

Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Services

Newsletter

January 2010



Contents

Manager's Notes	Page 2
Dates for your Diary.....	Page 2
CVS News and Events.....	Page 3
Other News and Events.....	Pages 4-6
Volunteering.....	Page 7
Funding.....	Page 7
Training	Pages 7-8
Job Vacancies	Page 8
Health	Page 9
Contact Us.....	Page 9



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Welcome...

2010 has certainly started in style – with apparently the coldest winter for many years! Whilst it has presented some challenges to the CVS staff in getting into the office, it has not dimmed our enthusiasm for the coming year.

We are already planning the next Voluntary Sector Forum (Tuesday 20 April). Hosted again by the Borough Council in the Old Council Chamber at the Town Hall, there are many topics already suggested for discussion including the forthcoming General Election. I am sure many of you are facing a very challenging financial situation in 2010/11 and an even more difficult scenario in 2011/12. The coming year will be a critical year for everyone in the sector with the General Election coming and a possible change of Government.

Looking further ahead, we are getting the ball rolling for a second Voluntary Sector Fair. The last one, in January last year was well received with many requests for a repeat and we felt a two year gap would be about right. We are looking for help on the Steering Committee so if you want to get involved with the planning of the fair, please contact me by e-mail (des@rbcvs.org.uk) or telephone on 01737 763156.

Meanwhile, our Volunteer Centre now has its own web site. Janet and Lisa hope you will find it useful. They will develop the content in the coming weeks and months.

Des Shepherd (Manager)



Have you looked at the new Volunteer Centre website yet?

www.reigateandbansteadvolunteercentre.org

Dates for your diary...

- 15th March 2010** – CVS Network Lunch, Horley Methodist Church, Horley.
- 20th April 2010** – Voluntary Sector Forum, Town Hall, Reigate.
- And next year . . .**
- 5th March 2011** – Voluntary Sector Fair
Harlequin Theatre, Redhill. (Date to be confirmed)

Voluntary Sector Fair – 2011

Following the success of last year's event we are starting the planning for a second Voluntary Sector Fair.

The planned date is Saturday 5 March 2011 and the venue again the Harlequin Theatre. We decided to fix a slightly later date to avoid any problems with bad winter weather and after the half term weekend.

How you can get involved.

We are keen to establish a steering committee to help us organise the event. If you would like to get involved, please call the us on 01737 763156 or e-mail fair@rbcvs.org.uk

If you feel you haven't the time to commit to the steering committee we still would like your views on what we should do and offer at the event. This will be one of the key topics at the forthcoming Voluntary Sector Forum (20 April 2010).

Voluntary Sector Forum

The next forum will take place on the 20 April at the Town Hall and is your opportunity to come and have your say, not just on CVS events, such as the Fair we are planning for 2011 but to raise subjects with the Borough Council. Subject to final confirmation, Cllr. Roger Newstead will be in attendance together with the Mayor, Cllr. Richard Mantle. Further details of the event will be circulated nearer the time but please make a note in your diary of the date.

Does your organisation still use a cheque book?

The answer is probably yes. However you may have heard in the news towards the end of last year that cheques are to be phased out by 2018.

It seems that the use of cheques has declined by 40% in the past five years with on-line banking and the use of debit cards being a preferred option for many individuals and businesses.

However, many voluntary organisation, including the CVS, rely on a payment system that caters for two signatures and some of the on-line alternatives do not offer that security.

A number of our members have contacted us about this change. The body dealing with it is the Payments Council who have published some information sheets on the proposed changes and are inviting comments. They are aware of the issues affecting organisations such as ourselves and are looking to consult and find ways to overcome these difficulties. We have contacted the Payments Council to express the concerns given to us by some of our members and will watch the situation. For more information, their website is www.paymentscouncil.org.uk where you can get more information.

