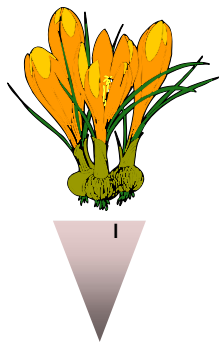


BFVA

Voluntary Action News

Spring 2009



Good News, Good News . . .

In the middle of all the gloom and doom we are delighted to announce two excellent pieces of news for the voluntary and community sector working in Bracknell Forest.

The first piece of news is that BFVA has secured three years funding for a funding advice and procurement and commissioning support service, as a partner in a new East Berkshire project. In the current economic climate this is very welcome.

The project will fund three advisors to provide voluntary and community organisations with a dedicated and more effective and structured funding support service across East Berkshire, one advisor will be based at BFVA.

The project will also assist front line organisations to become effective in tendering for commissioning contracts with statutory bodies.

The project is in direct response to the priority need for infrastructure support that was expressed at the East Berkshire Consortia Conference held in November 2007. This news could not be more timely as we face greater financial issues over sustaining our services during the recession. We will make a further announcement when the project team is in place, expected sometime in mid summer.

The second piece of good news is that Bracknell has come second in a national Mori poll of registered charities conducted on behalf of the Office of the Third Sector who feel there are good to excellent relationships with statutory agencies. Although the poll only included organisations registered with the Charities Commission it is a tremendous recognition of the good relationships built up between partners in the last three years.



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Voluntary and Community Sector Conference Event - 'Are We Making A Difference?'

We are currently planning another conference event which will take place on Thursday 21 May at the Kerith Centre, Church Road, Bracknell 9.30am 'till 2pm including lunch.

The theme this year is 'Are We Making A Difference?' and will cover a range of subjects pertinent to voluntary and community groups.

Our keynote speaker this year is Deborah Allcock Tyler who is the Chief Executive of the Directory of Social Change, the leading source of information and training to the voluntary and community sector worldwide. Through its policy and campaigning the organisation has a vision of an independent voluntary sector at the heart of social change. It believes that the activities of charities and other voluntary organisations are crucial to the health of our society and campaigns at a national level. We have also secured the use of an 'ask the audience' facility which involves interactive audience participation through handsets with button selections enabling everyone to answer chosen questions giving visual almost instant feedback displayed on a large screen. In addition Mosaic, a training organisation who perform sketches and role play situations to 'get the message across' will be joining us once again.

The day will also include space for displays and will provide an opportunity for that valuable networking. Full details will be sent out shortly, however please put this in your diaries now!



Dates for your diary



What's on and happening

- 27 March - Carers Conference, Easthampstead Baptist Church
- 18 - 22 May - Healthy Families of Bracknell Forest Walk to School Week
- 21 May - Voluntary and Community Sector Conference, Kerith Centre, 9.30am-2.00pm
- 1 - 7 June - Volunteers Week
- 4 June - LSCB Annual Conference 'Targeting Services to Safeguard Vulnerable Children' Grange Hotel
- 6 June - Volunteers Day Event, Bandstand, Bracknell Town Centre, 9am 'till 3pm
- 8 - 15 June - Carers' Week
- 10 June - Carers Fun Day Out, Oakwood Youth Centre (Carers' Week)
- 27 June - Bracknell Armed Forces Day, Bracknell Town Centre
- 9 July - Voluntary Sector Forum AGM, Easthampstead Baptist Church, 5.00pm for 5.30pm
- 13 October - BFVA AGM, venue to be confirmed
- 1 - 8 November - National Compact Week

Do you have events/meetings you want to publicise?

If you would like your meetings or events included in our diary dates above please contact Kate Eatwell on 01344 383513

or email kate.eatwell@bfva.org

You can also send us articles/information about your group which we will be happy to include in this newsletter.



Stroke Clubs

What is a Stroke Club?

A Stroke Club is somewhere that people who have had strokes and their carers can find information, share experiences and support each other, try new activities or resume favourite pastimes with new friends. Stroke clubs are full of fun and laughter — often described as 'a real lifesaver'.

Stroke clubs are as different as the people who attend. Some clubs may have just a few people getting together for a cup of tea, others have over a 100 members taking part in everything from art to board games, holidays, outings, photography, swimming and quizzes.

In Bracknell Forest we have four stroke clubs who all provide support and a social outlet for stroke sufferers, their carers and others with a registered disability.

Bracknell Tuesday Stroke Club meets at Edmunds Court, Sandy Lane, Bracknell - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of month

Bracknell Thursday Stroke Club meets at Dennis Pilcher House, Broad Lane, Bracknell - 1st and 3rd Friday of month

Crowthorne Stroke and Disabled Club meets at Morgan Centre, Crowthorne - 4th Thursday of month

Sandhurst Stroke and Disabled Club meets at Pastoral Centre, Sandhurst - 1st and 3rd Thursday of month

If you would like to join any of the local Stroke clubs or would like further information regarding them please contact me, Kate Eatwell, and I will put you in touch with club you would like to join.

Kate Eatwell 01344 383513 or email kate.eatwell@bfva.org



Chief Executive's update

by Martin Gilman

Continued from front page

While part of the result can be accredited to individuals around the partnership table a large part of it can be put down to the tremendous work carried out by our own development workers Chris Cowap and Kate Eatwell in forging that work and keeping the VCS informed and consulted with and the connections made with all the development workers across all agencies.

This result has put Bracknell Forest on the map nationally and we are beginning to be asked how it has been achieved from the other 148 authority areas especially when you consider the resource limitations compared with larger areas such as the metropolitans.

