

Volunteers Required @ Chesham House

Can you spare a couple of hours per week to help people with little to no experience of computers and/or the internet? If you're a seasoned computer user with some spare time on your hands, call Keri on 01903 854988 or Karen on 01903 854989 to find out more.

Information

Fully Booked

Philip Pullman (best-selling author of popular children's trilogy, His Dark Materials) has spoken out on the decision of government and local councils to cut money to local libraries. In an impassioned speech, he argued that a lack of understanding of the true, non-monetary, value of public services was to blame.

To read the speech for yourself, go to <http://falseeconomy.org.uk/blog/save-oxfordshire-libraries-speech-philip-pullman>

Heartless

Volunteering England Chief Executive, Dr Justin Smith, has voiced his concern over potential cuts to volunteer centres around the country. "The role of the local Volunteer Centre is vital in informing and advising local people about volunteering, and in helping local volunteering organisations create and manage new opportunities." he said "If a community loses its Volunteer Centre, it loses the heart-beat and the brain-power which enable the volunteering movement to thrive."

To read the whole speech, go to <http://tinyurl.com/5ulmhmj>

Volunteers

A Breakthrough in Volunteering

Date: 10th April

Breakthrough Breast Cancer are looking for volunteers to help out with the Brighton Marathon (which they have 60 runners entered in). They need as many cheering volunteers as possible, as the runners really appreciate having people cheer them along. Volunteers can cheer at Point 1 or 2 or take up the role of photographer.

Cheering Volunteers at Point 1 will be cheering for Breakthrough runners on the main stretch of the route. They will cheer for the runners going out, and coming back. Point 1 is at Marine Parade, Brighton and the event will run from 11am to 2pm.

Cheering Volunteers at Point 2 will be cheering for Breakthrough runners at the quietest section of the route. Because of this, the runners will need the support of volunteers more than ever. Point 2's location is currently undisclosed.

Budding photographers will be taking photos of runners en route and celebrating at the post-race party. They will be at Point 1 from 10.30am to 12.30 then at the party from 1 to 3pm.

Breakthrough Breast Cancer is a charity dedicated to the prevention, treatment and ultimate eradication of breast cancer. For more info, visit <http://breakthrough.org.uk/>



Events

INDI South East Free Networking Meeting

Date: Tuesday 15th March, 10am - 12 noon

Venue: Billingshurst Village Hall, Roman Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9QW

INDI South East (Infrastructure Network for Disability Information) is a new lottery funded project that is the first infrastructure and networking initiative to bring together all the voluntary and community sector organisations in the South East that have an interest in disability issues

This meeting is being organised to provide a networking and information sharing forum for organisations with an interest in disability issues. Attendees will not be put on the spot or be expected to commit to specific tasks. INDI will host the meetings and do the groundwork. If you would like to make a short presentation about your service, or present a scenario for the group to help solve, let them know in advance and they will add it to the agenda.

For further details or to book a place, contact Jessica Hogan-Smith on 01483 272146 or via jessica@asksid.org.uk.

Stay and Play

Date: Tuesdays 1-3pm

Venue: Holmbush Primary School

Stepping Stones Children and Family centre are organising a weekly 'Stay and Play' session at Holmbush Primary School. Children aged between 0-4 years old are welcome, accompanied by parents/carers.

Parents in the Hillside area are particularly encouraged to attend (as they don't seem to be accessing the centre in Fishersgate)



Events

How can Sport help tackle Social Exclusion?

Date: Thursday 24th March, 9am - 3pm.

Venue: University of Brighton - Falmer.

Organised by Albion in the Community (the charitable arm of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club) and the Universities of Brighton and Sussex, this event will examine the role sport can play in addressing social disadvantage and what can be done to improve practice, inform policy, and develop valuable projects.

