

# Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service

## Newsletter

July 2010



*Volunteer Centre Administrator, Lisa Irwin, ready to greet visitors at our new offices. See page 4.*



Reigate & Banstead

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# Welcome...

This past week has seen the launch of the Government's Big Society. In this newsletter we look at the practical implications of encouraging more people to give up valuable time to get involved with volunteering plus a response from the national body NAVCA on the balance between local authority cutbacks on funding against the greater role support organisations such as the CVS in helping local voluntary organisations deal with the opportunities that will arise. In Surrey the local CVSs across the county have seen an increase in demand yet there is the threat of reduced funding from local authorities as they in turn look to make quite significant savings.

On the subject of volunteering, anything that gets people volunteering more is great but I am not sure that core services should be run by volunteers - that leads to an uneven quality of service.

Meanwhile, whilst there are interesting times ahead, we hope you can find the time to visit our new offices. We have an open afternoon on Thursday 5 August and this is an ideal opportunity to find out a little more about our work.

**Des Shepherd (Manager)**

## Dates for your diary...

**5<sup>th</sup> August** – Official Opening of new CVS offices and Open Afternoon.

Full details on page 4

**13<sup>th</sup> September** – Network Lunch and RBVS AGM

**15<sup>th</sup> November** – Network Lunch at Holy Trinity Church Centre, Redhill

**And next year . . .**

**5<sup>th</sup> March 2011** – Voluntary Sector Fair, Harlequin Theatre, Redhill.

## The Mayor's Community Awards 2010

The Mayor of Reigate & Banstead, Cllr David Pay, wants all residents, community groups and voluntary organisations to nominate their dedicated volunteers to receive a Mayor's Community Award in recognition of the valuable work they do.

The Mayor said: "Volunteers provide a seamless level of care that runs through our borough. So many selfless individuals are doing admirable volunteer work serving the community. I urge residents, community groups and voluntary organisations to nominate a volunteer they feel should be honoured for their service, and to receive the recognition they deserve."

**Volunteers can be nominated in five award categories:**

**Young Volunteer Award** - for volunteers under 25 years of age who have completed a minimum of two year's voluntary service.

**Volunteer Award** - for those volunteers who have completed a considerable length of voluntary service and made an exemplary voluntary contribution.

**Team Award** - for a team of volunteers who have excelled in their provision of help to a community association or charity.

**Individual Trustee Award or Trustee Team Award** - this category would include the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary or Board of Trustees who have shown due diligence, good governance and commitment in the running of a voluntary organisation. 2

An award for Outstanding Voluntary Contribution will be chosen by the Mayor's Awards Panel (if appropriate) from the entries received for the other award categories and awarded to the volunteer who the Panel feel has made a significant impact on the community through their work.

To be eligible, volunteers must live or work in the Borough and not receive any remuneration for their time.

**The closing date for nomination is Thursday 30th September 2010.**

The annual award scheme, now in its seventh year, was set up to recognise the unsung heroes who do a great amount of valuable work for the Borough and its community and to show appreciation for their selfless service. The scheme is organised by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council in partnership with Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service.



# The Mayor's Community Awards 2010

- **Do you know of someone who gives their time and energy to helping others in a voluntary capacity?**
- **Do you think they deserve to be nominated for an award?**

There are five categories of awards:

**Individual volunteer**  
**Young volunteer (up to 25)**  
**Volunteer team**  
**Trustee (individual)**  
**Trustee team**

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*To qualify as a volunteer,  
nominees should **not** receive any remuneration for their time.*

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If you would like a nomination form or would like to know more, call:

**Tel: 01737 763156 Email: [award@rbcvs.org.uk](mailto:award@rbcvs.org.uk) or  
download a form from:**

**[www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/mayorsawards2010](http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/mayorsawards2010)**

**Closing date for nomination is Thursday 30 September 2010.**

## **Nominate NOW**

Nominations should be sent to the Manager, Reigate and Banstead Voluntary Service, Victoria House, Brighton Road, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 6QZ.

**Nominated volunteers should not be informed of their nomination unless deemed absolutely necessary.**

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Successful nominees (and the nominating person or organisation) will be invited to a special awards ceremony, hosted by the Mayor, at the Town Hall, Reigate, in the Autumn.