Other News and Events

January 25th - 31st 2010: Wear Something Wacky Week Surrey Care Trust



Just a little touch of wackiness – an outrageous tie, colourful shoes, some silly earrings – is all it takes to join in this fashion week with a difference! Wearing jeans instead of a suit may be wacky enough for you, or roll out the fancy dress and make a real wacky fashion parade of it! Choose one day in WEAR SOMETHING WACKY WEEK and round up your work colleagues or even have a Wacky Wear party at home! Everyone makes a donation to take part. For further information visit <http://surreycaretrust.co.uk/wackyweek/documents/wackyfortnight.pdf>

Merstham Neighbours Coffee Morning – Volunteers Urgently Needed!

Wednesday January 27th from 10.30 at St Teresa's Hall, Merstham

If you or someone you know is a Merstham resident and would like to come for coffee and a chat about the Merstham Neighbours scheme, then this is for you! Volunteers are urgently needed, so if you can spare a few hours a month – more or less is fine – then please pop along, call 07733 555316 or e-mail mersthamneighbours@gmail.com for further information.

Merstham Community Facility Table Top Sale

On the second Saturday of every month, 10am – 2pm at the Merstham Community Facility, 44 Portland Drive, Merstham.

Come along, pick up a bargain, have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and support the Facility! For further information visit their website, www.mcft.org.uk

Brigitte Trust Charity Gig: Friday 29th January

If you love the music of Pink Floyd, Yes, Camel, ELP and early Genesis you will love Prognosis, Surrey's premier Prog-Rock Tribute band. They are playing a charity gig at Fiends Provident Social Club, Pixham Lane, Dorking and half the proceeds are to be donated to the Brigitte Trust.

Tickets are £10, or £5 for pensioners and young children. To buy tickets to this event, please use the link below:

http://www.theprognosis.co.uk/media_video.php?v=shine_on

Support Others In Need

Whilst many of us are in the business of finding funds for our own organisations, it can be nice to know that we can also help others, both close to home and abroad.

If you already shop online, why not visit www.thegivingmachine.co.uk and use their website to go on to high street shops, who will then donate to organisations such as East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services *without any further cost to you.*

Or if you prefer to give directly, why not bear in mind the Haiti Earthquake appeal? The Disasters Emergency Committee are appealing for funds to help in the immediate aftermath and the weeks ahead. Please see their website, www.dec.org.uk for further information and to donate.

East Surrey Action for Carers Groups

If you or someone you know is a carer who could benefit from like-minded company and support, please try out one of the following groups:

Last Thursday Of The Month:

Horley Carers Group: Meet from 10:00am until 12 noon at the Methodist Hall, Victoria Road, Horley.

Reigate & Redhill Carers Support Group: Meets at the Methodist Centre, Gloucester Road, Redhill from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Carers' Drop-In: in Horley and Merstham.

For further details call 01883 745057.

A Focus on Family Health: The Work of Faith Based and Community Organisations

9th February 2010, 9:30am till 3pm At the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London, W1B 1AD

This event, presented by FaithAction, will showcase a number of members and their work in communities on the ground, as well as show their ability to work with those termed 'hard to reach' and change the health of families in their communities. Attendance is free to organisations who work with families on the ground, and lunch will be provided.

To book your place or for further information, contact Felicity Holland on 0845 094 6350 or events@faithaction.net

The Reigate & Redhill Live At Home Scheme Is Proud To Present: The Phoenix Concert Band Of Sutton

Playing a selection of light music from the past 50 years

Saturday 27th February 6pm – 9.30pm

At Redhill Methodist Church, Gloucester Road, Redhill, RH1 1BP

Donation price £10.00 per head to include a fish/chicken & chip supper and refreshments. For tickets please call 01737 780610

Your local NHS ambulance service is changing – please help them to get it right...

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust provides ambulance services to around 4.5 million people. They have 63 ambulance stations, more than 3,000 staff, cover an area of 3,600 square miles (across Kent, Surrey, Sussex and north-east Hampshire) and on average they receive an emergency call every minute of every day.

