

News from Adur Voluntary Action & Chesham House

The games we play

Feedback from the Monday morning Draughts session at Chesham House has led to a more open games session. There will be an assortment of games to play and visitors can also bring in their favourite from home.

To attend, come along to the Centre on Mondays from 11am - 1pm. There will be a £1.50 cost which includes tea and biscuits.

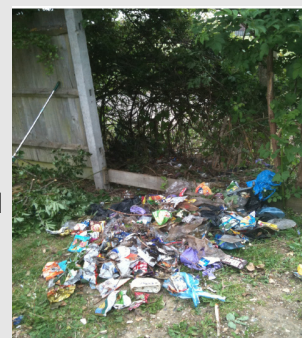


Time to take out the trash

Adur Voluntary Action volunteers participated in the Southlands Week of Action, clearing large amounts of litter and innumerable blue or purple dog-poo bags from hedges in the Kingsland Close area.

Adrian Barritt, Chief Officer, said:

"We were pleased to share in this event, though it would have been good to see a few more local people participating. But beware: the Brown Tail Moth Caterpillar is active in the area. Several of us have suffered from large rashes and itchy, stinging spots. The caterpillars fire their tiny hairs at anyone disturbing them, and each hair hitting its human target causes irritation lasting up to a week. They can also cause eye irritation, and asthma attacks."



Information

Let's all go to the Library

Volunteering England have launched the Volunteering England archive: a modern history of volunteering in England. Materials from the collection are drawn from all of Volunteering England's predecessor organisations: the Consortium on Opportunities for Volunteering, the National Centre for Volunteering, Volunteer Development England and Student Volunteering England. These archives are available to view at the LSE Archives located in the Library of the London School of Economics and Political Science, 10 Portugal Street, London WC2A 2HD.



The archives are open Monday to Thursday 10am – 8pm and Fridays 10am-5pm. The archives are open to the general public although visitors will need to present identification to gain admission to the library. For more information, visit <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/library/archive/Home.aspx>

Golden Nuts

Congratulations to Company Paradiso who won a Gold Award at the Sony Radio Awards for Best Community Programming in the UK in 2010 with 'Warning: May Contain Nuts'. The judges were impressed with the way in which a sensitive topic was handled and described the programme as powerful and engaging.



A webcast of the awards can be found at <http://www.radioawards.org>. To find out more about Company Paradiso and to hear audio from 'Warning: May Contain Nuts', go to <http://www.companyparadiso.co.uk>.

Technology

All a-Twitter about the Book

The Guardian website's voluntary sector network blog has posted an article on the charitable sector and social media. Joe Saxton argues that while Facebook and Twitter are well utilised, they need to be understood and exploited to their full potential.



For the full scoop, go to <http://www.guardian.co.uk/voluntary-sector-network/2011/apr/21/charity-sector-and-social-media>

Technology

Analyze this

Idealware have updated an article on web analytic tools for nonprofit organisations. Entitled 'A few Good Web Analytic Tools', the article includes six nonprofit experts' recommendations.



To view it for yourself, go to <http://www.idealware.org/articles/few-good-web-analytics-tools-0>

Destination: Volunteering

A new website has gone live entitled "What's your Destination?". Charities that can offer volunteering placements to young people will be listed on the site, that forms part of the government's strategy for tackling youth unemployment. The volunteering section of the site, which is still under construction, will provide a list of links to the websites of charities that work with young volunteers.



To view it for yourself, go to <http://www.whatsyourdestination.co.uk/>.

New look for navca

Navca, the national voice of local support and development organisations, have updated their website with a new look. Whether this is just superficial, or if changes have been made to the content as well, is unclear. To find out for yourself, go to <http://www.navca.org.uk>.



The Really Wild Show

Karl Wilding, head of research at NCVO, has produced a small presentation on the Big Society, using the Prezi website. To view it for yourself, go to <http://tinyurl.com/3e8qx3x>.



No Profit in Books

Facebook has updated its non-profit resource centre with new case studies, best practices and tools. To view it for yourself, go to <https://www.facebook.com/nonprofits>.



Information

Britain wants your face

A new project entitled 'Faces of Britain' aims to collect 212 photographs of people from each area, throughout Britain, to commemorate the big events of 2012. These include the Olympics, Euro 2012 and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.



To find out more and upload your face, go to <http://www.facesofbritain.co.uk/>.

With great power...

Acevo (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations) has published 'Powerful People, Responsible Society: The Report of the Commission on Big Society'. In it, Acevo claims the government has failed to explain The Big Society properly and calls on them to take a stronger lead.

For the full report, visit <http://tinyurl.com/3wve4nb>.

Wei to go

Big Society tsar, Lord Wei, is to leave his post, less than a year after being appointed to lead the government's Big Society project. In February, Wei scaled back his hours, in order to earn more money. He is now leaving the post to work for a charity. The role will not be replaced.

For a more detailed analysis, go to <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/may/24/big-society-lord-wei-leaves-post>.

Events

Volunteers' Week

Date: 1st - 7th of June.

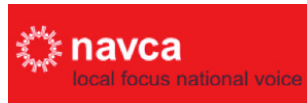
Here's a reminder that this week's annual Volunteers' Week will take place from the 1st to 7th of June. For more information, consult the official website at <http://www.volunteersweek.org.uk/> or phone 0207 520 8900.



Information

Bill's Bad Day

Navca, the national voice of local support and development organisations, has warned that the 'right to challenge' included in the Government's localism bill could cause more services to be delivered by large national or international firms, rather than small, local voluntary groups.



