

## NEWS FROM HASTINGS VOLUNTARY ACTION



### Hastings Has a Heart

Thursday 18th March 9am – 5pm

Why not represent and support your organisation at our event in Priory Meadow?

To be opened by our mayor Maureen Charlesworth at 10:30am.

After last year's successful event where passport Certificate Community Volunteering (CCV) candidates represented their organisations, as pictured above, we are repeating with CVQ candidates. We are holding 5 weekly meetings prior to the big day, where participating candidates will discuss and produce the project as part of their Community Volunteering Qualification (CVQ).

There is time for all volunteers over 18 to join us and make this another memorable day as well as an accredited qualification.

Contact: Sandra Foxwell CVQ centre co-ordinator on 07779 262 979 or email: [sandra@hvauk.org](mailto:sandra@hvauk.org)

### New Small Grants Available

#### Hastings Borough Council's Small Grants Fund

Hastings Voluntary Action is administering Hastings Borough Council's Small Grants Fund in 2010/11.

A total of £9,000 is available in grants of up to £500 to support smaller voluntary and community groups in carrying out activities that enhance the quality of Hastings and St Leonards residents' lives and increase their involvement in the community.

Grants can be used to pay for things like new

equipment, general running costs, repairs/refurbishment, transport, newsletters, or events.

The deadline for the next round will be midday Wednesday 14th April 2010, and applicants will be informed whether they have been successful by Friday 21st May 2010.

#### Health Improvement Grants

Hastings & Rother Primary Care Trust have added a sum of money to the Small Grants "pot" to be distributed in 2010. A little under £5,000 is available (in addition to the HBC allocation), again in amounts of up to £500, for projects in Hastings which

contribute to the PCT's "Choosing Health" programme. These grants will be processed alongside the HBC Small Grants, sharing the same deadlines and application / decision making process.

Application forms and guidance notes for both of the above schemes can be downloaded at:

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

Or telephone HVA's Admin team on 01424 444010 to request a pack.

## Do you Need a Creche for Your Meeting?

In2play are offering a new service for those organisations that would like to have a crèche

facility to accompany their meeting.

In2play can offer crèches for children aged 3 months – 13 years, either morning or afternoon, for 2 hour periods in a room adjacent to or nearby your meeting room.

All our staff are trained and/or experienced and hold CRB checks.

We can provide all equipment and resources necessary to run the crèche service.

An example of costs – Up to 6 children, under 13 years: £80 / 2 hours.

Contact the office on 01424 432742. Email: [info@in2play.org.uk](mailto:info@in2play.org.uk) for a bespoke quotation.

For 10% off your booking, quote reference number HVA-MAR.

## NEWS FROM GROUPS

### Hastings & Rother Health & Social Care Forum

On 23rd February the Hastings & Rother Health & Social Care Forum held their inaugural AGM at the Horntye Park Sports Complex, St Leonards. It was well attended by members from the local VCS, statutory organisations and HBC/ESCC councillors.

The formal part of the AGM was followed with a presentation by Andrew Boxall, Project Officer for the ESCC Joint Access to Information Project which included an overview of the County Connect Project.

The work of the Forum allows groups to network and begin to represent issues collectively to the Primary Care Trust. But it also provides a crucial way of bringing organisations together to promote collaboration and work in partnership.

With this AGM a new chapter opens in the history of the Forum with a semi-independent structure and a newly elected committee.

The meeting concluded by proposing a Vote of Thanks to Rosemary Iddenden who sadly will shortly be retiring as Branch Manager of the local Alzheimer's Society.

If you would like to become involved with the Forum please contact Cheryl Davis on 01424 444010 or email: [Cheryl@hvauk.org](mailto:Cheryl@hvauk.org)



*Rosemary Iddenden, centre, with her retirement flowers*

## Hastings Association for Retired People (HARP)

**Retired???** Come to our Open Day and see what we are about.

We're a friendly group who meet to chat over a tea/coffee, play bingo and other activities. We also provide many services which include hairdressing, hearing aid maintenance, toe-nail clipping etc.