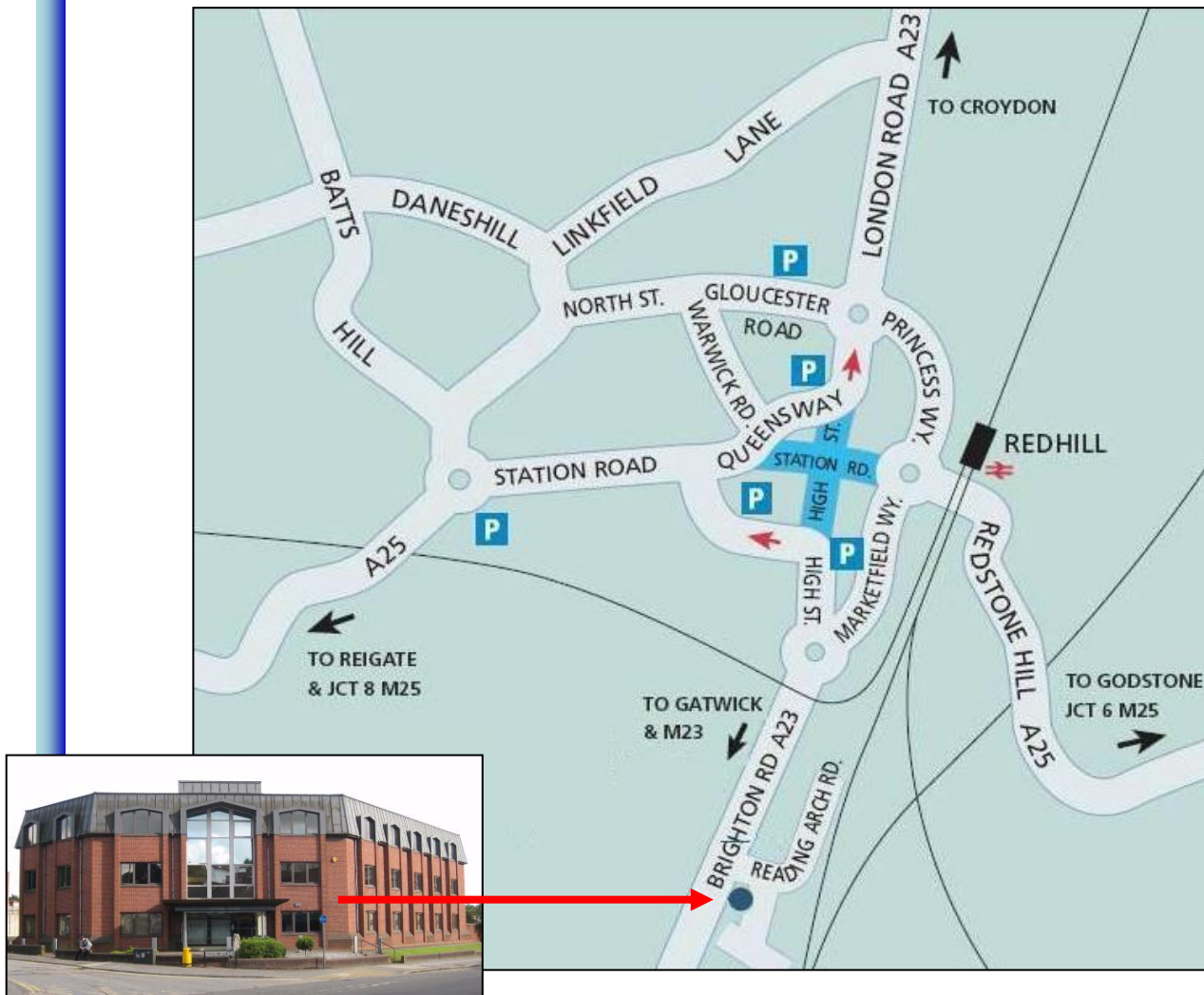
# New Offices – Open Afternoon

**Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service  
Suite 3a, Victoria House, Brighton Road, Redhill,  
RH1 6QZ**

Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service finally moved into its new offices on Friday 25 June. To celebrate this move, we are holding an open afternoon for member organisations on **Thursday 5 August 2010** between 2.30 and 5pm.

