund is suitable for established organisations (not start-ups) who already have well-developed capital plans for buildings, equipment, IT or similar and who can spend the funds by 31 March 2012.

The closing date for applications is 16 September 2011 (noon). The guidance, application form and cashflow template are available via the website (there is an eligibility checker).

<http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/our-funds/seif/seifcapitalgrowthfund/>

Community Foundation for Surrey: Community Grants

Community Foundation for Surrey have a wide range of grants for organisations in Surrey with an equally wide range of criteria. If your organisation needs funding for a project, a specific piece of equipment, to continue or improve a service or any other requirement,

why not get in touch with CFS and see if they can help? Their friendly Grants Team will help you approach the right fund for your organisation and help to make the process as easy as possible. To discuss your needs, call 01483 409230 or e-mail info@communityfoundationsurrey.org.uk. Further information is available online at www.communityfoundationsurrey.org.uk.



Directory of Social Change: Social Change Awards 2011

The closing date for nominations for this award is 19th August 2011. Go to http://www.socialchangeawards.org.uk/?dm_i=6S7,I2N3,29S278,1GWCX,1 for more information and to nominate.

Composting Campaign

The Surrey Waste Partnership are continuing their composting campaign. If you would like to find out more, involve your members or just do it for yourself, see www.surreywastepartnership.org.uk, where you can find all the tools and advice you need to get started. Or call 0844 571 4444.



Village SOS Active: Funding for Communities.

Awards of various sizes are available for those wishing to better their village community. Go to: www.villagesos.org.uk, for information and to apply.

New Directory of Suppliers: Event Organising

Do you supply venues, products or services to organisers of events? The Society of Event Organisers (SEO) has launched a new directory of suppliers. See www.seoevent.co.uk for further details.

Merstham Regeneration: Consultation Underway

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council are currently consulting on the draft Merstham Estate Local Centre Planning Framework ('the Planning Framework'). The Planning Framework focuses on proposals for physical regeneration at the heart of the Merstham Estate, including provision of a new community hub, new shopping provision and housing, and improvements to public space. For more information go to: <http://reigate-banstead.gov.uk/mersthamregeneration>

Supporting Care Leavers in Apprenticeships: a Practical Half Day Training Session Tuesday 27 September 2011

Renaissance House, Princess Road West, Leicester: 12.15pm to 4.15pm

Event fee per person: £99 (non NIACE member) £80 (NIACE members) includes sandwich lunch and tea/coffee. E-mail events@niace.org.uk for further information and to book.

Measuring Up To The Future: Mentoring and Befriending Foundation Annual Conference 29th September, London.

This year's conference agenda is designed to showcase how mentoring and befriending needs to respond to the new political and economic landscape and help organisations to develop their services so that they have a real impact in local communities.

They are also offering **promotional and exhibition opportunities** should you wish to raise the profile of your organisation or your products and services.

Delegate prices start at £160, and if you book one place you get the second half price!

See <http://www.mandbf.org/training-and-events/events/conferences> for further details.

Jobs...

Mental Health Carers Support Worker

**37 hours per week. Option of Job Share or Secondment, Fixed Term contract - initially until March 2012
£20,299 - £23,365 pa plus 6% pension and essential car-user allowance**

Specialist Support Worker for unpaid carers looking after adults of working age with mental health issues. An understanding of carers issues and related mental health legislation and use of own car is essential. Also a proven ability to work under own initiative and as part of a team.

Application closing date: 12pm, Monday 22nd August Interviews: Monday 5th September For application packs or informal discussion call 01293 657040 or email: info@carerssupport.org.uk . See www.carerssupport.org.uk for further details.

Crawley Foyer Vacancies

Crawley Foyer has vacancies for a Learning and Engagement Co-ordinator, a Night Support Worker and a Cleaner. For details about the vacancies, please go to:

http://www.sussexcentralymca.org.uk/job_vacancies

Contact Us...

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Want to see your event listed here? Contact Carol for further details.

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