Navca cites comments by the information commissioner, Christopher Graham, that outsourcing services risks eroding accountability because more services would be delivered by organisations outside the scope of the Freedom of Information Act.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has also responded to the government's consultation on the proposal, saying the right to challenge should be extended beyond councils to involve other public bodies that provide public services.

For more on this story, go to <http://tinyurl.com/3fahcbz>.

That's the name of the Game

nfpSynergy has published an article on the ways that different age groups engage with different charities. It poses the question as to whether generational differences are a result of individuals reaching a certain age or the cultural backgrounds of each age group.



To find out more, go to <http://tinyurl.com/3sdtplv>.

Paper Promises

The Government has unveiled new Big Society plans, in the form of the Giving White Paper. The Paper promises to invest over £40 million of funding to support volunteering, giving and volunteering infrastructure through the Social Action Fund, Challenge Prizes and Local Infrastructure Fund. It also commits to open up government buildings to charities and voluntary groups, establishing a new honours committee to ensure people are recognised/celebrated for exceptional philanthropy and to making sure Ministers commit to at least one day of volunteering per year.



For the official press release, go to <http://tinyurl.com/3lzk7e3>.

Unite against the Big Society

Unite, the largest union in the country, has attacked David Cameron's fourth relaunch of the Big Society. Claiming that the Big Society is merely a smokescreen for cuts, Unite national officer, Rachael Maskell said: 'It is clear that the Prime Minister is floundering as charities face a £4.5bn chasm in funding that his government has inflicted.'

To find out more, go to http://www.charitytimes.com/ct/Unite_Recycling_Big_Society_mirage.php.

Inspiration Strikes

Vinspired has launched the Volunteering Knowledge Network, a new open network enabling researchers, practitioners and policy makers to collaborate on projects which strengthen the evidence base for volunteering.



To find out more and download the leaflet, go to <http://vinspired.com/about-us/volunteering-knowledge-network>.

Technology

Money Back Guarantee

The Directory of Social Change has launched a new website to put pressure on the government to repay the money diverted from the Big Lottery Fund which was used for the 2012 Olympics (the funds were promised to be paid back after the Olympics are completed). To view it for yourself, go to <http://www.biglotteryrefund.org.uk/>.



Events

Mental Health Awareness Training

Dates: 9th June, 12.30pm - 2.30pm (Crawley), 15th June, 10.30am - 12.30pm (Horsham)

The Purple Project is running two free mental health awareness training sessions, in support of 'The time to change' campaign - a national campaign looking to get people talking about mental health.

This training course is aimed specifically at volunteers, mentors, buddies and unpaid supporters who work in the community. For more information or to book a place, contact Vicki on 07772112060 or e-mail vicki@thepurpleproject.co.uk.

Events

Southwick Annual Charity Fair

Date: Saturday 9th July
Venue: Southwick Green

Southwick Charity Fair is celebrating its 25th year in July. As always, it is open to all national, and local charities, community groups and genuine fundraisers. For those who are fundraising, the cost of a pitch is £6. However, for anybody simply promoting their group or recruiting members/volunteers, there is no charge. Anyone wishing to present a display or demonstration should get in touch.

For further information or an application form, contact Beryl Ferrers-Guy via 01273 591284, e-mail beryl.ferrersguy@pablab.co.uk or write to 35, Southview Road, Southwick, BN42 4TW.

Trustees' Week 2011

Date: 31st October to the 6th of November

Trustees' Week 2011 will celebrate the work of trustees and aim to increase awareness and understanding of the trustee role. Part of the campaign will encourage existing trustees to send photos and video clips of themselves and their boards to be posted on the Trustees' Week website, saying why they became a trustee and what they enjoy about it.

For further information on the week and events taking part in it, go to <http://www.trusteeweek.org.uk/>



Co-operatives Fortnight

Date: 25th June to the 9th of July.

Co-operatives Fortnight is the annual campaign from the UK co-operative sector. It aims to raise awareness of how co-operatives offer a way of doing business in which everyday employees, customers and residents have an equal say in decisions and share the profits. This year, the theme 'Yours To Share' represents the shared ownership and the share in profits that makes co-operatives different.



Recently, the website for this event has been updated with a selection of Co-operatives Fortnight materials available for download. These include posters, 14 facts about co-operatives and a leaflet about co-operatives. To view these, go to <http://www.uk.coop/yourstoshare/downloads> or visit <http://www.uk.coop/yourstoshare/> for the main site.

Information

What's the Big idea?

West Sussex County Council are conducting a consultation on the Big Society to find out how people are getting involved in their local communities and to help the County Council understand what it could do to help.

To fill in the survey, go to <http://tinyurl.com/6htpqyu>. The consultation will end on the 7th of June.



Take Action

The National Coalition for Independent Action has published two briefings - 'Voluntary action under threat: what privatisation means for charities and community groups' and 'Big market: how the 'big society' and localism damage independent voluntary action'.



These two critiques of public service privatisation and the Big Society can be found at <http://www.independentaction.net/2011/05/06/8514/>.

Funding

The Big Lottery Fund have put together a document listing some of the various funding options available to voluntary organisations in the South East of England. The document is in .pdf format and can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/6csswsx>.



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AVA News aims to promote informed debate about voluntary action. We seek to offer a balanced perspective on all issues, and any opinions quoted or expressed are not necessarily the views of the Editor or AdurVA.

Check the site out at www.adurva.org.

Adur Voluntary Action is a member of NAVCA - www.navca.org.uk.