

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

E-BULLETIN

Edition 20

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NEWS

NEW SERVICES AVAILABLE AT ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

CRB checking

RVA is working with Hastings organisation In2play, to be able to facilitate CRB checking locally. In2play will be at an RVA office on the third Wednesday of each month where they are able to help people fill in the application form and check their identity documents.

In order to use this service an organisation has to register with In2play by completing the CRB agreement and registration contact detail forms.

The CRB also requires all organisations to have policies that show the correct procedures for the storage and retention of Disclosure information and a policy for the recruitment of people with a criminal record. Specimen policies are made available by In2play.

Once an organisation is registered with In2play they are able to receive a Disclosure Application form which can be filled in and checked by In2Play

The costs for these checks are:

Enhanced check: £36 plus £8 admin fee = £44

Standard check: £31 plus £8 admin fee = £39

Volunteers: The CRB is free, and the admin fee is £3.

In2play is at Rother Voluntary Action at the following times:

Wednesday 17 th February	Bexhill office	2-3.30pm
Wednesday 17 th March	Bexhill office	2-3.30pm
Wednesday 21 st April	Rye office	2-3.30pm
Wednesday 19 th May	Bexhill office	2-3.30pm
Wednesday 16 th June	Bexhill office	2-3.30pm
Wednesday 21 st July	Rye office	2-3.30pm

RVA can email you the paperwork, drop in to collect it or download it from the website

DADS, GRANDDADS, BROTHERS, UNCLES

Male Carers Group at Battle Childrens Centre

The group runs on the 2nd Saturday of each month and is open to any male carer of a child under the age of 5. We offer an opportunity for the children to play with the toys available or to participate in one of the many craft activities that are always on offer.

The group allows Dads, Granddads, or any male carer to spend valuable time with their child without outside distraction taking away from the experience. Our group has only been in existence since September 2009, but already we have given the attendees the chance to enjoy a visit from Battle Fire Brigade, visit from Bexhill Furry Friends (housetrained rabbits), to make giant wooden garden windmills with Radiator arts, and participate in a Christmas party, with a visit from Santa and a snow machine!

Many more exciting events are planned for 2010, and we welcome you to come and join us every 2nd Saturday of the month, between 10 am and Noon at Battle Childrens Centre.

For more information please contact Rebecca Philips or Emma Broom on 01424 777109 or email rotherchildrenscentres@eastsussex.gov.uk

THE RYE FUND

The Local Awards panel of the Rye Fund announced that Rye Age Concern, ARRC, Rye Museum, Rye Methodist Church Choir and Rye Farmers Market projects were all successful in bidding for funds from the first round of grant funding. The Rye Fund's objectives are to give long-term financial support to voluntary organisations in Rye and District and to help preserve community assets for the future benefit of Rye.

The Rye Fund is managed in partnership with the Sussex Community Foundation. For further information and criteria for funding please visit these websites: www.theryefund.org.uk and www.sussexgiving.org.uk

ASSESSING BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

As part of the government's plans to improve business support for social enterprises across England, the Office of the Third Sector commissioned an evaluation of the current position of support through Business Link. It has just published the study's baseline findings and users perceptions. Read the headlines figures at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/y9x6o8m>, which also links to the baseline report (Word format, 2.42MB). The evaluation will be completed with the end of the project in March 2011.

HASTINGS AND ROTHER RAINBOW ALLIANCE is pleased to announce they have been awarded charity status by the Charity Commission. HARRA and the Wellbeing group in conjunction with Hastings Counselling Service are organising an equalities day on 26 February in Hastings, Speakers will be Peter Tatchell and Michael Foster, and there will be lunch and workshops. The main purpose of this event is to educate service providers on the needs of LGBT. Any interested LGBT people who feel they could contribute, particularly to the workshops is welcome to attend. You should contact Les@hrra.org.uk.

FUNDING

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

East Sussex County Council has some limited funding available for communities to implement or expand on existing community transport (CT) services to improve accessibility within the county. This CT Business Case Application Form can be completed on behalf of Parish / Borough / District Councils or Community Groups. It is preferable that all submissions are made in partnership with a CT Operator. For further information please contact Gillian Laughlin on 01273 482584 / gillian.laughlin@eastsussex.gov.uk or Siân Wardhaugh on 01273 335788 / sian.wardhaugh@eastsussex.gov.uk.