For more information on the event or to book a place, go to www.brighton.ac.uk/cupp/news/events.htm

Shoreham and Fishergate Horticultural Society Annual Events Schedule

Event: Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

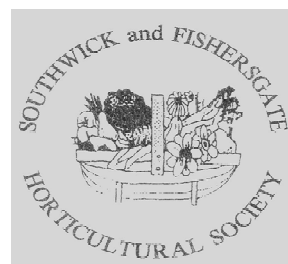
Date: Saturday 7th May

Event: Summer Flower and Produce Show

Date: Saturday 20th August

Event: Autumn Flower and Produce Show

Date: Saturday 29th October



All events take place at Southwick Community Centre and more information is displayed on the notice boards there nearer the time of each event.

The Society meets on the first Tuesday of every month, from 7.30pm in the Garden room at Southwick Community Centre. New members are always welcome.

For more information contact Julie MacCulloch on 01273 596707, email sfhorticulturalsociety@googlemail.com, or visit the website: www.sfhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

ICIS 'Information and Innovation' Event

Date: Friday 4th March, 10.30am - 2pm

Venue: K2 Leisure Centre

NETWORKING

- * Find out about other services providing support to individuals and organisations in West Sussex.
- * Find out about key developments in West Sussex, such as health and wellbeing initiatives and GP commissioning.
- * Promote your organisation to others in West Sussex, including health and social care providers and the public.

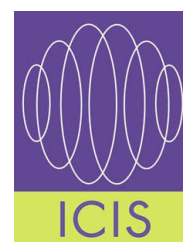
SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

- * Find out about services providing support to the voluntary sector and social enterprises.
- * Explore opportunities for learning and sharing skills, along with partnership working.
- * Find out about funding opportunities and changes to how services are funded and delivered.

ASK THE EXPERTS

- * ICIS information experts, Social Enterprise Advisors, Voluntary Sector Liaison Development Officers, ICT Specialists and many more.

Tea and coffee will be provided throughout the day for exhibitors. Public invited from 12:30pm. For more information or to receive a booking form, e-mail Gemma at admin@icis-info4life.org.uk or phone 01903 859928.



Recruiting Trustees

Date: Thursday 17th March, 9.30am - 1pm

Venue: Working venue, to be confirmed

The Working Together Project still has some places left available on this event. This briefing is for management committee members and staff who want to understand better, effective processes for recruiting trustees and to learn about where to find them and how to approach them. Email bookings@workingtogetherproject.org.uk or phone 01273 810 248 for more info or to book a place.

Events

Alternative Learning Community Skills Shop

Date: Monday mornings, 9.30 till 12 noon

Venue: Workshop 1A, 1A New Road, Shoreham

The Alternative Learning Community (ALC) is working in partnership with the Empty Shops Network to launch a new learning programme called Skills Shop UK. The first hour of each session will look at developing practical and basic DIY skills such as painting, cleaning, putting up shelves and using tools safely etc. This is followed by a half hour group discussion around general emotional wellbeing to help improve self-esteem. The final hour focuses on identifying personal strengths and qualities, long and short term goals, how to access further learning and employment (paid/voluntary/self). It also includes IT skills and leads to the creation of a learning and skills portfolio containing all relevant notes, progression information, and a CV. The course is free and for anyone who is unemployed, a returner to work/learning, redundant or simply not sure what to do next or how to get there.

An Open Morning is being held on Monday the 14th of February where anyone can come along and find out more.

UTILISE Utility Management Workshop

Date: 24th March

Venue: Ferring Country Centre

UTILISE Utility Management Workshops concentrate on practical actions to help you improve your environmental performance and cut your utility costs. Topics include:

- * Understanding billing and utility tariffs; electricity, gas, water and waste
- * Benchmarking and carbon footprinting
- * Environmental legislation
- * Staff and customer involvement
- * Technologies and gadgets
- * Marketing your green credentials
- * Grant and funding opportunities
- * Environmental Management Systems

With interactive exercises throughout the day, each delegate develops a personalised action plan to help kick start improvements in their organisation.

