

BFVA

Members' Update

December 2009

December

New Home for BFVA

As the year draws to a close and a new decade is upon us, BFVA is on the move, with our lease due to expire and having outgrown the present premises.

We are moving just around the corner to Amber House, Market Street, Bracknell.

In the five years we have been located at Fitzwilliam House, the number of staff members has trebled and we are now able to offer our members much more in the way of support and resources. Our two meeting rooms are used on a regular basis by many of our member and associate member organisations, likewise our office equipment and photocopier is utilised for minute copying, event flyers, newsletters etc.

Our new premises are easy to access as we are on the ground floor and there is free 2 hour car parking available at the Point nearby. I don't think of any of us will miss having to walk up five flights of stairs in Fitzwilliam House, as the lift there was out of action so often.

The move date is the weekend beginning Friday January 15th 2010 and we hope to minimise disruption as much as possible and be up and running by Monday January 18th 2010, however phones and emails will not be accessible on the Friday or Monday. We are all really excited and very much looking forward to the move.

Our new address will be:

Ground Floor
Amber House
Market Street
Bracknell RG12 1JB

Our telephone numbers and emails will remain the same. We at BFVA,

would like to wish all our members and associate members a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year 2010.



'Faith and Beliefs in Action' Conference 2010

Many of you will know that BFVA are currently undertaking a mapping audit of faith organisations in Bracknell Forest in order to provide a comprehensive picture of the real and economic contribution of the faith sector to Bracknell Forest and civil society. The aim is to bring together diverse faiths and beliefs organisations to find common ground and a shared vision which will benefit our communities. All this information will be used to provide a vital snapshot of the enormous amount of activity in the borough, which will be presented at the first ever Faith and Beliefs Conference in Bracknell Forest on **Tuesday 9 March at Easthampstead Baptist Church from 9.30am 'till 2pm including lunch**. Details are currently being finalised and invitations will be sent out in January, however please put this date in your diaries now and also spread the word through your networks.

In the meantime if you would like further information please contact Sean Hood at BFVA on 01344 304404 or email sean.hood@bfva.org



Voluntary and Community Sector Conference Event 2010

Following the success of last year's event we are planning another conference which will take place on Thursday 3 June at the Kerith Centre, Church Road, Bracknell.

This event is being held during Volunteers Week and the theme and content will be around volunteering, promotion and celebration of, and the perception of 'what is a volunteer'? The day, as usual will include a free lunch, space for displays and will provide an excellent opportunity for that valuable networking.

Full details will be sent out sometime in the New Year, however please put this important date in your diaries now!

Important
DATE!

For your information

Will Charitable Trust

The Will Charitable Trust is seeking applications from registered charities in the UK for projects that support services for blind people; and people with learning disabilities. The closing date for applications is the 31st January 2010.

Categories eligible for grant

The Trust provides financial assistance to registered or exempt charities whose activities fall within the following four categories, mainly within the United Kingdom:

- Care of and services for **blind people** and the prevention and cure of blindness;
- Care of **people with learning disabilities** in a way that provides lifelong commitment, a family environment and the maximum choice of activities and lifestyle;

Application deadline 31 January 2010

- Care of and services for **people suffering from cancer** and their families;
- **Conservation of the countryside** in Britain, including its flora and fauna

Application deadline 31st August 2010



THE
Will
Charitable
Trust

Bracknell Forest Council Central Unit for Learning and Development 2010

Fully funded courses for organisations supporting BFBC residents

Bold indicates half day only, (O) indicates external qualification

RSPH: Royal Society for Public Health



- 8 Jan **Mental Capacity Act**
- 15 Jan 1 Day First Aid
- 16 Jan RSPH Food Hygiene level 2 (O) (Saturday)
- 18 Jan RSPH Food Hygiene level 2 (O)
- 21 Jan LTC Diabetes Awareness
- 28 Jan 1 Day First Aid
- 28 Jan **Medication Workshop**
- 30 Jan RSPH Food Hygiene level 2 (O) (Saturday)
- 3 Feb **Basic Awareness of Child Protection (Eve)**
- 4 Feb RSPH Health and Safety level 2 (O)
- 4 Feb **Basic Awareness of Child protection**
- 8 Feb LTC Understanding Parkinson's Disease

In addition to the courses listed above, a number of online 'elearning' courses are available by registering with

PACT- Parents and Children together

PACT Parent House—At the PACT Parents House in Bracknell, staff sometimes feel incredibly challenged as they seek to build up relationships and work alongside the resident young mums.