TESCO CHARITY TRUST

Deadline - 31 March 2010

The Tesco Charity Trust is inviting applications through its Community Awards Programme. This scheme provides one-off donations ranging from £500 to £4,000.

The Tesco Charity Trust aims to provide funding for practical benefits, such as equipment and resources, for projects that directly help children, the elderly and those with disabilities.

- Grants to support elderly people and/or adults and children with disabilities (OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS: 1st February – 31st March 2010)

More at:

www.tescopl.com/plc/corporate_responsibility_09/community/making_difference/charitablegiving/tesco_charity_trust/

CONSULTATIONS

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SUSSEX – YOUR VIEWS WANTED

The NHS is working to improve the mental health services available to people in Sussex and is asking local people about its plans. People who use mental health services say that they want to receive more treatment and care at home, and in the community if possible, rather than in hospital beds. Clinicians (doctors, nurses and other health professionals) also believe that providing more and better mental health services outside of hospital will help people recover quicker, stay healthier, and avoid needing to go to hospital.

Proposals are currently being developed and there are a series of meetings taking place with staff, service users and stakeholders to shape these proposals. There are also going to be

other consultations taking place looking at the provision of mental health inpatient units in other parts of Sussex at the same time.

At the start of May all the responses will be reviewed and decisions taken about the final plans to be implemented. To find out more or to request a briefing, please contact us via our Communications Team who can be reached on: Tel 01273 403550 E-mail: joel.hufford@esdwpct.nhs.uk Post: Joel Hufford, Communications Manager, Improving mental health services consultation, Freepost SEA 2474, BN8 2ZZ.

OPENING UP ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA

A consultation has been launched on how to make certain Ordnance Survey map information available at no cost and without reuse restrictions. It has been pointed out on UKRiders (the sector techies forum) that easier access to mapping and postcode datasets, as proposed, could be of great use to voluntary organisations. Closes 17th March, http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_183630

CARER'S RIGHTS

Over the past nine months Adult Social Care and the local NHS have been working on developing a strategy for carers' services in East Sussex. They have consulted widely with carers and the general public and have now produced a final Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers' Services for the period 2010-2015, which was published on the East Sussex County Council website on Carers Rights Day, 4th December 2009, and they have also produced an easy-to-read booklet which gives details of how they developed their plans based on what people told them. Follow this link to find out more: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/2009/supportforcarers

EXEMPTING SMALL MUSIC EVENTS FROM LICENSING ACT

An exemption from the Licensing Act 2003 for small live music events (for 100 people or less) is the basis of proposals out to consultation to 26th March, see government news item at http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/6553.aspx

COMMUNICATING CONCERNS OVER ABOLISHING CHEQUES

The Institute of Fundraising is pursuing its concern that there has been insufficient consultation on the Payments Council proposals to abolish the use of cheques by 2018. IoF will be meeting the Council in February and is urging others to express any concerns, either via their Policy and Campaigns department or direct to the Council. See news item at <http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/pressnews/topstories/saveourcheques>

TRAINING

HFS HAS GOT FREE TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

On the 1st February we have Health and Safety at our branch in Hastings.
On the 19th February we have Emergency First Aid at Work being held at Sidley Community Centre. This training is free to volunteers. We have limited spaces so book your place now!! If you are interested please call Sarah/ Simone on 01424 441112.

MOVING FITNESS

FREE sessions starting this spring! A new and exciting weekend outdoor fitness programme for the more active older person is starting 6th & 7th March 2010. Book your place now for a 10 week lifestyle change, exploring real everyday conditions in the fresh air! It's an all-over experience! Sessions are at Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings. Call Terry Keen on 07711 884388 or email terry@livingactive.co.uk or visit www.livingactive.co.uk

RYE COLLEGE

Adult education classes take place on Wednesday evenings. The following courses are running now up until Easter: ballroom dancing, French, basic computing, cooking for men, digital photography and career development. Basic computing and career development are free courses. Anyone interested can contact us on (01797) 222545 option 6 or e-mail office@ryecollege.e-sussex.sch.uk