CabinetOffice



Survive and Thrive



It is in the news every day, but how many of you are planning recession proof strategies and looking to avoid what is happening to so many private companies? Historically recessions have meant an increase in demand for voluntary sector services and this one looks to be deeper and further reaching than many before it. So what can our sector do to ride it out and still deliver the quality services we

already give to our community? Without telling people how to suck eggs here are a few tips.

- Start to look at any savings now; does that light need to be on? Is that printer cost effective or could we, for a small outlay, purchase a more efficient one that could save hundreds of pound per year? Do we have to make that trip to a meeting or could we do the business by phone.
- Re visit your budgets for the next three years and be realistic about potential funding and costs. Financial planning should be paramount for any organisation. Diversify your income streams.
- Look at potential mergers or collaborations with other like minded organisations. This could be to share premises costs or "back office" support. It could also be to place the organisation in a stronger position for future funding or commissioning opportunities. Many funders are now looking to larger organisations or consortia rather than small or individual organisations to "maximise their investment. Our own recent successful "East Berkshire" consortium bid is a good example and we have already discussed the potential of formalising the consortium to attract further funding. Strengthen your relationships.
- There is a real and growing need to prove an organisations existence or its worth. What is your organisation's impact on its community? How do you record the tremendous work you do? And how do you measure that impact? Some of you will say "that's not what we are about" or "we do not have time to do that", but I would say without some measurement of what you do will put the organisation at severe risk in the near future.
- Re visit your mission statement and do what you do best and if your mission statement is too limiting perhaps consider widening your geographical area of operation or some of the activities you do, it might be that some of your existing activities are not cost effective any more.
- Above all try to stay optimistic there are a number of opportunities out there and many public agencies will be looking towards the sector for inspiration and different ways to deliver services, please note I did not say cheaper, it is important that any new agreements are costed properly.

BFVA Members.....

BFVA have now introduced a Members only section on our website www.bfva.org which will not only enable them to access the funding information but also give them access to the Group Members Forum. This new system went live on 2nd March 2009 and BFVA have sent out to Members their individual password and instructions for registering, login and accessing the Members area of the website.

Non members who have previously been able to access the Funding area on BFVA's website will now be unable to do so. If you are a non member or receiving this letter in hard copy (which means we do not have an e-mail address for you) and would like to continue accessing the members area, please contact Kate Eatwell on 01344 383513 or email kate.eatwell@bfva.org for a membership form

If you are a voluntary or community group there is absolutely no reason why you should not become a member apart from a few minutes filling in the application form, the benefits are access to all areas of BFVA's website including the funding resource, an extra Members only news update four times a year, priority booking for events such as the annual funding fair and free or heavily reduced access to our photocopying and meeting room facilities.



Volunteer update

By Tracey Morgan

National Volunteers Week - Volunteers Day in Bracknell

1 – 7 June 2009 is the annual National Volunteers Week and Bracknell Forest will be celebrating its volunteers on Saturday 6 June. This is always a successful event held at the bandstand in the Town Centre with lots of local entertainment and displays from many voluntary and community groups looking to attract volunteers.

Therefore if you know of any talented people who'd be interested in performing that day, please let me know their details. Also if you would like to participate in the day to promote your organisation, be it with a stand/table or flyers; please let me know by 30 April.

Volunteer Recognition

Part of the reason for Volunteers Week is to acknowledge your existing volunteers and show your appreciation. If you'd like to thank your volunteers by presenting them with a certificate in June, we can print off a certificate for you. Can you please provide me with names (correctly spelt!) of those you wish to receive certificates and we will send them to you. Please include the name of your organisation too.



Christmas 2009

I know we are still getting over Christmas 2008, but I like to get organised! We received a number of calls from people during December – right up to 23rd - asking where people could volunteer on Christmas Day or over the Christmas period. If you need volunteers to help you during this period, please let me know your requirements so we can advertise early and get other people organised too!



Princess Square Event

On 19th January, we spent a day in Princess Square to promote volunteering as a New Year resolution. Anticipating a few enquiries, we were really pleased to have signed up, on the day, nearly 30 potential volunteers. In addition to this, the online applications rose considerably, helped I am sure, by Noel Edmonds' drive on his Sky One show 'Noel's HQ' to get Britain volunteering. This resulted in referring 84 people to organisations in January.



Availability v Accessibility

I have had a few applicants recently who've applied for opportunities but after discussion, realised they are not available when the opportunity needs them. This is sometimes because the advert indicates the role as 'anytime'. If you have any new ads, please ensure the time you need volunteers is specified so that your time is not wasted on unsuitable volunteers. I am endeavouring to get around to you all to ensure information is up-to-date.

Group Volunteering

If you have any projects you need doing that a group of people could do, please let me know as I've been approached by a couple of companies looking for work, particularly during Volunteers Week.

Opportunities

Any opportunities you'd like advertised, please see our website for the Opportunity Registration Form or contact me for a emailed or paper version.

Lastly, as always, thank you for keeping us posted on the state-of-play with applicants. Rita is working hard at following up referrals to you and we appreciate feedback as to how referrals are going. We are constantly looking at updating and refining the process to ensure you get the right volunteers the easiest way so any feedback on this would be most welcome.

For help and further information you can contact Tracey between 9.30 - 4.00pm

Monday - Thursday at

BFVA

Tel: 01344 383515

5th Floor

E-mail: tracey.morgan@bfva.org



Group news

The Bracknell Forest Society

'A Day in the Life of a BBC Royal Correspondent'

The Bracknell Forest Society is holding an open meeting on 26th June 2009 at Wick Hill Hall, Garth Hill College 7.00pm for 7.30pm. This meeting is not just for members, everyone is welcome.

The guest speaker for the evening is Daniela Relph, a local girl who now works as a Royal Correspondent in the General News Department of the BBC.