Meeting on Wednesday 28th April 2010, 10am – 3pm at The Pop In Centre, Central Hall, Bank Buildings (near 1066 Bakery). Come and find out more about us over a free cup of tea/coffee.

## Treasurer Wanted

This is a great opportunity to get involved with a forward thinking and progressive Charity.

Hastings Talking Newspaper Association is keen to appoint a new Treasurer. This post is voluntary and only requires a few hours each month. The committee meets every 6 weeks for about 1 hour, here the Treasurer will report on the financial state of the deposit and current accounts. They will also prepare and annual summery of income and expenditure, and pay any bills. Please contact the Chair on 01424 446228.

## Walled Garden in Hastings

After years of neglect, an overgrown walled garden in Hastings East Sussex is set to be restored by a small group of determined volunteers who want to rescue a remnant of the Victorian era. Invasive ivy, brambles, and wintry weather conditions are steadily eroding the walls. Despite the lack of maintenance, the 12 foot high walls enclosing the large interior are generally in a reasonable condition. The most dramatic damage to the walled garden is a section that was destroyed, probably during the storm of 1987.

The Bohemia walled garden sits within the Summerfields Local Nature Reserve. Originally it formed part of the Brisco estate and was built sometime after 1830 as part of the many improvements made by the wealthy Wastel Brisco MP and



JP in the Hastings area. In more recent times, the estate was acquired by Hastings Borough Council for the construction of civic buildings. The Jacobean style house was demolished in 1972, and the garden itself has received very little maintenance over the last 40 years.

At the beginning of 2009, the Bohemia Walled Garden Association was formed in order to raise funds to pay for repairs and replacements to sections of the walls. Plans for the restoration work can only begin once the true condition of the walls has been assessed, so volunteer workers will have to free the walls of climbing plants and even small trees.

Recently they discovered ivy with stems over an inch thick actually penetrating the brickwork, while missing and damaged coping stones have also been undermined by invasive ivy and brambles.

With tools and insurance in place, volunteers are now regularly working to clear the years of growth. The BWGA are currently negotiating the terms for a long lease with Hastings Borough Council, who still own the site. This will enable funding that will allow repairs to get underway.

Once restored a new community horticultural use will be established involving different sections of the community and the association welcomes enquiries from organisations and people who want to become involved. Bob Hart a member of the group said: "Its important to get started on the necessary repairs soon as the last 40 years of neglect have left parts of the walls liable to collapse and repairs are now needed." "When repairs are complete the restored garden will be a real asset to the community and offer opportunities for all ages to learn about horticulture".

Anyone interested can learn more by looking at the website [www.bohemiawga.weebly.com](http://www.bohemiawga.weebly.com) and the Bohemia Walled Garden Association can be contacted by e-mailing: [bohemiawga@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bohemiawga@yahoo.co.uk) or writing to: BWGA, c/o Bohemia Village Voice, 79 Bohemia Rd, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6RJ.

The AGM of the BWGA will be held at 7pm on Monday 8th March at the YMCA, St. Paul's Road, Bohemia.

## Pier Information Centre and Shop Staff Required

Hastings Pier & White Rock Trust, who are battling to save Hastings Pier are looking to open their Pier Information Centre and Shop at the former Arthur Green's shop located on the seafront in White Rock in Easter 2010.

If you are keen to support the Trust, we are looking for volunteer Store Assistants to help in the shop. If you are able to spare a minimum of half a day per week (10am–1pm or 1–4pm), we would love to hear from you.

This is a unique opportunity to get involved in a key regeneration initiative, meet members of the Hastings artist community and learn all about the history of the Pier in order to pass that information onto the Public.

Contact us at [volunteer@hpwrt.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@hpwrt.co.uk) or phone Angela on 07768 456884 to receive an application pack.