If you want to visit us please can you let us know in advance by calling Carol on 01737 763156 or sending an e-mail to [carol@rbcvs.org.uk](mailto:carol@rbcvs.org.uk)

## How To Find Us...



### Visitors

If you are planning to visit the Volunteer Centre or the CVS office, we ask that you let us know in advance. We are normally open between 10am and 3pm.

#### Door Buzzer

To let us know you are here, press the buzzer marked **3a** on the entry phone box by the main entrance.

## The Big Society – What it means for CVS's

The Prime Minister on Monday (19 July) gave more detail on his vision for the Coalition Government's Big Society agenda by announcing the country's first big society communities in Sutton, Windsor and Maidenhead, Eden Valley in Cumbria and Liverpool. These four areas will now receive targeted and tailored help from the Government to ensure they can overcome bureaucratic barriers and take greater responsibility for the decisions that affect the local area and local people.

In response, Kevin Curley (Chief Executive, National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) wrote in 'The Independent' (22 July):

"It is remarkable and welcome that our Prime Minister wants to strengthen local voluntary action and has made this a priority for his government. Success will mean in five years' time that many more people are volunteering in their communities, there are many more neighbourhood groups, most people are donating regularly to local charities and most local companies are supporting local causes.

This will not happen because the government says so. It needs patient, long-term development work by support charities such as Councils for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Centres.

It is precisely these organisations which are now being hit by deep cuts in local authority grants. There is a serious disconnect between the aspiration to build a Big Society and cuts in funding to local charities."

## How Do You Find Time To Build The Big Society?

*The following is taken from an article on the BBC News Magazine web site.*



The Prime Minister wants to build a "big society" by getting volunteers to run services but with our work-life balance already under pressure, how do those with busy jobs and families find the spare time?

You may want to give something back to the community and improve the lot of your fellow citizens. But first you have to commute to work, put in a shift and trudge back home. Then the kids need feeding, the dog needs walking and the house needs a clean... and before you know it, the day is almost over.

The Prime Minister says he wants to rebuild Britain by harnessing "people power" - getting volunteers to run post offices, libraries, transport services and shape housing projects.

But if surveys are to be believed, it may be that the biggest obstacle to his plans may not be his political opponents, but the 24-hour clock.

A 2007 survey for the cabinet office found that 41% of those who had stopped volunteering had done so because they did not have enough time.

Likewise, a 2009 poll by the Hansard society asked people who did not feel that they have an influence in decision-making - but who wanted to be involved - what was stopping them. Some 40% cited lack of time as the main reason.

But is the issue really lack of time - or lack of time management?

It is hardly surprising that people blessed with an abundance of free afternoons and a lack of financial pressures find it easiest to be good citizens - and this constituency tends to be both the older and better-off.

The book "Nudge" by Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, argues that governments need to give people better incentives to do the right thing

Professor Peter John from Manchester University has been involved in a project to road-test this theory. In one example, there was an increase in book donations (by 22%) after publicly displaying donors' names. In another example, one community organisation attracted 63 volunteers in by simply asking everyone who rang a call centre if they wanted to help out. "I think it's all about giving people a nudge in a way that recognises how they live their lives," he says. "Very often, it's not that people don't want to volunteer - it's that they haven't been asked."

Whether the government can successfully harness this approach in its bid to build the Big Society is, of course, one of the key criteria on which it will be judged.

**Source: Jon Kelly, BBC News Magazine. See**

**<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-10701101> for the full story and further links**

## News and Events

### Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service - New Trustees

Our AGM takes place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September at the Holy Trinity Church Centre, during which we will be inviting individuals to become Trustees of Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service. If you would be interested in such a role please contact Des Shepherd as per our contact page.

### Reigate Stepping Stones Need a Home

The Sovereign Centre will be closed for redevelopment from September onwards, and Reigate Stepping Stones will need a new home until at least May 2011. If you have a hall or large meeting room that could accommodate them, ideally on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10.30am and 1.30pm, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact Carol at RBVS – see our contacts page for details.

### Banstead United Charities – Funding for Individuals

Banstead United Charities have funding available for individuals who require financial assistance and live in the old Banstead Urban District area. If you or someone you know needs help to purchase school uniforms, white goods, specialist equipment and so on, please do contact them. Every application is individually assessed, and there are very few restrictions: organisations/groups and those living outside the area need not apply. Contact Banstead United Charities on 01737 351982 or e-mail [bryan.wright1@btopenworld.com](mailto:bryan.wright1@btopenworld.com) .