Daniela's parents moved to Wick Hill, Bracknell from London when Daniela was eighteen months old and they have lived in the same house ever since.

The first schools that Daniela attended were Sandy Lane Infants' and Juniors' and from there she went on to Garth Hill. For her work experience she chose to go to 'The Bracknell News' and then 'The Wokingham Times'. Daniela went on to study politics at Bristol University followed by a Post Graduate year at Cardiff University to study Broadcast Journalism. Her first job with the BBC was in 1993. She married Will, a senior producer with the BBC in 2004 and their son was born two years' ago. Daniela works alongside Nicholas Witchell and recently reported on the inquest of Diana, Princess of Wales and Prince Harry's deployment to Afghanistan.

We are really looking forward to hearing about her work when she gives a talk on 'A Day in the Life of A BBC Royal Correspondent' at this open meeting.

If you would like to come along on the 26th June and hear all about Daniela's work, please contact The Treasurer on 01344 423440 for tickets and further information.

Tickets are available now and cost £5 including wine.



Bracknell Diabetes Support Group

As interest is growing in diabetes, and the media is highlighting the increase in cases due to weight and other changes in life style, the "Bracknell Diabetes Support Group" feel that it is important to educate sufferers as well as carers and the public in general as to what can be done to minimise the problems. For this reason they run a programme of meetings throughout the year which include

invitations to health care professionals to talk about how to manage diabetes. It is a fact that diabetes affects people differently and no two cases are the same. For this reason it is important that they see their health care team and know what questions to ask. The work of the Support Group compliments this by providing information and advice and the chance to talk to other sufferers to share their experiences on how to keep healthy and live a normal life.

The Bracknell Diabetes Support Group meets on the third Tuesday of every month alternating between day and evening meetings. All meetings, which are relaxed and informal, are held locally in Bracknell and the group is very keen to get more people involved. For more information or to receive a programme of their activities please telephone 0771 806 3428 or visit their website at www.bdsq.org.uk.



Bracknell Active Retired Association (BARA)

BARA is a club for active retired citizens aged 50 or over which has been running for over 25 years. Everyone is welcome to go along and join in the varied activities. The club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 12noon at Coopers Hill Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell, close to the railway and bus stations.

BARA offer many activities which include:

- Gardening Group and Wine Group which both meet once a month
- Painting which is held each Thursday morning
- Dancing which includes sequence and line dancing held each Tuesday morning. Once a month on the last Thursday of the month there is line dancing from 10.30am to 12 noon
- Quizzes are held periodically on a Thursday morning
- A holiday club which usually goes away twice a year, ie during the summer and a 'turkey and tinsel' trip
- Quarterly cheese and wine parties which include a buffet lunch for a small cost
- Tea, coffee and biscuits are available on club morning for 25p for members

If you would like to join this friendly group or would like some more information please contact Doreen Sanders on 01344 411682.



For your informati on

Bracknell Armed Forces Day 27 June 2009

Armed Forces Day honours the outstanding contribution made by current members of the Armed Forces and by veterans of all ages. Held on the 27 June, the day will be an opportunity for us all to join together to pay tribute to our Armed Forces past, present and future.

www.armedforcesday.org.uk

Paul Bidwell and Peter Allen from the Bracknell Royal Naval Association (RNA) approached the Bracknell Forest Council in 2007 to gain support to honour this day in Bracknell. The now Bracknell Forest Council Mayor Councillor Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. Edger OBE then took up the gauntlet and formulated a committee to progress the idea into reality. The Bracknell Celebrations will take place on Saturday 27th June 2009 @ 0900 – 1700. The committee is made up of the Bracknell RNA,, Royal Air Force Association (RAFA), Royal British Legion (RBL), members of the Borough Council and Town Council.

Paul Bidwell the Event Coordinator and the Chair person Robert Edger have also called upon various organisations of the Armed Forces in the surrounding area to offer their assistance in the provision of support by way of military bands and static displays. Support for funding is being requested from the MOD central fund and donations from various associations and business, as well as organizing fundraising events.

The 27 June will consist of the following programme:

0900 – 1700 : There will be up to 25 static stalls placed around the town centre, allowing various associations and organisations to present their values to the general public, linking their support to the Armed Forces Event and tributes to the ethos of the day.

1100 – 1300: A number of bands and mini displays taking place in different locations around the town centre of Bracknell

1400 – 1600 : A Parade consisting of a marching band, armed cadets from each of the Army, Navy and Airforce and a parade of standards from as many armed forces organizations, to bring pomp, circumstance and colour. culminating in the presentation of Veterans Pins to members of the public from the borough, now settled after discharged from the armed services.

1600 – 1700; refreshments in the Bracknell RBL open to members of the parade and the general public..

Truly a day for the general public of the borough to meet and honour the armed forces.

Further details can be found at www.armedforcesday-bracknell.co.uk



St Georges Day Fundraising Race Night

On the 25th April 2009 the Bracknell RNA, RAFA and the Binfield RBL will host a fund raising Race Night at the Binfield Memorial Hall in Binfield.

The evening will be compared by Paul Bidwell, Secretary of the Bracknell RNA, and consist of eight exciting races, a bangers and mash supper and the nominate raffle. It was agreed for this event it would be a 'Bring your own Alcohol' to reduce the overhead costs allowing more money to be raised. The funds from the evening will be split between a nominated charity and the Bracknell Armed Forces Day event. Tickets are £5.00 per head and this includes the supper, these events held in the past have proved exciting and very enjoyable Tickets can be purchased fro Mr Paul Bidwell on 01344 422016, more details can be found at <http://www.armedforcesday-bracknell.co.uk/news1.html>



Armed Forces Day Gala Dinner

Following the exciting day planned on the 27th June 2009, a Dinner will be hosted by the Bracknell RNA, RAFA and Binfield RBL at The Grange Hotel, Bracknell.