SITUATIONS VACANT

TRUSTEES WANTED

Hastings & Rother Mediation Service have a vacancy on their Board of Trustees for a volunteer Trustee. They are a registered charity providing the following forms of mediation: Family, Intergenerational, Neighbourhood and Peer. Meetings are held quarterly. For further information please contact Nicola Hawkins on 01424 446808 or e-mail hmediation@aol.com

3VA ARE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGING POSTS

Volunteering Support Officer These three posts are funded until March 2013 in the first instance, as part of a project to develop Volunteering Infrastructure Support across East Sussex. These are outreach posts that will assist in the delivery of volunteer centre functions to volunteer-involving organisations and the public across the different districts of the county. These posts will focus on three areas, Eastbourne/Lewes (37 hours), Rother/Hastings (37 hours) and Wealden (18.5hrs) although team working across East Sussex is anticipated. Salary: £23,708 (pro rata) per annum including occasional unsocial hours.

Administrator This 30 hour post is funded until March 2013 in the first instance, as part of a project to develop Volunteering Infrastructure Support across East Sussex. The post will support the County Volunteering Co-ordinator and the team of Volunteering Support Officers in the delivery of volunteer centre functions across East Sussex. Salary: £16,440 per annum (pro rata for 30 hours).

Further information and an application form visit www.3va.org.uk or telephone Alison Maconochie, 01323 639373. Closing Date for all applications: Friday 5th February 2010.

HASTINGS AND ROTHER MEDIATION SERVICES

Mediator (on Secondment to E SX CC Children's Services) - 17 hours per week. This position will be based at Ocean House, St Leonards on Sea in the Youth Support Team, and involve direct contact with clients on a regular basis, with appointments often taking place away from the office. Some evening work will be required. Ability to work on own initiative is essential, as is having a current driving licence and use of a car. Experience of Mediation and working with young people and parents is essential. The position is for 12 months and continuation after then will be subject to funding. Salary: Scale 6 pt 26 - £22,221 p.a. pro rata.

Mediation Case Worker - 16 hours per week. This position will be based at the Mediation Service office in Hastings. It will involve casework in relation to the day-to-day management of both Intergenerational and Neighbourhood cases, as well as carrying out client visits with co-mediators in order to mediate between clients. Experience of Mediation and working with young people and parents is essential. The position is for 12 months and continuation after then will be subject to funding. Salary: Scale 5 pt 22 - £19,621 p.a. pro rata. For full information please contact: Hastings & Rother Mediation Service Tel: 01424 446808. E-mail hmediation@aol.com Closing date for applications: Friday 19th February

SNIPPETS

PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER FOR VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS

EDF Energy keep a Priority Services Register. A power cut or planned interruption is always difficult but they recognise how especially worrying it must be if you are reliant on electricity for medical equipment or have other special needs. Being on the Register will not necessarily mean that they can restore your power more quickly but it will enable them to offer additional help and support. This service is free and provided you meet their criteria for inclusion you can register by calling Priority Services answerphone: 0800 169 9970 or email: psr@edfenergy.com

ANNUAL RETURNS REMINDER

The Charity Commission has issued a reminder that charities (in England and Wales) with an annual income in excess of £10,000 and a financial year end of 31st March must get their 2009 returns in by 31st January. They explain how to do this online via <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/common/jandead.asp>

CHIEF EXECUTIVE RETIRES

The County Council has agreed that, after 16 years as its Chief Executive, Cheryl Miller will retire in the first half of 2010. The post will be advertised nationally. For further details visit www.eastsussex.gov.uk

CHARITY 140 - A NEW FREE ADVICE SERVICE FOR SMALL CHARITIES INTERESTED IN EXPLOITING SOCIAL MEDIA

Fleur Hicks-Duarte is the founding director of Pass It On Media www.passitonmedia.co.uk www.passitonmedia.co.uk which gives businesses advice on using social media to connect with their audiences and users. The company has just launched a joint venture called Charity140 which enables social media experts give free advice to small charities which do not have large marketing budgets, helping them to "devise strategies to engage with communities of wide demographic, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds". She adds, "Change needs to be mobilised, and I am a mobiliser." Contact them at 68 Charlotte St, London W1T 4QF info@passitonmedia.co.uk Tel: 0207 631 1698

