

BFVA

Members' Update

May 2009

Voluntary and Community Sector Conference Event - 'Are We Making A Difference?'

This year's conference event is being held on Thursday 21 May at the Kerith Centre, Church Road, Bracknell 9.30am 'till 2pm including lunch.

The theme this year is 'Are We Making A Difference?' and will cover a range of subjects pertinent to voluntary and community groups, including the impact that groups have within their communities and maintaining independence during the recession.

The keynote speaker this year is Debra Allcock Tyler who is the Chief Executive of the Directory of Social Change, the leading source of information and training to the voluntary and community sector worldwide. Through its policy and campaigning the organisation has a vision of an independent voluntary sector at the heart of social change. It believes that the activities of charities and other voluntary organisations are crucial to the health of our society and campaigns at a national level.

We have also secured the use of an 'ask the audience' facility which involves interactive audience participation through handsets with button selections enabling everyone to answer chosen questions giving visual, almost instant feedback displayed on a large screen.

In addition, Mosaic, a training organisation who, through sketches and role play situations will give organisations the practical tools on assessing and measuring their impact in the community ie what would happen if they weren't there?

We have also listened to what you have said at previous conferences so this event will have more opportunities for that all important networking, offering the chance to meet, share and inform each other and link up with our partner agencies. We have also reduced the length of the event to an 'extended' morning, being conscious of the fact that our audience are busy people! In addition there will also be some space available for your display stands to publicise your work to the wide ranging audience including statutory agencies.

Please pass the details of this event to everyone in your organisation. We are also resending full details/invitations, however replies need to be with us by Thursday 14 May. We look forward to seeing you there!



Publicity opportunities for groups through Community TV

Bracknell Forest Community TV project is a venture of Bracknell Forest Partnership and is jointly managed by the Council, Police, Fire Service, Primary Care Trust, Bracknell Regeneration Trust and Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action.

The system comprises of 10 large screens installed in public locations across the borough which broadcast short silent public message films comprising a mixture of local initiatives filmed in Bracknell Forest, generic public service information, along with national news, sport and weather.

There is also a facility to show individual 'text slides' within the rolling 30 minute programme with a maximum of 50 words, displaying information about forthcoming events or campaigns, missing people and emergency messages, changes to or introduction of community services etc.

Therefore if any group has an event or other public information that they wish to add to Community TV please contact Chris Cowap on 01344 304404 or email chris.cowap@bfva.org. There are certain restrictions eg 1 topic per slide, no commercial use, no illegal material etc, just give us a call for more information.



For your information

South East April News Alert

Have you heard about the changes to the Awards for All programme?

As many of you may know, for the last ten years we have run Awards for All as a joint programme with the other three main distributors of Lottery money. From 1 April each distributor will now run its own small grants programme. As a result, the Big Lottery Fund has launched a new-look Awards for All programme.

Visit the new [Awards for All website](#) to get details about the new programme and to get an application form.

The new scheme will be the Fund's biggest ever commitment to a small grant scheme supporting community projects, offering a more easily accessible programme with even quicker decision times. Grants between £300 and £10,000 are available to grassroots groups in the voluntary and community sector, health bodies, schools and parish or town councils.

To find out if the programme is right for you please visit the Awards for All website: www.awardsforall.org.uk or call 0845 4 10 20 30 for an application pack.

The People's Millions is back for a fifth year

The People's Millions TV contest has launched giving communities a fresh chance to win up to £50,000 in Lottery good cause cash to improve their locality.

This year in ITV Meridian The People's Millions is offering eight awards of up to £50,000 for projects that will enhance local facilities or help people to enjoy their local area. This is broken down into four awards in the East of the Meridian region and four awards in the West.

The contest is particularly looking for projects that enable local people to get more involved in their community and that are original and imaginative.

You can apply if you are a voluntary or community group, local authority, school, health body or social enterprise. Later in the year short-listed projects will be showcased on ITV Meridian local news where they will have to convince the public why they deserve the cash. It will then be up to the public to use their vote to decide which groups win the funding. Entry packs are available on our website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peoplesmillions or you can call our hotline: 0845 0 10 11 12 The application deadline is 12 noon on Friday 15 May 2009.



Crowthorne Volunteers for Crowthorne Organisations

BFVA are having an event on the morning of Thursday 14th May in Crowthorne Library to recruit volunteers for local organisations and raise awareness of volunteering. This will attract people who don't necessarily have the transport to get further afield but want to help their community.

If you need volunteers and are based in Crowthorne or your organisation needs volunteers in the village, please let me know. For those who already have their opportunities advertised with me, don't worry, these will be advertised. Depending on how successful this event is, it may be that we set up regular recruitment sessions in the locality. It is hoped to duplicate this event in other areas such as Sandhurst.

If you have any queries, please contact Tracey Morgan at tracey.morgan@bfva.org or on 01344 383515.

Bracknell Volunteer Day

We are still looking for performers to showcase their talents at our Volunteer Day on Saturday 6th June. If you know any talented people or want to perform yourself, please contact Tracey.

Certificate of Appreciation

If you'd like to show your appreciation to your volunteers by presenting them with a certificate in Volunteers Week, please let Tracey know. Please see the Spring 2009 newsletter for further details.

Are you a community or charitable organisation that is looking to extend your work with a laptop and a year's free broadband?

Currently 33% of people in the UK are considered digitally excluded which means they do not have access to a computer or the internet. This leads to individuals and communities becoming financially disadvantaged, socially marginalised and missing opportunities including education and employment.

