

BFVA

Members' Update

May 2010

Voluntary and Community Sector Conference ... The **V** Factor

Bracknell Forest's Got Community

You will by now have received an invitation to our Conference on Thursday 3 June which is being held again at the Kerith Centre, Church Road, Bracknell, RG12 1EH from 9.00am 'till 2pm including the usual free excellent lunch.

This year the conference is being held in Volunteers Week in order to celebrate the amazing work that our thousands of volunteers do and the difference it makes in our communities ie 'The V Factor'.

With this in mind we have teamed up with the Bracknell News to highlight those who give up their time for free by asking for nominations in five categories:

Group of the year – nominations can be from those involved in a local group or users of the organisation

Lifetime achievement – do you know someone who has donated their time and devoted their life to helping others?

Adult volunteer of the year – an adult who makes a difference to the lives of others

Young volunteer of the year – is there a young person who helps out in their community or in a group

Company giving/corporate responsibility – do you work for a company that supports the voluntary sector or who you want to thank?

There are many deserving people for these awards so please take time out to put in your nominations.

Full details are in the Bracknell News, Midweek and online at www.bracknellnews.co.uk, alternatively if you want to nominate someone contact us direct.

We also have some of our young volunteers coming along to talk to us about what they do in our local community. Many of our young people in Bracknell Forest give up their free time to benefit others in many different ways eg community projects, litter picking, youth clubs, however sometimes the perception of young people is not one of 'giving back'.

We have also listened to what you have said at previous conferences so this event will have more opportunities for that all important networking, and of course the free lunch! There will also be some space available for your display stands and publicity however if you do want a space please let us know as soon as possible as this will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

As you know there is limited parking at the Kerith which will be reserved for disabled parking and display drop off. Parking is available in car park 2 in the town, simply walk through the underpass towards the college and turn right to the Kerith.

Please pass this information to everyone in your organisation, including your volunteers, staff and committee members/trustees.

If you would like some more information or would like to attend please contact Judy English on 01344 304404 or email judy.english@bfva.org



For your information

Charity website brings non profit soap opera to life

We featured this website in the Spring newsletter and they have now launched a 'soap opera' about the voluntary sector!

After 60 years of broadcasting making it the world's longest running soap opera (in any medium), there are few people who don't recognise the jaunty opening notes of *The Archers*. Its cheery tones can crack a smile on most faces. Now, voluntary sector resource site *KnowHow NonProfit* has launched its own sister to *The Archers*, a novel new animated docudrama about life in the voluntary sector.

Millcaster Tales was initially launched in February 2009 as a series of illustrated text stories hosted by knowhownonprofit.org. The soap opera tells the story of a small town's non profit organisations and the people who work there. Now, thanks to a team of BBC voices, RADA trained actors and the screen writer of the well known police drama "The Bill", *Millcaster Tales* has been launched as an animated audio play.

"Over time, we hope the *Millcaster Tales* recordings will become known as *The Archers* for the voluntary sector," said Sahara Quli, CEO of KnowHow NonProfit.

The Archers actually began as a way of disseminating information about new farming techniques. It was designed not only to entertain, but also to inform farmers and smallholders who worked long hours usually in remote rural locations.

"Working in not for profit organisations can be extremely hard work and you don't always realise that the challenges you face are experienced by others too" explained Tom McHugh, who directed the recording of the first series. "We think many people will find the problems experienced by the organisations in *Millcaster* to be rather close to home."

Millcaster Tales already has a well established following of dedicated readers, but through moving to audio, it is hoped it can reach even more people. "I love the audio play" said Smitha Mundasad who is a trustee for the Ranebennur Trust. "I listen to it while I'm doing the washing up! I just wish they'd make them weekly so I didn't have to wait a whole fortnight!"

You can listen to "Broken Biscuits," the first audio episode of *Millcaster Tales* by visiting

<http://www.knowhownonprofit.org/millcaster/animated-millcaster>



New Website for INDI South East

Infrastructure Network for Disability Information (INDI) South East (a new project from Social Information on Disability - SID) has launched its new website www.indi.org.uk.

The website provides a one-stop resource featuring:

- developments in the field of disability,
- research,
- useful links to other South East infrastructure organisations,
- details of diversity and equality forums,
- free membership.

During the rest of the year additions will include: news on training and funding opportunities, a members' forum and a database of regional disability focused organisations. VCS organisations who become members of INDI South East will be able to promote services and publicise events on the new site.

If your organisation is interested in becoming a member of INDI South East or would like more information, please call Becki Meakin on 01372 361901

or email: info@indi.org.uk.

INDI South East

Infrastructure Network for Disability Information



LOTTERY FUNDED

Rivertime Boat Trust

The Trust has a 42 ft boat which has been specially designed for disabled and disadvantaged people and those with mobility problems. There is a ramp and a lift for wheelchairs, a large saloon and toilet facilities as well as a small galley.

'Rivertime' operate from the River and Rowing Museum at Henley and cruise up and down the Thames between Windsor and Oxford. The boat can accommodate groups of up to 12 and the cruise can be up river through Marsh Lock on to Shiplake and Sonning or down stream along the Henley Royal Regatta course through Hambleden Lock and on towards Marlow, creating a great opportunity to see the wildlife and the beautiful scenery on the River Thames.