They want the people they serve to have a say in the way they run their service, so they're inviting you to become 'members' of South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb). **Becoming a member is simple, free and it'll mean you're supporting them as well as having your say about how they can make their services even better.** Membership doesn't need to take up your time – you can just receive their free quarterly newsletter – but being a member will also give you the chance to get more involved if you want to.

Members can also stand for election to their Council of Governors, and will be able to vote for the governors who will work with their Directors to shape SECAmb's future. This is why they feel it's important that they involve local organisations and the people you represent as they move forward.

You can sign up online at: www.nhs-membership.co.uk/seas or phone the membership office on 01273 897840 for a membership form or more information.

Personal Best

Personal Best is a pre-employment programme designed to harness the unique motivating force of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to engage workless and socially excluded people into the labour market and learning, lift their aspirations and create new life or career choices.

The Programme uses the potential prospect of becoming a Games Time Volunteer in 2012 as an inspiration to attract eligible people to undertake a Level 1 qualification, experience volunteering and ultimately to move into employment, further training and sustained volunteering.

A Personal Best Course will begin soon at the Community Facility in Merstham. If you are interested in this scheme, please see www.personalbestprogramme.co.uk for further details.

Third Sector Communications: 10th March 2010

'Optimise Social Media & Align Fundraising, PR & Communications To Deliver Creative, Cost-Efficient Communications'

A one-day conference for all third sector organisations, to be held at **The Ibis Hotel, Earls Court, London**. For further information and to book see www.thirdsectorcommsconference.com.

Learning & Skills Transition

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is now in its final transition stage and early next year two new agencies will emerge: the Young Person's Learning Agency (YPLA) and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA)

From April 2010 local authorities will have responsibility for commissioning and funding all education and training for young people up to the age of 19. The new YPLA will support and enable local authorities to carry out their new duties.

The LSC's responsibility for post-19 education and training will transfer to the SFA. This agency will oversee a new demand-led approach to adult education and training, which will be supported by strengthened advice and support services for adults and employers.

For further information on the LSC and their future plans, visit their website www.lsc.gov.uk.

Small Charities Constitution

This is a new, easy to use framework for use by those charities with an income under £5000, which do not own land or employ staff. It uses clear, direct language that is easy to understand, is only 700 words long and covers all the legal requirements for a very small charity. The document removes much of the unnecessarily long and tedious requirements of traditional constitutions and enables people who might wish to become Trustees of charities to do so with the minimum of fuss. For this type of organisation there is also no need to register with the charity commission until they grow in size. To download a copy visit the Charity Commission at www.charity-commission.gov.uk

Surrey Care Trust: Virgin London Marathon Sunday 25th April 2010

The Surrey Care Trust have Golden Bond places for the Virgin London Marathon 2010, and are asking participants to help the Trust by raising around £1,500. They will provide support in raising these funds, but really need your help to do this. For further information please contact Vicky on 01483 412751 or e-mail vicky.nash@surreycaretrust.org.uk.

Volunteering

Princes Trust Volunteers: Projects Needed!

We have a group of young volunteers looking to do project work in Reigate as part of their self-development scheme, 'Princes Trust Team'. They are looking to carry out a task to its completion in 5-10 days, will be supervised and will raise the funds to finish the task themselves. Around 10-15 16-25year olds will be available between 6th and 16th April.

If your organisation is interested, please contact the Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator on 01737 762 115 or e-mail janet@rbcvs.org.uk .

Funding

2010 Learning Needs Survey

Win £250-worth of learning and skills development products

New Start magazine is a social enterprise covering regeneration, economic and community development, and social enterprise. They're interested in what support you need to navigate your role and achieve your organisation's objectives in 2010. They'd value your help and input via a short survey.

