

Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service

Newsletter

January 2012

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Tell Us What You Think!

Annual Survey of Voluntary and Community Groups

Reigate and Banstead Voluntary Service wants to know what you think of the services we offer. Whether or not your organisation uses some or all of our services, we would appreciate you completing this short questionnaire:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ServiceEvaluationQuestionnaire2011>

It will provide a great opportunity for you to comment on our services and will assist us in looking at how we can improve them. The deadline for this survey is **Friday 20th January**.

If you have any queries, or need a paper copy, please contact us (completed paper surveys should be returned to the address below)

THANK YOU!

Welcome

As we enter a new year, it is worth looking at some of the initiatives that encourage volunteering. The national charity, Volunteering England, has two themed events this year.

The Student Volunteering Week will run from 20-26 February and aims to raise awareness of student volunteering and the infrastructure that supports it. Volunteering can play an important role in helping young people find work. As well as providing young people with skills and knowledge, volunteering has the potential to introduce them to formal working environments, teach them how to navigate social networks, and provide them with feelings of self worth and achievement.

The second event is Volunteers' Week, taking place during the first week of June. This annual event celebrates the fantastic contribution that millions of volunteers make across the UK. The Week plays a huge part in raising the profile of the millions of volunteers who regularly contribute to society, while inspiring others to get involved too. The Reigate & Banstead Volunteer Centre will be organising and supporting a number of initiatives for Volunteers' Week so watch this space!

One of the key principles of volunteering is that we believe that volunteers should never be considered as 'free labour' or a replacement for paid staff. They have a unique role in adding value, complementing the work of employees and bringing benefits to the community. We have heard of instances where organisations appear to involve volunteers for no other reason than to reduce its costs. The involvement of volunteers in this way has the potential to undermine the unique value of volunteering and damage the image of volunteering at a time when it has a higher profile than ever.

Des Shepherd (Manager)

Dates For Your Diary.....

- **Thursday 19th January 2012: Volunteer Drop-In at Banstead Help Shop, 10am – 1pm**
- **Monday 23rd January 2012: Network Lunch, Merland Rise Church, Preston (TBC)**

Invitations to this Network Lunch will be coming soon. Please do let us know if you can make it!

- **Thursday 26th January 2012: Voluntary Sector Forum: Youth**

This Forum will focus on Youth, and will discuss items such as the rising number of young people who are N.E.E.T.

- **Thursday 2nd February 2012: Volunteer Drop-In at Horley Help Shop, 10am – 1pm**

News and Events...

Merstham Neighbourhood Panel Meeting: 18th January 2012 from 7.30pm

Merstham Community Facility, 44 Portland Drive, Merstham

This is a chance for residents to discuss local policing concerns with the policing team and local councillors. If you live in Merstham and want to voice your concerns and discuss possible solutions, please just come.

Right to Control

The Right to Control is a new legal right for disabled people, giving them more choice and control over some of the social care, housing and employment support they receive.

The Right to Control is a 2-year pilot project, taking place in the 2 boroughs of Epsom & Ewell and Reigate & Banstead, Surrey being one of 7 Trailblazer areas around the UK. These areas were chosen because the Self Directed Support scheme was originally tested there and because they are already developing information and support services run by local disabled people, known as Hubs. The Epsom Hub opened in September 2010 and the Redhill Hub opened in May 2011. Further information is available via the Hubs or on the Surrey County Council website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RTF/Right+to+control+-+choice+and+control+for+disabled+adults?opendocument

National Diversity Awards 2012

The National Diversity Awards is a ceremony held to celebrate the achievements of positive role models across the UK from underrepresented backgrounds. The black-tie event will take place on Friday 21st September 2012 at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

Nominations are now open to the public and will **close on Friday 27th July 2012**. You can nominate an organisation or individual who strongly represents diversity, make the awards known to your users so they can nominate, or you can support the awards through sponsorship.

Further information is available at www.nationaldiversityawards.co.uk or call 0151 708 5775. To nominate online, go to www.nationaldiversityawards.co.uk/#/nominate/4554239214

Action Planning: Funding The Future 2012

Wednesday 14th March at Central Hall, Westminster, 10am – 4pm

Hear 40 speakers from Government, statutory funders, Lottery distributors and grant-making trusts on how to fund your work in 2012/13. The day will be followed by a networking session. **Cost £135 per person**, to include Vat, lunch, presentation materials and a wine reception. For further information and to book, go to www.fundingthefuture.co.uk, e-mail ann@actionplanning.co.uk or call 020 8 661 8060.