All residents have a key worker for individual work sessions and regular house meetings are also held. A weekly 'late evening' is held, when staff, residents and dads/partners come together for a shared cooked meal in a relaxed atmosphere.

There are also some volunteer babysitters who allow mums an occasional trip for a meal or cinema visit.

Welcome support is received from the Mother's Union, local groups and individuals who donate goods or money. Equally welcome is the funding received from a Health initiative on Teenage pregnancy.

In October a lovely new residence was opened in Bracknell and this is home to seven young mums and their babies. The mums are eligible to stay for up to two years, although the average is nine months.

When the young mums leave they are given a **Moving Pack** which consists of washing up bowl, cloths, dusters, dustpan and brush etc.

If you or your group would like to donate to a **Moving Pack**, contact the PACT House on 01344 453236



Make your M-ARK—support The Ark

Absolute Health and Safety Solutions Ltd are supporting the local Crowthorne Charity - The Ark Trust.

The Trustees of The Ark Trust have set up [The Ark Trust Mobile Phone Recycling Website](#) in conjunction with Envirofone to help raise funds for [the Ark Trust Charity](#).

This is what you do:

Step 1: Log on to www.m-ark.co.uk The Ark Trust Mobile Phone recycling website

Step 2: Register your details to set up an account

Step 3: Enter the details of the Mobile Phone you wish to recycle

Step 4: Confirm the % you wish to donate (*if you choose not to donate we understand in these difficult times and thank you for visiting the site, it will help us with the google rating*)

Step 5: Wait for the free post jiffy bag, then post your Mobile Phone (*Postage paid, if you qualify because the value of your mobile(s) you are donating they can arrange a free pick up*)

Step 6: Wait for your cheque or [Envirofone](#) will confirm to The Ark Trust of your donation, by sending them a cheque.....**SIMPLES!**



For your information

Autism Act 2009

The Autism Bill has made it through its final parliamentary stage and will now become the Autism Act. The act is the first ever disability specific law in England. The Autism Act started out as a Private Members Bill, drafted by The National Autistic Society (NAS) and taken forward by Conservative MP Cheryl Gillan. The Bill was backed by a coalition of 16 autism organisations and had overwhelming parliamentary support, being backed by all the main political parties. The Autism Act will guarantee the introduction of the first ever adult autism strategy, which will set out how local services should be improved to meet the needs of adults with autism.



The strategy will cover a range of issues including health, social care, employment and training and, crucially, will be accompanied by guidance which places a legal obligation on local authorities and NHS bodies to meet certain requirements.

The strategy will be published by April 2010 and the accompanying legal guidance no later than December 2010.

NAS want to make sure the adult autism strategy is as strong as it can be.

For this reason, NAS have launched their 'Don't Write Me Off Campaign', they want the Government and the autism strategy to tackle the shocking proportion of adults with autism who are cut off from employment support or benefits.

You can find out what the Autism Act 2009 means for you by reading the document *Autism Act: frequently asked questions*.

To read this document visit <http://www.autism.org.uk/autismact2009>

Take Pride

'Take Pride' is a campaign run jointly by the Council and Thames Valley Police which aims to encourage and help the community undertake volunteering activities in the Bracknell Forest area.

The campaign represents an ideal opportunity for you to get directly involved in making a positive difference in your community. Volunteering is a great way to share your skills, knowledge and leisure time with others to improve the quality of life in the community. In return, you will get the satisfaction of time and effort well spent and the opportunity to meet new people.

What kind of activities can I get involved in?

The range of volunteering activities currently available includes speed monitoring, community clean ups and crime awareness patrols.

Can I organise volunteering events?

Absolutely. The aim of the 'Take Pride' campaign is to encourage and help local people to organise and perform volunteering events to tackle issues that are of concern in their community.

The Council and/or the Police will provide the necessary equipment and help co-ordinate and promote events. We can loan you kits and provide advice on how they should be used safely.

How can I get involved?

Bracknell Forest Council has teamed up with Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action to help run and co-ordinate Take Pride. This is to help integrate Take Pride with other volunteering activities and to make sure there is a "one stop shop" for volunteers to find out information about activities taken place in the borough.