The dinner is in conclusion of the first Armed Forces Day event to be held in Bracknell. It is expected that a guest speaker will be in attendance for the evening. Master of ceremonies Mr Paul Bidwell, the Bracknell RNA secretary will bring the Senior Service sparkle throughout the night, with a special draw for all in attendance.

It is also expected that the Sea Cadets will be in attendance providing a Sunset Ceremony to close the day, bringing an after dinner taste of the Armed Forces to Bracknell.

The Bracknell Grange Hotel has kindly sponsored some cost towards the dinner. Tickets are £22 per head or £200 for a table of 10 (2 tickets free). Association and Legion members receive discounts.

For further details contact Paul Bidwell

on 01344 422016 or visit

www.businessinberkshire.co.uk/bracknellrna/calendar.html



For your information

Scouting in its 2nd Century Fun, Challenge, Adventure

Experimental Beginnings

The world Scout Movement began in 1907 with an experimental camp on Brownsea Island, Dorset. During the camp, Robert Baden-Powell and a small party of boys from widely different backgrounds put into practice his ideas for training young people in citizenship. The following year, the first official Scout Camp was held at Humshaugh, near Hexham, Northumberland.

Evolving Future

With its sister Guiding organisation, Scouting gives millions of young people and adults the adventure of a lifetime. Scouts are known for their love of the outdoors and good humour as well as for their sense of responsibility towards themselves, the world and others. It is their willingness to help, enthusiasm and appetite for life that marks them out. In today's challenging world, young people still seek adventure. Scouting today is a game for girls and boys, whatever their circumstances, and will continue to evolve as young people's needs and experiences evolve.

Scouting in Bracknell Forest

Some 1400 children and young people helped by some 250 adult volunteers are involved in Scouting in Bracknell Forest. The youngest member is 6 and the oldest 86 (guess which one still drives!).

Over 200 children are on waiting lists to join. What these children need is for more adult volunteers to come forward and offer to help make a big difference. For Scouting in Ascot, South Ascot, Binfield, Sunningdale, Warfield, Winkfield Row, and the following areas of

Bracknell, Bullbrook, Harmanswater, Martins Heron, Forest Park and Priestwood find out more at

www.seberksscouts.org

For everywhere else in Bracknell, as well as Crowthorne,

Sandhurst and Owlsmoor find out more at www.southberksscouts.org



Nostalgia as a fundraising tool

US project will measure how the tendency to give is affected by treasured memories. It might be teddy boys, old episodes of the children's programme Andy Pandy or the original Star Wars movies that make you feel nostalgic. Memories that tug on the heart-strings are now the subject of research into how UK charities can use nostalgia to get donors to open their chequebooks.

The project, led by John Ford, professor of marketing and international business at Old Dominion University in Virginia, US, will develop a scale on which charities can measure how the tendency to give is affected by evoking certain emotions and memories. It builds on similar research he has undertaken in the US, and charities will be able to use the information to help them develop fundraising campaigns. Ford's American study asked more than 500 US donors who had given to charity in the previous 12 months about what made them feel happy, sad, lonely or angry. They were encouraged to remember significant events in their lives and write down how these made them feel. They were also asked if they were more likely to donate if the events were linked with a cause.

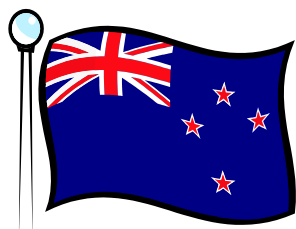
Ford told Third Sector the UK study would talk to a broader range of donors by using online surveys as well as charities' donor lists. "We will look at how the level of nostalgia felt by the person affects how much benefit they see from connecting themselves to a charity, which in turn leads to commitment and intent to donate," he said. "We think nostalgia might get through to people when other things don't." Using nostalgic images had produced good results for many US organisations, including the Public Broadcasting Service, a not-for-profit broadcaster, which used a familiar Sesame Street character to encourage viewers to tune in to the channel.

James Briggs, co-founder of UK marketing firm Open Fundraising, said nostalgia definitely had a place in UK fundraising, but what worked for one person might not work for another. Tighter targeting or more creative variants could be needed, Richard Hill, planning director at UK marketing firm Touch DDB, said charities should be careful not to portray themselves as hankering after the past and having no modern solutions.



For your informati on

Letter from New Zealand



Some years ago I made friends with Judy English from Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action when she was visiting her daughter and son-in-law in Auckland, New Zealand. As she had some time on her hands she visited the local volunteer centre, Volunteering Auckland, to see what she could do well, we snapped her up and she was with us for a couple of months as admin support/reception!

We became friends and kept in touch and last year when I was visiting my daughter in the UK I also spent a couple of days with Judy exploring the Reading area and this of course included a visit to Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action.... see photos.

Our centre is a little different to Bracknell, you have more paid staff than we do and run various programmes in the community whereas our focus is on volunteering and everything that relates to that. We have only 2 paid staff but a large team of volunteers, in fact 25 enthusiastic people involved with various support roles and projects.

We have team of 8 interviewers in our Recruitment and Referral Service who refer people on a daily basis to our member organisations, the roles they list with us are posted onto the VolunteerNow website, this is a searchable database enabling all volunteer centres in NZ to list their available positions. We have a Group Volunteering Programme that matches corporate teams to community projects and these roles are listed on our blog-spot.

We have a small resource library on Volunteering/Volunteerism, including books and manuals from NZ, Australia and around the world. We have regular training workshops for managers of volunteers run by our Regional Manager Cheryl Martin, networking opportunities through our members' forums, workshops with international speakers such as Martin J Cowling and Linda Graff and offer an advice and consultancy service.