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## TRAINING

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### Vetting and Barring Scheme – Training/ Briefing

**22nd March 10am – 1pm. Venue TBC**

Sue Shoemith from 3VA Southdown will be running a session to brief Hastings and St Leonards organisations on the new vetting and barring scheme. A booking form will be available on HVA's website in the near future with applications on a first come first serve basis. There may be a restriction of one person per organisation.

#### Information on the new Vetting and Barring Scheme

The Vetting and Barring Scheme is currently being put in place to vet all individuals who want to work or volunteer with vulnerable people. The scheme will help to prevent unsuitable people from working or volunteering with children or vulnerable adults.

Anyone who works with, or recruits people to work with children or vulnerable adults needs to know about the scheme and the new legal responsibilities it brings for employers and employees, whether paid or voluntary. The first phase of the scheme was launched on 12 October 2009.

#### Why do we need a new Vetting and Barring Scheme?

Following the murders of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells by Ian Huntley (a school caretaker) in 2002, the Richard Inquiry was commissioned. The Inquiry

looked into the way that employers check the background of job applicants and made recommendations for improvements.

One of the recommendations was that a single independent agency should manage a Vetting and Barring Scheme which would vet all individuals who want to work or volunteer with vulnerable people. This recommendation became law through the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) [www.isa-gov.org/](http://www.isa-gov.org/) has been set up to manage the scheme in partnership with the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). [www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/](http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/)

#### What is changing under the new Vetting and Barring Scheme?

The changes will include:

- Two new barred lists, the 'Children's List' and the 'Vulnerable Adults' List' will replace the PoCA and PoVA Lists and List 99
- A Standard CRB check will no longer include a search of the barred lists, so an Enhanced CRB check will be needed for anyone working with vulnerable people
- Criminal penalties will be introduced for barred individuals who seek work with vulnerable people, and for employers who knowingly employ them
- A new definition of vulnerable adults which includes people and jobs not previously covered e.g. health workers
- A legal duty to refer information about people who may pose a risk to children and vulnerable adults to the ISA

Activities which allow access to vulnerable people will be 'regulated' and there will be a legal requirement for anyone who wishes to work in 'regulated activity' to be ISA-registered before they start work.

### Child Protection Awareness for Voluntary and Community Groups

**6th May 2010 – Cooden Beach**

This course aims to raise awareness of child protection issues, procedures and signs and indicators of child abuse. To enable staff to identify and respond to child protection concerns and to become aware of ESCC Child Protection Procedures; to encourage and develop effective inter agency communication where child protection matters arise.

You can find more information regarding this course and other Safeguarding Children courses on the

czone website. Please follow this link to download the LSCB Training Directory and access the training nomination form if you wish to apply.

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

## Hastings Furniture Service – Free Training Opportunities

Hastings Furniture Service, the local independent furniture re-use charity, is working with Furniture Now, SCCH & LSC to offer free courses for people who are out of work in Hastings & Rother.

Over the next 6 months the charity will be running a range of one-day training events that aim to help people who are unemployed to build the skills and confidence to progress to formal courses, volunteering or paid work.

These opportunities are open to anyone who is not working for any reason.

Dates in March & April:

- Fire Safety 01/03/10 Hastings
- Painting on canvas 09/03/10 Bexhill
- Repair don't Despair 23/03/10 Bexhill
- Health & Safety at Work 30/03/10 Bexhill
- First Aid 31/03/10 Hastings
- First Aid 07/04/10 Bexhill
- Painting on Canvas 13/04/10 Hastings
- Repair Don't Despair 20/04/10 Bexhill
- Painting on Canvas 27/04/10 Bexhill

For more information call HFS on 01424 44 11 12.

## Grow Your Own Course – Robertsbridge

**A fun practical course one afternoon a week for ten weeks learning how to grow vegetables, herbs, fruit, and raise pigs and chickens in a small garden area without having to spend lots of money.**

The course is free to parents on a low income and runs from April to July 2010, Green Oak Farm, Roberstridge.