To find out more or to register contact Tracey Morgan, Volunteer Recruitment Officer on 01344 383515 or

Email: tracey.morgan@bfva.org



Boxing Day Dip & Nip

CHILDREN'S CANCER CHARITY CALLS FOR BRAVE VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE THE PLUNGE THIS BOXING DAY

There's nothing like a quick swim to invigorate the mind and body! Children's cancer charity CLIC Sargent is calling for brave locals to take the plunge and sign up for Berkshire's first Boxing Day 'Dip n Nip'.

Hardy swimmers will be sponsored to take to the Liquid Leisure Lake in Datchet for a quick bracing dip before enjoying a hot cup or glass of something warming! The event takes place on Saturday 26th December from 11.15am at Liquid Leisure Waterski and Wakeboard Park, Horton Road, Datchet. All participants will be given a free CLIC Sargent t-shirt, fancy dress is optional and dippers can take to the lake individually or as part of a team! Participants are asked to pay a registration fee of £15 and to raise a minimum of £50 in sponsorship each to take part. As a great incentive entrants who raise over £125 will be treated to a cosy CLIC Sargent fleece - ideal for warming up after the dip.

"I'm sure there are lots of brave locals who will join in the fun and help us raise much-needed funds to support families affected by childhood cancer," said Clare Norrish, CLIC Sargent's local Event Fundraising Manager. "Whether you will be braving the lake yourself or coming to support a dip and nipper we would love to see you there!"

'Dippers' and their supporters will also have the opportunity of taking part in a raffle on the day with some amazing prizes on offer including water-ski vouchers, a day pass to Blenheim Pass, top quality wines and fudges and a luxurious Molton Brown hand massage.

For more information or a registration pack contact C Norrish 01865 767049 or email: clare.norrish@clicsargent.org.uk



Other news



Minibus available for hire

BFVA has a minibus available for hire. The bus has been paid for through funds raised

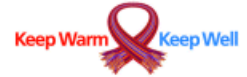
by staff at GMAC which were matched by the company. It is available for use by any organisation provided the driver is Midas trained and holds a current certificate. The cost for the hire of the bus is £40 per day plus 40 pence per mile, no matter how long the hire time is and BFVA will invoice you for the hire cost.

For further information or to make a booking please contact Angela Evans on 01344 383512 or email angela.evans@bfva.org

Keep Warm Keep Well Campaign

Keep Well Keep Warm is a national campaign to reduce cold-related illness and deaths during winter. You will find information and advice about how to stay well in winter by keeping warm and what financial support is available.

Keep Warm Keep Well have produced three booklets, guides for Getting financial help, saving energy and money and staying well and healthy:



- *People over 60*
- *Families*
- *People with disabilities or long term health conditions*

You can download these booklets from www.orderline.dh.gov.uk Alternatively you can ring the orderline on 0300 123 1002 and quote 296802

Archaeology in Bracknell

The Bracknell Forest Society, started in 2007, is one of 750 Civic Societies in the UK that celebrate and safeguard their communities and environment and give local people a voice.

The Bracknell Forest Society will be hosting a talk by Fiona Macdonald from **Berkshire Archaeology** on Thursday 14th January 2010 at Jocks Lane Community Hall from 7.30–9.00pm

Admission is **Free** and all are welcome.

For further information about The Society, membership or any other of the Society's events call 01344 423440 or you can visit their website: www.thebracknellforestsociety.org.co.uk



Walk with the Ranger

If your New Year Resolution is to take more exercise or try to get fitter why not 'Walk with the Ranger'.

Bracknell Forest Council's Parks and Countryside Service organise monthly walks with the Rangers. The walks take place monthly on the second Wednesday of the month and commence 10.00am-11.00am

A steady walk for three miles at 3 miles per hour should appeal to all ages.

So if this is something that you would like to do or appeal to you telephone 01344 354441 for more information or alternatively visit their website:



Diary dates

- 14 Jan Crowthorne Library, Volunteer Recruitment session 10.00 to 1.00pm
- 21 Jan 'Find out about Funding' Voluntary & Community Resource Centre, Alma Road, Windsor SL4 3HD 9.45-12.30
- 26 Jan BFVA Community Lunch, Crowthorne Baptist Church 12.00 to 2.00pm
- 9 Mar Faiths and Beliefs Conference, Easthampstead Baptist Church

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Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action
5th Floor
Fitzwilliam House
Bracknell

Tel: 01344 304404