Along with our quarterly newsletter 'Volunteer Trends', we do regular group mailouts to keep our members in touch with developments in volunteering, changes in government policies and how they affect the sector, information on submissions and changes in funding opportunities and of course we promote Volunteer Awareness Week, UN International Volunteer Day, Global Youth Service Day and are involved in volunteer expos, conferences, festivals and other displays.

But although BFVA and VA are slightly different it's great to meet like minded people who feel the need to make some contribution of their time and skill to help make a difference in the community. It is very reassuring at this time that volunteering and the volunteering ethic is alive and well all over the world!

Sites of interest: www.volunteeringauckland.org.nz ; www.VolunteerNow.org.nz ; <http://volunteeringauckland.blogspot.com>



Bracknell and District Citizens Advice Bureau

Bracknell and District Citizens Advice Bureau are pleased to report that they were successful in their recent application for additional funding to extend the bureau opening hours to include Fridays.

From April 2009 until March 2010 CAB will be open on the following days and times:

Monday - Thursday 10.00am to 12.30pm (drop-in)

Friday - Saturday 10.00am to 12.00pm (drop-in)

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 1.00pm to 4.00pm (appointments only)

Anyone in need of advice can either call into the bureau at 40-42 The Broadway, or come and see us at one of our many outreaches, detailed on our website.

www.bracknellcab.org.uk



For your informati on

Bracknell Town Collection Saturday 27 June

Have a few hours to spare?

Want to make a difference?

Join us in our annual fundraising day and help Macmillan Cancer Support collect much needed funds.

Join us for the Bracknell Town Collection at the Tea House, High Street, Bracknell at 9.00am on 27th June 2009, or

Contact Brenda Jenkins on 01189 429665 for further information and to sign up.



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Are you looking after someone else's child?...



...and are NOT a close relative? Or do you know someone else who is doing this? If the arrangement lasts for at least 28 consecutive days, for a child of up to 16 (18 if a child with disabilities), then you could be a private foster carer. If so, then you are entitled to support, advice and training.

Please be aware that by law, you must notify Bracknell Forest Borough Council.

Please contact the Duty and Assessment team on 01344 351582, or email childrens.services@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

For further information visit the Bracknell Forest Council website at www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/privatefostering

Alternatively a Guide to Private Fostering booklet is available. If you would like one of these booklets contact Kate Eatwell at BFVA 01344 383513 or email kate.eatwell@bfva.org

The Green Machine

Many organisations provide volunteering opportunities for disadvantaged people or those with a disability but don't provide them with paid employment. To address this, a new social enterprise has been created to provide real employment opportunities for people with a disability or disadvantaged people.

The Green Machine has been set up using a Social Care and Learning Grant and will offer, from early 2009, reliable, friendly and professional gardening, cleaning, DIY and recycling services to local organisations.

The Green Machine is being run and operated like any other business and although it is the company's aim to have at least 40% of its workforce made up of people who are disadvantaged or have a disability, anyone employed by the company would have to go through the same selection processes as they would for any other job.

The Green Machine want to be hired on their ability to deliver a high quality professional service so if your organisation requires gardening, cleaning, DIY or recycling services then telephone

Contact Green Machine on 01344 457940 or email: green.machine@btconnect.com for more information.



Spangle Jelly

This registered charity first launched a pilot of "Spangle Jelly" in 2007 in Hampshire & Isle of Wight and received excellent support from the local councils for voluntary service and other developmental agencies. Since the beginning they have helped 236 organisations and around 1000 people to find jobs in charity, community and voluntary roles in Hampshire & Isle of Wight.

After a consultation with their users it was decided that this service should be made available to other areas in England. This project will shortly be launched in Berkshire and the surrounding areas.

'Spangle Jelly' is a community focused job board that aims to list as many community and voluntary, charity, social enterprise and jobs with a social focus in one location. They aim to promote working in the sector to a wide spectrum of jobseeker in order to encourage new skills and expertise and to consider either volunteering or paid employment in the sector as a positive employment choice..

The internet is one of the most powerful ways of achieving this, they aim to provide this service for as low a cost as possible. They have adopted a "Pay for Worth" programme whereby organisations advertising jobs choose how much they would like to pay, from nothing at all to any amount. This allows organisations to test the success of advertising with them and reward their project if they have found it worthwhile. They have found that this only works because they are a charity supporting other charities who in return support them.

For further information about 'Spangle Jelly' please contact Sarah Street on 023 9229 6460 or

E-mail sarah.street@learninglinks.co.uk



Training opportunities

There are many training and development opportunities available to voluntary and community groups being offered locally, regionally and at a national level, however with no dedicated Training Coordinator at BFVA it is often difficult to try to pull together all that is on offer.

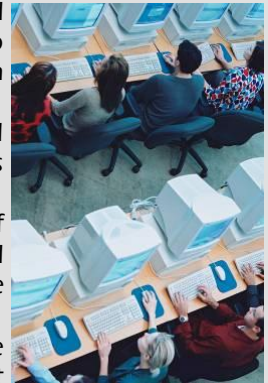
We are always in discussions with our partners regarding access to their own training and development programmes and as a result coordinate a comprehensive overview of what is currently available to voluntary and community sector groups.

The Learning and Development Team at Bracknell Forest Council run a programme of courses which are available free of charge to private, independent and voluntary and community groups and we have listed below some of the courses that they offer. We have also highlighted other sources of training on the opposite page.

If however you have any specific training and development needs within your group, please let us know and we will do our best to help or at the very least signpost you in the right direction!