Open afternoon March 18th, Green Oak Farm.

For more information contact Katharine Finnigan, Common Cause, tel: 01273 470900.

20 North Street, Lewes, BN7 2PE.

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

### Editorial dates:

Next copy deadline – 22nd March

Paper inserts deadline – 31st March

Copy to: John Humphries

Email: [infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org](mailto:infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org)

## FUNDRAISING

### Nationwide Foundation – Small Grants Criteria expanded

The Nationwide Foundation is a registered charity, set up and funded by the Nationwide Building Society. The Foundation makes grants to registered charities across the UK, including Northern Ireland, within criteria defined by the Board of Trustees.

The Nationwide Foundation has expanded its Small Grants Programme criteria for charities working with older people. Small grants can now be applied for by charities working for the benefit of all older people to improve their housing needs or address financial exclusion.

Expanding their criteria gives charities more opportunity to provide support to all older people. Their funding is used to tackle a wide range of financial and housing issues. In cold weather, many charities are helping older people stay warm in their homes and manage their energy bills. This is typical of work they may fund.

The Nationwide Foundation's Small Grants Programme makes grants every two months. Grants of up to £5,000 are available to registered charities with incomes of under £500,000. The Nationwide Foundation's Small Grants are also available to charities which work with survivors of domestic abuse, focusing their funding on finance and housing issues.

They urge charities which are eligible to apply for a grant. Their application process is very simple and they pride themselves on processing grants quickly.

Charities wishing to apply for funding from The Nationwide Foundation should visit the website: [www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk](http://www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk)

The Nationwide Foundation, Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon SN38 2SN.

Email: [enquiries@nationwidefoundation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nationwidefoundation.org.uk)

Tel: 01793 655113 Fax: 01793 652409

### BIG – Reaching Communities: Improvements to be introduced from Spring 2010

**Reaching Communities is remaining open.**

Reaching Communities will continue to be a key element of their increased commitment to deliver the vast majority of their funding to the voluntary and community sector.

There is no change to who can apply, what they will

fund, or the difference they want to make with this programme. The programme will continue to make awards between £10,000 and £500,000 and will continue to fund for up to five years

At least £300 million will be awarded to projects making a difference to the lives of individuals and communities most in need through their Reaching Communities programme until 2013.

They are making a series of improvements to Reaching Communities to enhance their customers' experience:

There will be a more proportionate approach for groups applying for up to £40K/annum – for these applicants there will be a simpler application process and quicker decision making than if you are asking for more than £40K per year. In particular this should benefit smaller organisations.

From April you will be able to apply for capital funding up to the value of £100k; this will be of particular benefit to those groups based in London and the South-East, where construction costs are higher than in other parts of the country.

They are also in the process of developing a community buildings stream to launch later this year. More information on this will be made available as the programme development continues.

There will be more support for applicants at every stage of the application process, particularly in those areas and for those groups that have received less funding than they would have expected. They will support networking and learning opportunities for those they fund to learn from each other and encourage them to share good practice.

The current outline proposal form will be available to download until Wednesday 31st March. Applicants will have until Friday 30th April to submit the form, but will still have up to six months to submit a full application.

From 1st April the new improved outline proposal form will be available to download. Applicants will be told within 20 working days if they will be invited to complete a full application form.

If you are not invited to submit a full application you will receive clearer, more detailed feedback highlighting the areas that will need to be improved to enhance your chances of going forward. Applicants can submit another application when they are ready.

A full application form will need to be completed within four months. They will take less time to assess your full application. They anticipate that if you are invited to submit a full application you will have a much better chance of success. Current programme success rate is 28 per cent.

Contact their national helpline for advice Tel: 0845 410 20 30.

Email: [general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk)

Call our Lottery Funding Helpline on 0845 275 00 00 or go to Website: <http://digbig.com/5bbdjs>

## Henry Smith Charity

The Henry Smith Charity is a large grant making charity. They make grants totalling approximately £25 million each year to up to 1,000 organisations and charities for initiatives and projects that address social inequality and economic disadvantage.