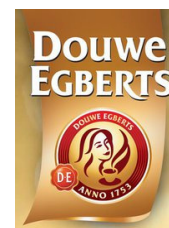
For further information or to book a place, Contact **Rowan Wallis** on 01243 777348 or rowan.wallis@westsussex.gov.uk

Technology

Face up to Recycling

Douwe Egberts UK is running a competition to give small charities the chance to win £10k for a project that benefits their local community. Second and third place prizes of £5k and £3k will also be awarded. Any cause that has a registered UK charity number and an annual turnover of between £5,000 and £50,000 can enter the competition.

To find out more, go to www.facebook.com/douweegbertsuk (and try not to cringe at their incorrect decision to put a dash in the words refill, reuse and recycle). Please note: you must have a Facebook account to be able to enter.



Funding

The Short Break Development Fund (STBDF)

The STBDF has been providing funding to enable carers to take a short break from their caring responsibilities since 2001. Applications are invited for a further round of funding for 2011-2013. The funding is to enable unpaid carers (usually family members or friends) to take a short break from their caring responsibilities.

There is a maximum of £35,000 per annum per application and agreements will be for either one or two years.

Applications for Learning Difficulty and Working Age Mental Health customers and carers cannot be considered as these departments each hold their own short breaks budget. Both LD and WAMH budgets have been allocated for 2011-12.

Application forms and supporting documentation will be available from February 11th, either through your local Voluntary Sector Liaison and Development Officer (VSLDO) or through Viv Edgar, Development Officer, Short Breaks (Carers), on 01243 642862 or viv.edgar@westsussex.gov.uk.

Feature

What's the problem with the 'Big Society'? - A blog post by itsmotherswork

"Nat Wei is experiencing something of a buffeting for sensibly deciding that working for the government for free for three days a week creates an imbalance in his responsibilities to provide for his family and 'have a life'. He can continue to work two days per week for free to promote the Big Society and remains an advocate for the concept.

The Evening Standard covers this story here: <http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/lifestyle/article-23920428-how-my-top-government-job-left-me-almost-penniless-and-unable-to-support-my-family.do>

Nick Hurd, Minister for Civil Society (@minforcivsoc on Twitter) defended him against the 'silly knocking' saying that he is a 'tireless champion of the citizen' and that he is 'personally v grateful for the time he gives us'.

I like to see a man stand up for his friends, but I don't think the knocking is really about Nat Wei. This story just neatly illustrates the underlying problems that afflict the concept of the 'Big Society' itself. So I tweeted as much to Nick Hurd and he came back with this challenge: "What don't you like about concept?"

Fair question. Here's my 10-point starter:

The 'Big Society' is conceptually flawed because:

- 1) It fails to recognise local democratic accountability and structures
- 2) It shows no understanding of how the existing voluntary sector is funded, supported and intertwined with local government
- 3) It overlooks local government's capacity and intelligence as a commissioner, supporter and enabler of local activism
- 4) It pretends that geographical communities are homogenous with shared needs and interests whereas they are in fact fragmented into smaller groups with needs and interests in conflict
- 5) For this reason, it privileges the 'wants' and 'demands' of the already well-resourced, aggressive, organised or time-rich over those whose need may be greater but whose capacity for activism is less
- 6) It enshrines a Victorian model of philanthropy which will enable those with time and money to decide which causes are 'deserving'
- 7) It enables a framework of public discourse in which vital public services can disappear and that's OK because "if you'd really wanted them you'd have got together and saved them"
- 8) It insults professionals whose jobs big society advocates don't understand by implying that they are easy and can be done by others without skills or training
- 9) It legitimises public sector redundancies when clearly the roles and responsibilities are not 'redundant', big society advocates just want people to work for nothing while cheerfully destabilising families and individuals who work for a living, not a hobby
- 10) It is accompanied by cuts which will savage the infrastructure for local voluntarism where it is effective

And for a bonus point:

- *) It is rooted in a sense of (already privileged) entitlement and has no basis in social justice"

For the original blogpost, go to <http://itsmotherswork.posterous.com/whats-the-problem-with-the-big-society-0>

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