Chris Cowap

01344 304404 or email chris.cowap@bfva.org



Learning & Development Bracknell Forest Council (BFC)

Fully funded courses for organisations supporting BFC residents

March

24th Mar LTC COPD and Asthma

31st Mar LTC Stroke

April

2nd Apr Basic Awareness of Child protection

21st Apr LTC Understanding Parkinson's

29th Apr 1 Day First Aid

May

7th May Basic Awareness of Child Protection

8th May Deprivation of Liberty

9th May RSPH Food Hygiene (Q)

11th May RSPH Decontamination in care (infection control) (Q)

15th May Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults (PoVA)

18th May Communication

18th May 1 Day First Aid

21st May RSPH Health and Safety (Q)

Bold indicates half day only

(Q) indicates external qualification

For further details or to book a place contact John Ogden on 01344 352275

or email: john.ogden@Bracknell-Forest.gov.uk

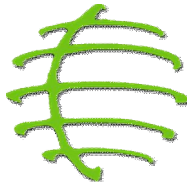


Training opportunities

Understanding and using an Outcomes Focus

£250 worth of training FREE to Bracknell Forest's voluntary and community sector groups who work with children, young people and their families/carers. Save these dates: 22 April and 20 May 2009. The Bracknell Forest Children's Workforce Development Fund is working with Claybury International to deliver "Understanding and using an Outcome Focus", which will help large and small groups to:

- assess their organisation's effectiveness
- learn more about what works to improve services
- boost morale for staff, volunteers and trustees by showing that change is happening
- demonstrate to funders that they are making a difference.



An invitation letter and application form for the limited places will be sent out shortly. For further information contact: Judy English on 01344 304404 or judy.english@bfva.org



First Aid (Appointed Person's Certificate)

Wednesday 22nd April 9.30am-4pm

Venue: Earley CResCent Resource Centre, Warbler Drive, Lower Earley RG6 4HB

Cost: £10 admin fee

Book now: call the CResCent on 01189 210555

Introduction to Data protection

Wednesday 13th May 2009 9.30am—12 noon

Venue: Earley CResCent Resource Centre

Cost: £5

Covers your obligations under the Data Protection Act, and how this may apply to your organisation.

Book now: Call the CResCent on 01189 210555



Volunteer Tree Surveyor Training

Saturday 4th April 9.30-1.00pm

Venue: Swallowfield Village Hall

Cost: FREE A free training course from Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association for volunteer tree surveyors.

Book now: contact training@wdvta.org.uk for an application form



Bracknell and Wokingham College

Bracknell and Wokingham college offer a wide variety of part-time courses, NVO's, skills for life and other relevant training in venues across the Borough. For more details and cost on the training listed below contact suzanne.sapsed@bracknell.ac.uk or visit their website www.bracknell.ac.uk or call 0845 330 3343 for advice.

- Moving and Handling courses: many dates available
- Safe Administration of Medicines: Thursday 9th April 2009
- Supervision and Appraisal skills training: Thursday 23rd April 2009
- Learning through play (Creativity): Friday 24th April 2009

NVO's/ Train to Gain

- NVO in Advice and Guidance
- NVO in Activity Leadership/NVO in Team Leading
- NVO (Levels 2.3.4.) in Community Development
- IT User NVO (Levels 2 & 3)
- NVO in Business and Administration (Levels 2 & 3)
- NVO in Customer Service (Levels 2 & 3)



The Wildlife Trusts - Developing your skills (Training Courses)

Training and education are vital parts of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust's work (BBOWT). The Trust is committed to developing the skills of our volunteers and developing the understanding of wildlife in the wider community. On our courses you will meet like-minded people in inspiring surroundings and share time with our expert trainers. Whether you are already a volunteer, looking to start or just interested in learning something new, the sessions are designed to help you develop knowledge, skills and confidence.

Our courses are open to all members of the public, BBOWT members and volunteers. Most courses are free to volunteers, but a returnable deposit of £10 is required to secure a place on all courses.

For more information on any course, please contact Cathie Hasler on 01865 788309 or email

cathiehasler@bbowt.org.uk



Funding information ...



Government launches real help for volunteers, charities and social enterprises

The Government has recently pledged £42.5 million to help volunteers, charities and social enterprises deliver extra real help to those that need it most, during the global economic downturn.

The action plan for the third sector, published by Minister for the Cabinet Office Liam Byrne, sets out a targeted package of support that includes measures to help hundreds of voluntary organisations, charities, and social enterprises step up advice, support and volunteering in the areas that need it most across the country.

The plan, which has been designed together with third sector leaders over the last three months, builds on the wide range of measures the Government has put in place to support people through the economic downturn, and on the Government's long term commitment to voluntary organisations and social enterprises.

You can find further information and download a copy of the report via the link below

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/real_help_for_communities.aspx

Small Grants - The 2009 Small Grants Scheme is now accepting applications



Often groups only need a small amount of money to 'make a difference' to a local facility, be it a community building, nature reserve, cultural facility or outdoor space. The Small Grants Scheme offers quicker access to lower levels of funding to make these projects happen.

Over the past three years Biffaward has supported nearly 300 projects under the Small Grants Scheme. A continuous high number of applications are received, resulting in strong competition when awarding funding.

You can apply for between £250 and £5000. Your project must not cost more than £10000 in total.

The main criteria are:

- The project's site is within 10 miles of a Biffa operation (Eversley Depot, 8.51 miles from RG12 1BQ)
- The project's site is also within 10 miles of a landfill site (owned by any company)
- The project is eligible to be registered with ENTRUST under category D. Please note that your organisation does not have to enrol with ENTRUST as an Environmental Body - we (RSWT) act as the Environmental Body for Small Grants projects. We will register the project for you with ENTRUST, but it does, of course, need to be eligible!
- There will be a minimum of a 104 days of full public access to the project per year.
- Any Biffaward grant will be used for site-based improvement work, not for equipment or running costs.
- Biffaward is unable to fund retrospectively, so you should only apply for money for work that will take place in the future.