Merstham Community Facility: IT Café

44 Porland Drive, Merstham

Merstham Community Facility's IT Café is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am to 1pm. If you need to use a computer in a friendly, helpful environment with internet access and buddies to help you through those computer 'blips', why not drop in?

Merstham Community Facility Is Growing!

Merstham Community Facility Trust are about to open another shop unit in Portland Drive for community use. There will be a pop-up grocers, a youth café and space for other groups, such as Holistic Harmony, to use. They will be opening 28 Portland Drive on **Monday 9th January**, so why not come and take a look?!

For more information on MCFT's activities, training courses, and up-coming events, go to www.mcft.org.uk, e-mail infor@mcft.org.uk or call 01737 645 217.

Surrey Green Homes 2012

Action Surrey is asking local eco home owners, who have implemented some energy saving measures, to open their home to the public as part of Surrey Green Homes 2012 on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March. Homeowners are encouraged to share their knowledge and experience about making their own homes more energy efficient and ecologically sustainable and report on how these changes have affected their fuel bills, and the comfort of their homes.

This County-wide event will build on the success of last year when 30 homeowners opened their properties to over 300 visitors, illustrating what they could do to their own home to reduce fuel bills and generate their own renewable energy.

Homeowners would have to commit to:

- Opening their house for one day during the weekend
- Provide a brief summary of the energy saving features of your home (and the suppliers/installers of any technology)
- Guide people round the home or enable people to look around
- Answer any questions the visitors might have.

Support will be provided by Action Surrey. Homeowners who are interested should contact Action Surrey on info@actionsurrey.org

Presentation & Communication Skills Training

London, 16th February 2012, 10am – 4pm, from £99 per person

This one-day training course is designed to assist individuals and organisations who want to improve the way they present and communicate - both formally and informally - for effectiveness and profitability.

How to book: Bookings can be placed securely online or, if you prefer, by telephone to 01584 890970, or email bookings@trainingdevelopment.biz.

FREE ESOL Courses with Intraining, Redhill

Intraining now have a Redhill Centre, which is next door to Redhill Job Centre. They are offering courses to those whose first language is not English.

Improving your English

If English isn't your main language, you can do a course to help improve your English. These courses are called ESOL or English for Speakers of other Languages.

Improving their English will make it easier to:

- talk to doctors and teachers
- understand the laws and customs of the UK
- do a course and get a qualification
- help your child with homework
- pass the Life in the UK test and become a British citizen

What does an ESOL course involve?

ESOL courses cover:

- speaking and listening
- reading and writing
- vocabulary
- punctuation and grammar

There are courses at different levels so you can start at the right level for you needs. If you would like more information please contact Intraining to arrange an appointment. Call 01737 761 300 for further details.

People's Postcode Trust: Small Grants for Projects

People's Postcode Trust is the grant giving independent charitable trust of People's Postcode Lottery. They distribute funds to small organisations, community groups and registered charities. Funding is available for 3-month projects ranging from £500 up to £10,000 in Scotland and England, and up to £5,000 in Wales. Funding will be awarded to projects with one or more of the following aims:

- To prevent poverty
- To promote, maintain, improve and advance health
- To advance citizenship or community development
- To advance public participation in sport
- To promote, improve and advance human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation
- To promote and advance environmental protection or improvement

The closing date for the next round of funding is Friday 24th February 2012, although further rounds are available throughout the year. For more information and to apply, go to <http://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/>

Denbies Wine Estate: Fundraising Opportunities

Denbies are offering a range of services to assist charities in their fundraising efforts, from free venue hire for up to 500 guests, to guided tours and free use of the grounds which boast some lovely views of the North Downs. For more information contact Denbies at events@denbiesvineyard.co.uk or call 01306 742 002.

Marketing Projects for Young People in the Arts, Youth and Cultural Sectors

22nd February 2012, 9.45 am- 4 pm, Nuffield Theatre, Southampton

This one-day course explores ways to develop effective marketing techniques for your youth arts project. The session offers practical examples and structures for planning your marketing strategy, including drawing up an action plan, collating resources, design and print, using the new and social media and managing public relations with the local community. This course also looks at the exit strategy of ending a youth arts project by celebrating its completion and bringing it to a successful close. For more information contact Rachel Hall on 02380 323 491 or e-mail rachel@artsworld.org.uk

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