

News from Adur Voluntary Action & Chesham House

Lottery Award supports Action on Disability issues in Adur

Adur Voluntary Action (AVA), working in conjunction with the Council's Wellbeing Team, has been awarded £9,124 to undertake work around disability issues in Adur. The application for funding, to the Big Lottery's 'Awards for All' programme, followed a comprehensive review of the situation locally last year by Adur District Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The subsequent report - *Disability Issues Review - Is the Adur District a Disability Friendly Place* - made seventeen recommendations.

Amongst the report's recommendations were the need to develop a local 'Access & Mobility Group', an 'Access Guide' to shops and services and a 'Disability Access Awards Scheme'. AVA were keen to take forward these particular recommendations as they very much reflected their general support and development role to the local voluntary sector. For the Council, working in partnership with a voluntary agency, it provided an opportunity to bring additional funding into the area – Adur is a designated 'cold-spot' for lottery applications.

A lot of information on the accessibility of local shops and services was gathered during the disability review and the first task of the bid, developed jointly by AVA and Council staff, is to look at getting that published on the web. Gaps in the scope of the information, together with the need to check its accuracy, will provide an opportunity to involve volunteers in developing this strand of the project's work.

Individuals with a disability who live in Adur, or representatives from any disability groups covering this area, wanting to get involved with this initiative should contact either Adrian Barritt, adrian@adurva.org or John Kelly, john.kelly@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Bonus Supplement: Joining up our Heritage Newsletter

This month's AVA News comes with a copy of the August newsletter for the Joining up our Heritage Project.

It features news on press coverage of the project, a 93rd birthday to remember, and a profile of one of their volunteers. To subscribe, e-mail Project Co-ordinator, Gillian Edom, via gillian.edom@westsussex.gov.uk.

Information

Social Enterprise Coalition is no more

It's now called Social Enterprise UK! The organisation changed its name and identity to better reflect its role as the national body for social enterprise and better represent the UK's social enterprise movement.

For more info, visit http://www.charitytimes.com/ct/sec_new_name.php.

The Odd Couple

One of them is the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO). The other is the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). They already share the last two words in their names, but from next summer they could be sharing a lot more as Acevo moves from its current central London home in New Oxford Street to NCVO's headquarters at Regent's Street, North London.



So, will we be seeing a hilarious comedy of differences as the two organisations experience a culture clash which will ultimately teach them something new and profound about themselves? Judging by the comments of Peter Kyle, deputy chief executive of Acevo, it's more likely than you might think. Confirming the two organisations' "turbulent relationship" would continue, he remarked "The sector benefits from some of that friction, and we need to retain the good bits. Stephen and Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the NCVO, have different ways of doing things."



Whatever the reality, AdurVA wishes the two organisations well in their new living arrangements.

Information

False Funding

More than 2,000 charities are being forced to close services and sack staff as local authorities slash their funding, or in some cases completely withdraw it, according to research undertaken by the union-backed anti-cuts campaign False Economy.

False Economy says its survey shows more than £110m this year will disappear from charities' bottom line and this raises serious questions about the role of charities as a cornerstone of the government's 'big society'.

For the full story, go to <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/aug/02/charities-fight-survival-funds-slashed>.

Line up

NCVO, in partnership with the Charity Finance Directors Group (CFDG) and insolvency experts MacIntyre Hudson and PricewaterhouseCoopers are working together to open up CFDG's Insolvency Helpline to provide support and benefit to the wider sector.

This is an important factor as, with the right advice, organisations exploring insolvency may not be in danger of mounting liabilities and could have a number of options other than closure available to them.

For more info, go to <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/free-insolvency-help-line>.



Charities face nearly £3billion in cuts over five years

Umbrella body, NCVO, has published a new report entitled 'Counting the Cuts' which shows that, according to the government's own figures, charities are facing nearly £3billion in cuts over the spending review period (2011 – 2015).

It says total public funding for the voluntary sector will fall from £11.8bn in 2010/11 to £10.89bn in 2015/16, if central and local government bodies pass on funding cuts proportionately.

However, the report says the impact on the sector is likely to be "significantly greater" than the figures in the report, because they are based on an assumption that cuts will be applied evenly and proportionately to the voluntary sector.

Karl Wilding, head of policy and research at the NCVO, said: "Many charities are unwilling to speak out for fear they will jeopardise other funding streams but we face the perfect storm of an increase in demand and nearly £3bn public sector cuts – this is a significant cause for concern because it will significantly hamper the ability of charities to support those most in need."

To read the report for yourself, go to <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/cuts-report>.

Technology

Microsoft Free

Microsoft has increased the number of free products which charities can receive a year from six to ten using the Charity Technology Exchange Service (CTX). Products include the Windows 7 operating system, Office 2010 and most other main software packages.

For more information, go to http://www.ctxchange.org/getting_started/faqs/microsoft_faqs.



There's a Spider in my Soup

TechSoup, a technology website for nonprofit organisations, has published a chapter taken from "Nonprofit Management 101: A Complete and Practical Guide for Leaders and Professionals" on their website. Written by Elliot Harman, the article details a 'Cooperative Approach to Web Design' and may come in handy for any organisations currently working on their websites.