The Henry Smith Charity makes grants for work throughout the UK. Applications can be made for revenue and capital activity. Priority is given to work with groups experiencing social and/or economic disadvantage, for example, people with disabilities; and work that tackles problems in areas of high deprivation, by which they mean those that fall within the bottom third of the National Indices of Deprivation. Visit their Frequently Asked Questions page for more information about the Indices.

Through their Main Grants Programme and their Small and County Grants Programmes they make grants in the following categories, and have provided some examples below of the type of work they will fund under each category:

**Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)** – Projects providing culturally appropriate services to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities; including those that promote integration and access to mainstream services.

**Carers** – Projects providing advice and support; including respite services for carers and those cared for. Work can include educational opportunities for young carers.

**Community Service** – Projects providing support for communities in areas of high deprivation; including projects providing furniture recycling services, debt advice and community centres.

**Disability** – Projects providing rehabilitation, training or advocacy support to people who are disabled; this includes learning disabilities as well as physical disabilities.

**Domestic and Sexual Violence** – Projects providing advice, support and secure housing for families affected by domestic violence or sexual violence. Perpetrator programmes can be considered where organisations have secured, or are working towards, Respect accreditation.

**Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Misuse** – Projects supporting the rehabilitation of people affected by, or at risk of, drug and/or alcohol dependency, and projects supporting their families.

**Ex-Service Men and Women** – Projects providing services or residential care to ex-service men and women and their dependents.

**Family Services** – Projects providing support to families in areas of high deprivation.

**Healthcare** – Projects providing residential care, health care or outreach services, such as home care support. Services operated by the NHS will not normally be funded. In the case of applications from Hospices, priority is given to requests for capital expenditure.

**Homelessness** – Projects providing housing and services for homeless people and those at risk of homelessness.

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender** – Projects providing advice, support and counselling for people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgendered.

**Mental Health** – Projects promoting positive mental health or providing advice and support to people experiencing mental health problems.

**Older People** – Projects providing residential care, health care or emotional support, such as befriending services and day care centres. Priority will be given to projects in areas of high deprivation and those where rural isolation can be demonstrated.

**Prisoners and Ex-offenders** – Projects that help the rehabilitation and resettlement of prisoners and/or ex-offenders; including education and training that improve employability, and projects that support prisoners' families.

**Prostitution and Trafficking** – Projects that provide advice and support to sex industry workers; including advice on housing support and personal health, escaping exploitation and exiting prostitution.

**Refugees and Asylum Seekers** – Projects providing advocacy, advice and support to refugees and asylum seekers, and those promoting integration.

**Young People** – Projects maximising the potential of young people who experience educational, social and economic disadvantage; including young people in, or leaving, care.

Download and read the full guidelines for the type of grant you wish to apply for from website below before making your application. Consult the not normally funded listing. Each of their grant programmes has a slightly different application and assessment process. You will find information about how to make your application in the guidelines for each type of grant.

The Henry Smith Charity, 6th Floor, 65 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 2AD Tel: 020 7264 4970. Fax: 020 7488 9097. [www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk](http://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk)

## STATUTORY SECTOR & CONSULTATIONS

### Adult Social Care needs a Citizen Involvement Worker

(37 hours a week till April 2011, £24,646-26,276)

The job is to set up a user's and carer's reference group for the Putting People First Programme Board to make sure diverse voices are heard. The Putting People First (PPF) Programme will deliver personalised social care services in East Sussex by April 2011. This could be for you if you have a passion for service improvement; excellent communication and organisational skills; can provide creative facilitation and excellent accessible information; and value hearing people's views and acting on them.

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

### Save the Date

The 14th Annual Sussex DAAT Drug and Alcohol Conference is being held on the 15th July 2010 at the University of Sussex...