For more information please contact Biffa on 01636 670000 or email biffaward@rswt.org

Hilton in the Community Foundation

Hilton in the Community Foundation wants to help as many young people as possible. Under the banner Supporting Young People Worldwide the Foundation is dedicated to making a real difference to those most in need, wherever Hilton operates. Through targeted grant-giving, they aim to support smaller charities that might otherwise be overlooked.

Under the remit of education and health, the Foundation has a particular focus on:

- Disabled children
- Children in hospital
- Homelessness
- Life-limited children in hospices

For more information on the Foundation contact
Tel 0207 605 7733 or email info@hilton-foundation.org.uk



The Church and Community Fund

The CCF was established in 1915. Formerly known as the Central Church Fund, it changed its name to 'The Church and Community Fund' in June 2006 and is now under the trusteeship of the Archbishops' Council. The CCF gives grants to community projects run by parish churches, deaneries, dioceses and other bodies connected to or working with the Church of England.

Typical projects supported by the CCF might include employing a youth worker, renovating an old church hall, for use as a community centre or providing hot meals for the homeless in a church room.

All CCF grants seek to take the church out into the community, bring the community into the church and strengthen the relationship between the two.

For more information telephone 0207 7898 1000 or visit the website www.churchandcommunity.org.uk



Funding information ...

Music Grants for Older People

Concertina makes grants to charitable bodies which provide musical entertainment and related activities for the elderly. This not only brightens up their lives, but also provides a therapeutic benefit to their health and wellbeing. Concertina is keen to support smaller organisations which might otherwise find it difficult to gain funding.



Since its inception in 2004, it has made grants to a wide range of charitable organisations nationwide in England and Wales. These include funds to many care homes for the elderly to provide musical entertainment for the residents.

Few would deny that there is a great need for further provision of funds to help improve the quality of life of those elderly members of our society who, having made a great contribution, now suffer neglect. Confined to the same four walls day in day out because of diminished physical and/or mental capabilities, they are in danger of becoming the forgotten generation.

With the advent of increased life expectancy, the scale of this tragedy may well escalate. We salute those elderly people lucky enough to have maintained their health and vigour and many of the organisations we help are run by such people, for the most part volunteers, who recognise that "there but for the grace of God go I!" So may we all one day.

Concertina offers grants to organisations which provide musical entertainment and related activities for the elderly. The charity is keen to support smaller organisations which might otherwise find it difficult to gain funding.

The next application deadline is the 30th April 2009.

For more information visit <http://digbig.com/4yfr>

Tesco Charity Trust - Community Awards Scheme

The Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme provides one-off donations of between £1000 and £4000 towards providing practical benefits, such as equipment and resources for projects that directly benefit children, the elderly and disabled people (both adults and children), living in the local communities around Tesco stores in the UK.



For grants to support elderly people and/or people with disabilities the timescales are from 1st February to 31st March 2009, or from 1st August to 31st September 2009.

For grants to support children's welfare and children's education (including special needs schools) the timescales are from 1st December to 31st January 2009, or from 1st May to 30th June 2009.

This scheme is open to Not-for-profit organisations (you do not have to be a registered charity) and geographical areas funded are near to Tesco stores (so that's everywhere, then)

To find out more about these awards or to submit an application online visit::

www.tescocorporate.com/plc/corporate_responsibility/local_communities/community_investment/.../tesco_charity_trust/ - 16k -

Grassroots - New Criteria

Grassroots Grants is a national £130 million programme, funded by the Office of the Third Sector which aims to invest in the Community Sector and runs until March 2011. In Berkshire the Grassroots Grants is administered by Berkshire Community Foundation (BCF) with each unitary authority in the county having a 'grant pot' which is divided over the 3 years of the project with grants available for between £250 and £5,000. In Bracknell Forest 20 groups have received grants so far totalling over £38,000.



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector

Any group applying must be a not for profit, third sector, voluntary or community group, have been established for at least a year prior to 31 December 2007, be volunteer led, be connected with and/or meeting the needs of the local community and have a constitution or terms of reference and up until recently have an annual income of less than £20,000 taken as an average over the last three years, However now this income threshold has been increased to £30,000 with immediate effect which will increase the number of small groups eligible to apply.

Berkshire Community Foundation (BCF) aim to make it as easy as possible for you to apply for a grant even if you are a group with little or no experience of writing an application.

For more details and grant application forms contact BCF on 0118 930 3021 or email

grants@berkshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk In addition BCF also have an Outreach Worker, Carole Allen covering East Berkshire, which includes Bracknell Forest, who will be able to help groups navigate the application process. You can contact Carole on 07783 370 762.

Young Carers News

Lead Youth Worker

Since the departure of the lead youth worker in December, the Young Carers Project has been interviewing to employ a new lead youth worker. Iain Gregory took up his new role in February. Iain has worked for Slough Borough Council as a youth worker and also volunteers for NRG two days a week. Iain has fitted in well with the young people and is bringing lots of new ideas to the project. Iain will be running both youth clubs and organising day trips for the Young Carers in the school holidays. He has just spent a month working as a volunteer in South Africa but is now back and raring to go!

You can contact Iain on iaingregory@bfva.org.



Easter Eggs

We are very fortunate again this year as GE Bracknell in partnership with Berks Community Foundation, will be donating Easter Eggs for all the Young Carers and their siblings. This was very successful last year and made all the Young Carers very happy. So another big thank you to GE for their kind donation to our project.



Media Box

After completing the Media Project, where the young carers did a radio presentation for all their friends and family in November 2008, the young people have now received certificates for all their hard work. The project has also been invited to show this to other projects that were working on media projects at the same time around the South East area. This will take place on Sunday 15th March. So well done to all the young carers that took part in this project and received their certificates for all their hard work.