For more information visit their website

www.rivertimeboattrust.org.uk or telephone Lucy Herbert on 07599 295544 for information and bookings.



For your information

**BRACKNELL
ARMED FORCES DAY 2010
26TH JUNE 2010**

Recreation Park, Opposite South Hill Park Mansion,
Ringmead, Bracknell. RG12 7PA (See Reverse for Details)

ROYAL AIR FORCES Association
Comradeship Welfare Opportunities

TS LION SLOUGH SCC

7TH PLATOON BRACKNELL AFC

211 SQUADRON BRACKNELL ATC

READING SCOTTISH PIPE BAND

PARADE OF STANDARDS

READING SUPERSTARS

- Static Displays,
- Food Vendors
- Bouncy Castles
and much more...

It's Free!

OUR VETERANS

Be a part of the Bracknell Armed Forces celebrations 2010

Bracknell Armed Forces Day are seeking groups to participate in the planned arena in Bracknell on 26th June 2010, as well as side shows and exhibits, As the event is much larger and somewhat more complex, a call to arms is required. The BAFD 2010 Committee are requesting a call to arms for the following:

Volunteers to assist as stewards for the June 26th event

Local Groups and Organisations that wish to contribute to the celebrations, on the themes 'Armed Forces Past, Present and Future'.

Ex service personnel that wish to be presented with their Veterans Lapel Badge during the celebration on June 26th 2010.

All groups will be considered.

An open air event with main arena activities is taking place including a cadet marching competition, ACT marching displays, SCC field gun display, majorettes, a dedicated parade of a military marching band, association standards and veterans (with presentation of Veteran Lapel Badges) and much more.

There will be 20+ stands for associations and local organisations, vintage military vehicles.

For further information contact the **Event Coordinator**, Emily Bidwell on 01344441600 or email bafd@live.co.uk

Adventure Scouts - Opportunities

Over 400,000 young people enjoy Scouting every single week. Whether it's a six year old Beaver Scout taking their first steps on a rotating climbing wall or a 20 year old Scout Network member becoming the youngest Briton to climb the highest mountain in each continent, Scouting helps young people reach their full potential. But there are still some 30,000 girls and boys on the Scouting waiting lists due to a shortage of adult volunteers.

There is a wealth of opportunities available for adults to volunteer with the Scouts.

- For Leaders - working with a small leadership team, plan and deliver an exciting balanced programme for one of 5 age ranges.
- For Parents - Scouting simply would not exist without the skills and enthusiasm of thousands of adult helpers acting as instructors, treasurers, administrators and helpers.
- For Trustees - responsible individuals to help maintain high standards of child protection, and financial management.
- For Volunteer Managers - help to oversee the work of adult volunteers and visit Scouting wherever it happens.

If you would like some more information or think you could help in one of these areas visit www.scouts.org.uk/join or call 0845 300 1818



Other news

Bracknell Forest Council Central Unit for Learning and Development 2010

Fully funded courses for organisations supporting BFC residents

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

RSPH: Royal Society for Public Health

- 3 June** Safeguarding Children (Child Protection)
- 9 June** Equality and Diversity
- 14 June** Safeguarding Adults (Pova)
- 15 June Introduction to Domestic Abuse
- 16 June LTC Diabetes
- 18 June RSPH Health and Safety level 2 (Q)
- 21 June** Medication Workshop
- 22 June LTC Epilepsy
- 28 June One day First Aid



In addition to the courses listed above, a number of online 'elearning' courses are available by registering with 'Log on to Care' Follow this link to register <http://www.logontocare.org.uk/join.html>

Other Training Opportunities

Crescent Centre, Earley 0118 921 0555

Emergency First Aid at Work 30 June 9.30-4.30 £10

For further information contact John Ogden on 01344 352275 or email john.ogden@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

National Insurance Contributions for Carers

Carer's Credit has been introduced from 6 April 2010 and is a National Insurance credit which helps carers build up qualifying years for the basic State Pension and additional State Pension. It replaces Home Responsibilities Protection. It is not to be confused with a benefit payment.

If you are in receipt of Carer's Allowance your NI contributions will automatically be credited to you. If you are already getting Home Responsibilities Protection your years of protection will be converted to credits.

To qualify for Carer's Credit you must care for one or more disabled people for a total of 20 hours or more per week. Each person you care for must:

either

be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance care component at the middle or highest rate, or Attendance Allowance at any rate, or Constant Attendance Allowance at any rate.

or

have obtained a care certificate signed by a health or social care professional to confirm they need the level of care being provided.

To apply for Carer's Credit you need to obtain an application pack from the Carer's Allowance Unit on telephone: 0845 608 4321 or you can download one from the www.direct.gov.uk website. The pack includes a blank care certificate along with detailed notes about who is eligible and what you need to do.

DWP Department for Work and Pensions



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

Diary dates

- 3 June BFVA Conference, Kerith Centre
- 15 June Carers Week, BFVA stand in Princess Square
- 18 June Carers UK Lunch, Easthampstead Baptist Church
- 16 July Carers social event

Registered Charity No. 1061373

Registered Company Limited by Guarantee No.

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