All respondents will have a chance of winning £250-worth of learning and skills development products from the New Start shop (www.newstartmagonlineshop.co.uk) and a £50 donation by New Start to a charity or community organisation of their choice. If you would like to take part in this survey, go to: www.newstartmag.co.uk/survey10

'Funding the Future 2010'

Central Hall Westminster, Wednesday 10th February

Chief executives of the leading statutory, lottery and trust funders and eight Government Ministers and Shadow Ministers will be present at the annual 'Funding the Future' conference.

In all there are 50 top-level speakers, covering seven specialist streams to help you meet funders interested in your field of work.

The conference comprises a morning plenary session followed by your choice of seven specialised funding streams. For further information see www.actionplanning.co.uk/funding

Training

The CVS in association with Surrey Community Action are organising a range of courses for those working in the voluntary sector:

January - March 2010

Vulnerable Adult Awareness. 2 March 2010 at the Redhill Methodist Centre

Charity Law. 10 March 2010 at the Redhill Methodist Centre

Bookings

Bookings are being handled by Surrey Community Action. A booking form can be downloaded from www.rbcvs.org.uk/training where you can find further information.

Merstham Community Facility

Merstham Community Facility hosts a range of courses and events, from English as a second language courses to crafts and IT. See below for more details...

ESOL, Life Skills and IT

These courses are for Black, Minority and Ethnic Communities (as well as Refugees and Asylum Seekers) ESOL – Wednesday 10am – 12noon, Basic Skills – Wednesday 1-3pm, IT – Thursday 6-8pm

Regular Events

Internet/IT café – come along and use our computers on your own or with support from our IT buddies (from August 17th – Monday mornings 10am – 12noon)

To find out more call Tracey or Helen on 01737 645217 or email info@mcft.org.uk , or pop in for a chat on any Monday or Thursday 10am to 3pm

Warwick School Training Courses

The Warwick School run a number of courses for the community, including IT training, languages and catering courses. For more information contact Allan Hopkins on 01737 378471 or e-mail hop@warwick.surrey.sch.uk .

Job Vacancies

Network Administrator - Part time

Surrey CVS Network

Salary: £15,291 (£8,495 pro rata – 20 hours, flexible working possible)

Location: Chertsey

Do you have excellent administrative, organisational and computer skills? Surrey CVS Network require a self-motivated skilled person to provide a full range of administrative support to the Surrey CVS Network. You must be prepared to travel throughout Surrey, hold a full driving licence and have use of a reliable car.

Closing date for applications is noon on 29th January. Interviews will be held on 8th February in Epsom.

For an informal discussion telephone Sonia Hubbard on 07814 711311.

For an application pack telephone Joel Sperry on 01372 722911 or email joel@centralsurreycvs.org . For more information on the Surrey CVS Network, go to www.surreycvsnetwork.org.uk/netnews_VA.html

Volunteer Co-ordinator

SeeAbility is seeking a part time Volunteer Co-ordinator to be based at their residential centre, 'Woodlands' on Massetts Road, Horley and their adjoining service ' Bradbury House' which opens in April 2010.

Pay Band: £19,774 - £20,984 per annum pro rata (8 hours per week split between the two services) Salary depending on experience.

A satisfactory enhanced CRB disclosure is required for the post. To request an application pack please contact Dawn Taylor (01293 784235). For an informal discussion about the role please contact

Tim Partridge National Volunteer Manager (01372 755012)

Applications to be received by Friday 29th January 2010

Health

Work Related Stress

The Health and Safety Executive produce regular newsletters on work related stress, something that is increasingly common in today's workplace. Whether your work is employed or voluntary, stress can have a major impact on both the individual and the organisation. For further information, and to subscribe for these free newsletters, see www.hse.gov.uk/stress

Mental Health First Aid

Over the next year the Employment Support Retraining Agency will be running a number of mental health first aid courses, which were very successful last year. These free courses, lasting two days, they have been increasingly popular in today's economic climate. For more information visit www.mhfaengland.org.uk .

Contact Us

If you have any queries regarding anything in this Newsletter, or would like to publicise your event or opportunity, please contact us as below:

- | | |
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