This years' theme is 'The Bigger Picture', featuring workshops and keynote presentations on a range of subjects including legal highs, dual diagnosis and sexual health and blood borne viruses.

Discounts will be given for early bookings, with a full programme available soon.

### New Migrant Communities Support Officer working for East Sussex

I have recently been appointed as Migrant Communities Support Officer. This is a new partnership position working across East Sussex, managing the Empowering and Integrating Migrant Communities project (funded through the national Migration Impact Fund grant).

The project's overall objective is to improve services and outcomes for migrant communities through VCS organisations and public sector services. The project has four themes:

- Theme 1: Information and Advocacy – providing information about services§
- Theme 2: Housing – developing best practice for housing professionals§
- Theme 3: Training and Learning – providing flexible ESOL provision§

- Theme 4: Health – providing advocacy support

As this is early days, I'm keen to hear from all organisations that work with new migrants (anyone who can legally reside in the UK but was not born here and who has been in the UK for less than five years).

I'm interested in setting up migrant communities consultations, with VCS interpreters where possible, to find out what migrant communities feel they need and how these needs can be better met.

If you work with anyone who might be interested in participating, or your organisation would be interested in helping in the consultation, please let me know. If you have any ideas, suggestions or questions then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks very much.

*Tiga-Rose Nercessian*. Tel: 01273 33 68 44

Email: [tiga-rose.nercessian@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:tiga-rose.nercessian@eastsussex.gov.uk)

## ESCC Personalisation Bulletin

This is a briefing from the East Sussex Adult Social Care for anyone providing care and support services, now or in the future.

It is the first of five quarterly bulletins, designed to provide information about Putting People First and personalisation to current and potential service providers.

You will find links below to relevant sections of the bulletin, or you can download the entire 10 page bulletin using the following link:

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/adults/puttingpeoplefirst/personalisationbulletin.htm](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/socialcare/adults/puttingpeoplefirst/personalisationbulletin.htm).

Alternatively, you can request a hard copy at [peoplefirst@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:peoplefirst@eastsussex.gov.uk)

**Choice** – with information on Buy Support with Confidence, Self Directed Support, Support Planning and Brokerage, Independent Advocacy, Personal Budgets and the Improved Access to Joint Information, and the Third Sector Commissioning Project

**Workforce Development** – with information on the East Sussex Workforce Forum, Learn online, Regional Showcase for Social Care 2010, Qualifications and Credit Framework, Training Brochures Go Online, Eastbourne Care Worker wins Prestigious National Award, Consultation on Refreshed Common Induction Standards, and Personal Assistants

**Market Development** – with information on Micro Markets and Homeshare, Provider Consultation, Homecare Procurement, User Led Organisations, Day Opportunities for Older People and the Learning Disabilities Provider Forum

Got some feedback? Let us know at [peoplefirst@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:peoplefirst@eastsussex.gov.uk)

## Hastings and Eastbourne Research Helpdesk Drop-In Session

- Are you doing some research for your organisation but have run into a problem?
- Are you interested in doing some research but are not sure where to start?
- Would you like to explore working in partnership with a researcher at the University?
- Would you like to attend a drop-in session for an informal chat about research?

Cupp (Community University Partnership Programme) has a small group of experienced researchers available to provide free one-to-one research support to local community and voluntary organisations.

So if you have run into a problem with your own research or just don't know where to start, why not book an appointment or visit a drop-in session.

### Next Drop-In session:

Hastings: Thursday, 22nd April 2010 – 10am-12.30pm. At University Centre Hastings (UCH), Havelock Road, Hastings TN34 1DQ, ask at reception for designated rooms.

For more information go to:

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

or contact Polly Rodriguez, Cupp Helpdesk Manager, email: [p.v.rodriguez@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:p.v.rodriguez@brighton.ac.uk)  
Tel: 01273 643229.

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Copy to: John Humphries

Email:

[infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org](mailto:infoworker@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org)

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