### Free Charity Jobs Website

Charity Job 4 U is a website providing job opportunities in the sector, and also provides charities with a platform to advertise their jobs for free. For further information, see [www.charityJOB4u.co.uk](http://www.charityJOB4u.co.uk) .

## Summary of Government Speeches on Funding

### Action Planning

Given the current uncertainty over statutory funding, Action Planning invite you to visit [www.actionplanning.co.uk/newgovernment](http://www.actionplanning.co.uk/newgovernment) where you can:

- **watch Nick Hurd's keynote speech and interview** on some of the major issues in charity funding
- access summaries of the speeches given by a number of ministers
- download last week's PowerPoint presentation by Department of Health officials on **what the White Paper means for the third sector**

Action Planning will be circulating a series of bulletins over coming weeks. To have copies sent directly to your organisation, register at [www.actionplanning.co.uk/register](http://www.actionplanning.co.uk/register).

### Reaching for Gold

Reaching for Gold is an opportunity for young people to work with a top South East Company and Voluntary or Community Sector organisation to develop a project of their own creation.

The process is very simple – groups of up to ten, 14-19 year olds that have an innovative idea which will bring about a positive change to society. Once the idea has been developed, they need to fill out an application form and submit it before the 29th November.

RfG will select the best ideas to become their finalist and they will be given high-tec prizes and linked to a set of mentors. Between January and March the finalist teams will develop their idea into a project, and get the chance to put their project before a panel of judges to win cash to make the project into a reality at the end of March 2011.

For further information and to apply, see [www.reachingforgold.org.uk](http://www.reachingforgold.org.uk).

### Postcards From The Park

This is a UK-wide competition, organised by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund in partnership with parks charity GreenSpace.

Grab your camera and capture what you love most about your local public park. Finalists will have their photos exhibited at a London gallery and win an overnight trip to London. The overall winner will receive £1,000 of Jessops vouchers. Photos will also be made into postcards and distributed at Lottery-funded venues.

**The closing date is Sunday 1st August 2010.**

To enter, go to [www.postcardsfromthepark.org.uk](http://www.postcardsfromthepark.org.uk)

### Office Space in Merstham

Are you looking for office space in the heart of Merstham?

Merstham Community Facility is able to offer a single occupancy space with unlimited wireless internet access and unlimited landline calls (during working hours).

The office has its own access from the rear of the building and the user will have access to the rest of the Facility at preferential rates (subject to availability).

Merstham has recently been identified as one of four 'priority places' in Surrey and a number of organisations are looking to place workers in the area. Please contact Tracey on 01737 645 217 if you are interested in finding out more.

# Training

## Warwick School Training Programme – Autumn Term

The Warwick School's Adult Training Programme for the Autumn Term is now available and those who are interested are encouraged to book places as soon as possible.

Current courses include First Steps into Computing, Digital Photography, Building a Database and GCSE French. Most courses carry a small fee, although the First Steps into Computing course is free.

Whilst the course list is usually comprehensive, they would like to know what kinds of computer courses you would like to attend, and if Food Safety/Hygiene and Health & Safety courses are needed.

All bookings and suggestions should be made by contacting Allan Hopkins on 01737 378471 or e-mail him at [hop@warwicksurrey.sch.uk](mailto:hop@warwicksurrey.sch.uk) . Please note that if you do not receive a response it is due to the school holiday season, and you will be contacted as soon as is possible.

## Contact Us

If you have any queries regarding anything in this Newsletter, please contact us as below:

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|---|--|
| • <b>Des Shepherd</b><br>Manager                      | 01737 763156<br><a href="mailto:des@rbcvs.org.uk">des@rbcvs.org.uk</a>     |
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| • <b>Janet Rimmer</b><br>Volunteer Co-ordinator       | 01737 762115<br><a href="mailto:janet@rbcvs.org.uk">janet@rbcvs.org.uk</a> |
| • <b>Lisa Irwin</b><br>Volunteer Centre Administrator | 01737 762115<br><a href="mailto:lisa@rbcvs.org.uk">lisa@rbcvs.org.uk</a>   |

[www.rbcvs.org.uk](http://www.rbcvs.org.uk)

[www.reigateandbansteadvolunteercentre.org](http://www.reigateandbansteadvolunteercentre.org)

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