How BT Takes Action

BT believes that enhanced communication creates a fairer, more inclusive society where everybody has the opportunity to participate, benefit and contribute. By providing technology to community organisations BT is playing a role in helping to close the digital divide which threatens to marginalise millions of citizens. BT Community Connections enables community and charitable organisations working throughout the UK and ROI to apply for a laptop and a year's free broadband connection. The scheme is particularly aimed at those organisations in areas of deprivation with little or no funding that would otherwise have no IT provision. Thousands of diverse community organisations including community projects, silver surfers, conservation organisations, family support groups, sports teams and youth groups have all been supported in the past and regional mapping shows that no part of the UK remains untouched by the scheme.

For further information visit

www.btcommunityconnections.com



For your information

Do you have experience of living with a long term health condition?



**Expert Patients Programme
Community Interest Company**

Could you spare a little time in 2009.... and again in 2010?

Use your knowledge, skills and experience to become a Service User Mentor (SUM) volunteer!

Expert Patients Programme Community Interest Company (EPP CIC) is offering people in the Thames Valley who live with a long-term health condition the chance to become involved in an exciting mentoring programme with Health and Social Care Foundation Degree students at Thames Valley University. EPP CIC is working with the South Central Health Authority (SCHA) on this pilot project. The aim of your role as a Volunteer Mentor will be to help the students reflect on their knowledge and understanding of what it means to live day-to-day with a long-term condition(s), and, in doing so, lead to improved health and social care practice.

EPP CIC offers Volunteer Mentors full training and ongoing support. Commitment is key to the success of the programme and following the mentorship and expert patient training sessions you will be meeting regularly with your student.

To find out more, please contact: Gill Stokes at the Expert Patients Programme on 07812 694562 or email: gillian.stokes@eppcic.co.uk; or Sue Littleford on 01273 704955 or email sue.littleford@eppcic.co.uk Alternatively you can visit our website www.expertpatients.co.uk

EPP CIC is also offering people living with long-term health conditions the opportunity to become Volunteer Tutors on its Expert Patient self-management programmes. We will provide you with full training and ongoing support for this rewarding role. To find out more, please contact Sue Littleford (see above).

Senior Citizens' Lunch

Would you like to have a hot meal once a week and meet other, older people and children living in your neighbourhood?

Then why not come along during term time and enjoy a great value tasty hot dinner, pudding and a cuppa with the children.

Great Hollands Primary School on **Wednesdays** To book call 01344 424911

Harmanswater Primary School on **Wednesdays** To book call 01344 422196

The Pines School on **Wednesdays** To book call 01344 426413

Birch Hill Primary School on **Wednesdays** To book call 01344 455815

Holly Spring School on **Wednesdays** To book call 01344 422367

Sandy Lane Primary School on **Wednesdays** To book call 01344 423896

Crowthorne CE Primary School on **Wednesdays** To book call 01344 772089

Crown Wood Primary School on **Thursdays** To book call 01344 485448

Fox Hill Primary School on **Thursdays** To book call 01344 421809

Owlsmoor Primary School **once a term** (please call for details) To book call 01344 776642



Red Tape cut for small charities

Thousands of small charities will save up to £5 million a year as the Government cuts red tape by raising the income thresholds above which stricter accounting rules apply.

From 1st April 2009 the Government is giving charities more freedom to dedicate their time and money to 'making a difference' rather than paperwork. The changes will make the regulations more proportionate to the risks so that donors can be confident that charities are accountable while more of their money will end up directly helping the charitable cause.

All charities, including those with annual incomes under £25,000 must prepare accounts and make them available on request. The changes to accounting thresholds followed a consultation held jointly by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office and the Charity Commission.

For further information call the contact centre on 0845 300 0218 or visit

www.charitycommission.gov.uk or www.cabinetoffice.gov.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 20 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

Room in your heart, life and home?

Bracknell Forest Council will be supporting National Fostering Fortnight
May 11th–24th May

With their 'Get to know us' campaign



Fostering takes a Special kind of person

During this week members of The Family Placement team will be out and about in Bracknell getting to know local people and community groups, raising awareness for the need for foster carers for children over 11yrs and teenagers. It will be a great opportunity for you to get to know more about fostering and the people involved.

If you are part of a local group and would like to find out more about fostering in Bracknell

Please contact Marie Sullivan at the Family Placement Team 01344 351582



East Berkshire Funding Fair 2009

Following the success of last year's event, Bracknell Forest will once again be joining forces with Slough Council for Voluntary Service and Windsor and Maidenhead Voluntary Action to host an East Berkshire Funding Fair on Wednesday 30th September 2009 at Windsor Racecourse. There will be various funders present with stands, workshops and one-to-one surgeries.

The funding climate is constantly changing and evolving which has implications for all organisations in the sector, both large and small. This event will have a wealth of information and advice so is a 'not to be missed' event.

Further information and booking forms will go out with the summer edition of our newsletter, however please put this date in your diaries now.



Diary dates

- **14 May** - Alzheimer's (Bracknell and District) Conference, Bracknell Leisure Centre, 9.30am to 3.30pm £10 (buffet lunch included)
- **21 May** - VCS Conference 9.30 to 2.00pm Kerith Centre
- **1 –7 Jun** - Volunteers Week
- **6 Jun** - Volunteers Day, Town Centre, Bracknell 10.00am - 3.00pm
- **8 –15 Jun** - Carers Week
- **26 Jun** - The Bracknell Forest Society event 'A Day in the Life of a BBC Royal Correspondent' at Garth Hill, 7- 7.30pm, £5 with wine
- **30 Sep** - East Berkshire Funding Fair, Windsor Racecourse 10.00am to 2.45pm

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