HOW TO RUN AN EFFECTIVE GIFT AID SCHEME

HMRC Charities has produced a 'Gift Aid Toolkit' on CD-ROM to help your charity or community amateur sports club run an effective Gift Aid scheme. The toolkit offers a beginner's guide to the Gift Aid scheme and provides a step-by-step guide to help you. To order a free copy of the Gift Aid Toolkit or paper copies of R68 repayment claim forms simply send an email to HMRC using the email link on this page: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift_aid/toolkit.htm

RE-CYCLE YOUR XMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards and any other cards can be taken to St Mary's Church, Rye - box inside North Door.

SUMMARISING VOLUNTEERING IN THE RECESSION

An outline report on 'Volunteering in the recession', produced for the Recession Summit has been put online by Volunteering England, at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/ydt7zef> It looks at positive and negative developments and highlights crisis points.

CELEBRATE LGBT HISTORY MONTH WITH EAST SUSSEX LIBRARIES.

All events are **FREE**, but pre-booking is **ESSENTIAL**, contact melanie.nicholls@eastsussex.gov.uk or phone: 01273 336253. All events 7pm doors for 7.30pm start

DATES & EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARIES

MUDDY BOOTS (Battle area Network): February 11th 2010 - The Watch Oak, Battle, 2pm

BEXHILL COMMUNITY NETWORK: March 10th 2010 – Bexhill Town Hall at 2pm

RYE NETWORK: 13th April 2010 - The School Creative Centre, New Road, Rye at 2pm

NCVO ANNUAL CONFERENCE -THE GOOD SOCIETY - A TIME FOR ACTION

Tuesday 23rd February, London

Learn, network and debate with over 650 voluntary sector colleagues. We will look at how we can work together to ensure action is taken on climate change. Learn from practical workshops on mergers, leadership, funding, social media and more. Hear from high-profile and influential speakers Diana Aviv, Independent Sector (USA) and Greg Clark MP. Visit <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/annualconference2010> or call Matt on 020 7520 3160.

BENEFIT GIG FOR THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS WILL BE HELD IN RYE ON MONDAY 1 MARCH.

Top Irish band, **Gráda**, who played last year's Rye Arts Festival to great acclaim have kindly agreed to appear on the night and will waive their fee. They just happen to be on tour in this country and will not be too far away. The gig will be held in the main hall of **Rye College**. For those of you not too sure about Irish music, this band do not just do traditional "twiddly diddly" tunes (although they do play them - and very well), but also feature many of their own songs. They are a young band with lots of energy and enthusiasm, making them one of the best if not *the* best Irish band that I and a lot of other people have ever seen. Having said "Irish", some of their members come from New Zealand.

DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING? LIVING IN BATTLE?

The next meeting at Battle will be on Friday 5th February 2010, 2pm – 3.30pm at the Battle Medical Centre, Telham House, 13 Mitre Way.. For further information please contact: David Rowan, East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre, 8 St Leonard's Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 3UH • Tel: 01323 722505
Email: david@eshrc.org.uk

THE HASTINGS AND ROTHER HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FORUM will be holding it's A.G.M. on the 23rd of February at the Horntye Sports centre in Hastings. 10.30-1pm Andrew Boxall from ESCC will be speaking on the County Contact. For more details contact Dave Rogers at daverogers414@hoitmail.com

GET RVA NEWS AS AN RSS FEED ON YOUR HOMEPAGE – CLICK ON THIS LINK

<http://www.google.com/ig/add?feedurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk%2Fnews%2Ffeed>

RVA would like your short films about your community or local events or your opinions about things happening in your community. If you would like us to highlight news or issues contact Tina for more information at tina.hall@rothervoluntaryaction.org.uk

The Bexhill office has a small meeting room that can be used by any voluntary or community group. In addition we can provide photocopying services for groups in the Rye office.

Disclaimer: we check all information in the newsletter and web site, but as ever with these things we give no warranties, and encourage active checking before you make any decisions.