For more information about the Young Carers' Project please contact:

Angela Evans

Young Carer's Support Worker

Email: angela.evans@bfva.org

Tel: 01344 383512

Mob: 07506 72957



Domestic Support Service News

Self Employed Domestic Support Workers Needed

Do You:

Have excellent cleaning skills?

Want a job that fits around your Family and other commitments?

Want to do something rewarding?

Like helping people?

Have good communication skills?

We are looking for Self employed Domestic support workers to help the elderly and vulnerable in the Bracknell Forest, with Shopping, Laundry, Housework, and Pension and Benefit Collection.

Hours to Suit.

Rate: £9 per Hour

Full time staff also needed.

If you are interested Please contact Diane Benford or Katherine Lord on 01344 383521.



Adult Carers News

Crafty Afternoon

We held a "Crafty Afternoon" on 22 January where Carers had a day to themselves to try a new craft. The event was held at Crown Wood Community Association. We had card making, Jewellery making and various other crafts to try out. We had some very positive feedback from those who attended. Some of the comments included, *"...a super few hours of total bliss! I was able to lose myself completely and even come home with something worth while to show my hubby! Food was fantastic."* Another Carer had said *"...thoroughly enjoyed it and lunch."*

Many thanks to Sarah and Brenda who were there to show Carers their new skills.



Carers Information Support Network

On the 15th January we held a meeting for the Carers Information Support Network with GP's and their practice managers to discuss what kind of support is being offered to Carers from their GP's. We had a good turnout for this meeting and a lot of very good points were raised. One of the points raised was that Carers were not always flagged up at their surgery as a Carer. We have now asked Carers to notify us of their GP surgery so that we can send each GP a list of the Carers registered at the surgery to ensure they are flagged up in the system as a Carer.

You should have received a letter requesting this information already. If not please contact us and we will send you one. There will be further information about this meeting in the next quarterly newsletter sent to Carers.

We would also like to thank our speakers on the day who were Dr Keeling, Easthampstead surgery, Dr Grieg, Forest End Medical Centre and Mr Chris James, Practice manager, Green Meadows surgery.



Carers Conference Friday 27 March

The Conference this year is being held at Easthampstead Baptist Church, South Hill Road, Bracknell from 9.30am-4pm. It will be an interesting mix of speakers and workshops with various professionals offering information and support to you in your caring role. If you have not had an invitation and would like to attend, please contact Melanie Randall, contact details below.

Respite and **Transport** are available for those who require it.



Dementia Training March

On March 2nd & 17th we held two training sessions for Adult Carers who care for someone with Dementia. The sessions were run by Beverley Smith of BP & J Training Solutions. Both of these sessions were the same, but we ran it over two days to enable more Carers to be able to attend also giving a choice of which day was more convenient for them to attend. We have had some very positive feedback on the information given and the lovely lunch put on by Easthampstead Baptist Church.



Carer's Grant

A Carer is anyone who provides unpaid, regular and substantial care for another person, due to illness, disability or frailty. The Grant may be used for anything that gives the Carer time away from their caring role, this can be a holiday, care hours for the loved one, art classes, fishing trips etc. The Carer's Grant form has been reviewed and the new form is now available.

Please contact Rita Woolford on 01344 383511 for an application form.



Contact us

The events and information are for your benefit to try to make your caring role a bit easier. If you have any suggestions on any events past, current or future do not hesitate to contact us, we value your opinion.

Melanie Randall

Adult Carers' Support Worker

01344 383517

melanie.randall@bfva.org

Clare Rebbeck

Carers' Services Manager

01344 383519 / 07827 995845

clare.rebbeck@bfva.org

Jane Currie

Carer's Information and Advice Worker

07827 995847

jane.currie@bfva.org

Rita Woolford

Carer's Grant Administrator

01344 383511

rita.woolford@bfva.org

Who's who at BFVA

Chief Executive
Martin Gilman

Carers Grant Administrator
Rita Woolford

Carers' Information and Advice Worker
Jane Currie

Development Officer
Kate Eatwell

Change Up Administrator
Judy English

Young Carers Support Worker
Angela Evans

Carers' Services Manager
Clare Rebbeck

Finance Officer
Jackie Eddolls

Adult Carers' Support Worker
Melanie Randall

Volunteer Recruitment Officer
Tracey Morgan

Partnership Development Officer
Chris Cowap

Domestic Support Co-ordinator
Diane Benford

Domestic Support Administrator
Kat Lord

Registered Charity No. 1061373
Registered Company Limited by Guarantee No. 332555

Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action
5th Floor
Fitzwilliam House
Bracknell
RG12 1BQ

Tel: 01344 304404

Fax: 01344 411878

E-mail: info@bfva.org

Website: www.bfva.org

Services for Members

Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action offers a number of services to all voluntary and charitable groups and organisations in Bracknell Forest:

Advice, support and help in setting up new initiatives

Funding and grants information

Linking groups together for mutual support

Researching local needs

Photocopying and loan of books and equipment

Problem solving with individual groups

Newsletters

Minibus for hire

Practical resources

BFVA receives funding from Bracknell Forest Council, without whose help it would not be able to carry out its work. Project funding is received from the Big Lottery, local trusts and companies.

Future editions of Voluntary Action News

If you would like to advertise an event, promote your organisation or have some interesting information to share with others please do get in touch. The deadlines for information for the next issue is 22 June 2009.

We produce four full newsletters a year as well as four shorter Members' Updates to ensure that we let you have a rolling programme of up to date news.

Please contact Kate Eatwell on 01344 383513 or email kate.eatwell@bfva.org