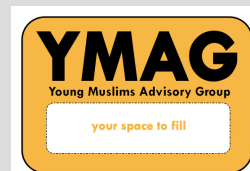
To view it for yourself, go to <http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/webbuilding/page12959.cfm>.

Spotlight: Young Muslim Advisory Group

YMAG is an organisation run by young Muslims, for young people. It provides individuals with an opportunity to engage with decision makers on the highest level in order to make a positive difference on the grass-roots level and across the world.

YMAG are looking for young, enthusiastic, ambitious young Muslims from across England, who want to join their team of advisors.

To find out how to join, e-mail info@ymag.org.uk.



Jobs

3D Community Support - Facilitator

Salary: £7 - £10 per hour (part-time)

Location: East and West Sussex

Closing Date: 6th of September



This position offers applicants the opportunity to work alongside and support people in developing their interests and realising their potential. The Circles Network are looking for individuals with excellent communication and organisational skills. Knowledge of Person Centred Planning, self-directed support plans, Circles of Support and advocacy would be a distinct advantage, but enthusiasm and drive is vitally important. The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate a professional and outgoing approach to work, with a proactive and positive attitude to challenges. Previous experience of working alongside disabled people would be useful.

Contact them on 01788 816 827 or by email at recruitment@circlesnetwork.org.uk.

For a job pack, visit www.circlesnetwork.org.uk.

Information

Life, the Universe and Everything

Individuals and organisations targeted during the recent riots have 42 days from time of damage to make a claim under the Riots Damage Act 1886. The original 14 day deadline was extended by Home Secretary, Theresa May.

They will need to report the incident to the police and obtain a crime reference number. Police must be informed that the claim is being made under The Riots Damage Act 1886.

Events

Festival 4Sight

Date: 16th - 18th September

Venue: Coombes Farm, near Lancing

Tickets: From £10

Three days of live music, courtesy of 4Sight, featuring The Move-Ons, John Otway, Rhythm Method, Flash Company, Murdoch's Crazy Eyes, Rachel Hawker & The Remedies, Alice Band, The Channel, The Alan Smithee Experience, The Light, The Mick Koumis Project, Rob Goodby, Sin Babies and more.



There will be a licensed bar at the event, food, games and camping opportunities. Money raised will go towards helping support blind and partially sighted people.

For more information or to buy a ticket, phone 01243 838008. Alternatively, visit the website at www.festival4sight.co.uk.

Technology

Many Happy Returns

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has developed a series of new video tutorials to help charities file their Annual Returns and update their details online.

Charities with an income over £10,000 must complete an Annual Return and all charities are required to keep their details up to date on the Register of Charities. Last year 86% of charities submitted their Annual Returns and updated their details online. From 2011 onwards all charities are being asked to submit the required information online, via the Charity Commission's website.



To help those charities who have not previously submitted information online, the Commission has produced a helpful video showing how easy it is to complete the Annual Return through its website. To find out more, go to http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_ar11.aspx.

Information

Making the Transition

Transition Town Worthing is supporting the formation of a Community Supported Agriculture scheme (CSA) in Angmering. A CSA is where a community, large or small, makes a financial pledge to support a local farm. Together the farm and community share the risks and rewards of farming and growing, while helping each other out.

A video explanation of CSAs can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUN7coRh3V4>.



You can support the CSA by registering your interest or by ordering weekly veg grown in Angmering. If you are interested, send your name and contact details to Martin at Culberry Nursery, Dappers Lane, Angmering, BN16 4EW. Email: mjarvis@btinternet.com or phone 01903 784107.

All veg is sold to order. You can also sign up on the TTW website here: <http://transitiontownworthing.ning.com/group/community-supported-agriculture>.

Book Together

The Working Together Project has introduced a brand new booking system on their website to help make booking places on WTP events and courses much easier. This September they will be hosting *Cunning Tips for MS Word*, a £20 course, to be held at Jubilee Community Centre in East Grinstead on the 27th of September.



To find out more, go to <http://www.workingtogetherproject.org.uk/blog/new-booking-system-here/>

Our Mutual Friend

UNISON has published a briefing on Mutuals entitled "MUTUALS— a UNISON West Sussex briefing: The questions every UNISON member should ask!". In it, they look at the mutuals proposed by the Coalition government and whether they are one step away from privatisation. They also tackle claims that Mutuals will reduce bureaucracy, muse on such themes as innovation and risk, and ask what the Mutuals will mean for workers.



Mutuals themselves have their origins in the 19th Century and grew out of the failure of the market to provide quality goods and services at affordable rates, as well as pressure 'from below' to organise to meet those unmet needs.

To read the full briefing, go to http://www.unisonwestsussex.org.uk/mutuals_unison_west_sussex_briefing.pdf.

Funding

Social Enterprise Investment Fund

Deadline: 16th September, 12 midday.

Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF) Capital Growth Fund has announced it is offering capital growth grants and loans of £12 million to health or social care organisations. Grants of £50,000 to £150,000 in value will be available. Loans are also available if the organisation can show it is able to repay.

To find out more, go to <http://www.thesocialinvestmentbusiness.org/seif10/>.



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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.