



# Volunteer Centre Bulletin

## August 2010

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### Welcome...

*This summer has provided one or two excellent events for the Volunteer Centre to lift the profile of volunteering and promote your opportunities.*

*A presence at The Reigate Priory Park event on 25th June was very successful; over 100 enquiries were received from people wishing to find out more about local opportunities. A selected list of opportunities covering the Borough, information about [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk) and the value of voluntary work were freely available and distributed. Additionally there were several enquiries from organisations we already support and others needing help in recruiting more volunteers.*

*A LBV Television volunteering promotion on the Surrey Volunteer Centre network took place over a week in June at The Belfry Shopping Centre, Redhill. This generated a number of enquiries all of which have been followed through.*

*Additionally, for Volunteers Week we supported a Community Day Event in the Preston Ward, Banstead by having a display. In July volunteering information was provided to Earlswood Primary School, Earlswood, Redhill who held a parenting tutor course.*

**Janet Rimmer (Volunteer Co-ordinator)**

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One of our neighbours in our new office is (**Social Firms UK**) they popped in to our office open afternoon on the 5<sup>th</sup> August. We agreed that a little article to include in our bulletin was a good idea, so here it is.

**Social Firms UK is a non for profit organisation.** - The Queen highlighted the importance of social enterprise in her speech to Parliament and David Cameron's vision of Big Society relies on the sector to deliver services with a social and environmental impact, Social Firms, being one of those services.

A Social Firm is a social enterprise that has been set up specifically to create employment for people who are furthest away from the labour market. Social Firms share three core values: Enterprise, Employment and Empowerment. They employ at least 25% of their workforce from those who face major disadvantage in the labour market (e.g. because of a physical or learning difficulties, mental health problem, prison record or substance misuse). They generate at least 50% of income through trade and their profits are re-invested to grow the business and create more jobs. Social Firms can be found in all business sectors, from manufacturing to market research, from packaging and fulfilment to printing and from cafes to conference centres.

They have completed the first detailed Mapping Report on the Social Firm sector since 2006. It details the size, growth, expansion issues, legal structures, geographical spread, industry sectors, employee numbers, successes and challenges. This report is available to download for free at

<http://socialfirmsuk.co.uk/resources/library/2010-social-firm-sector-mapping>

For more information please contact Temi Odesanya, Marketing Assistant, Tel: 01737 231363 or Email: [TOdesanya@socialfirmsuk.co.uk](mailto:TOdesanya@socialfirmsuk.co.uk)

**The Mayor's Community Awards 2010.** Do you know of someone who gives their time and energy to helping others in a voluntary capacity? Do you think they deserve to be nominated for an award? There are five categories of awards: Individual volunteer, Young volunteer (up to 25), Volunteer team, Trustee (individual) and Trustee team. If you would like a nomination form or would like to know more email: [award@rbcvs.org.uk](mailto:award@rbcvs.org.uk) or download a form from: [www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/mayorsawards2010](http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/mayorsawards2010). Closing date for nomination is Thursday 30th September 2010.



**CSV Make A Difference Day.** Every year tens of thousands of people get together to make a difference in their communities for CSV Make a Difference Day, the UK's biggest day of volunteering.

This year it takes place on **Saturday 30 October 2010** - and you can be part of it! Think big and organise your own activity for the campaign, or simply go along and volunteer for the day. To register your activity and for more information, please visit their website: [www.csv.org.uk/difference](http://www.csv.org.uk/difference)



**Volunteer for Rockinghorse and help local children.** Rockinghorse brings hope to families in challenging times, improving the quality of life for some of the most vulnerable children in Sussex and Surrey. Many of those the charity support are living with life-threatening conditions, profound physical or learning disabilities, mental health problems or have complex medical needs. They are working in partnership with respite centres and children's hospitals. Rockinghorse strives to make services stimulating, cutting edge and accessible for the many babies, children and teenagers who need them. They are recruiting volunteers to join its supporter group and help make a real difference to sick and disabled children in the Redhill and Reigate area. The charity recently launched two fundraising appeals in East Surrey for a sensory playroom at Beeches Respite Centre in Reigate and for a high dependency unit at East Surrey Hospital's Outwood Ward. They are asking people to donate their time and skills in aid of these fantastic projects by helping to organise local events, by promoting and raising awareness of the their work, or simply by generating new and exciting fundraising ideas. The first supporter group meeting will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September, from 6-8pm at the Reigate Manor Hotel in Reigate.

## VOLUNTEER SEEKING OPPORTUNITY

*We have a gentleman volunteer who is a dedicated and intelligent professional with over 25 years experience in most aspects of Quantity Surveying (cost control), Project Management, Planning, Development, budgeting and Cost Management. He is computer literate on all the most common software packages, including Microsoft Excel. He is also quite happy working on double entry book keeping, VAT content etc. For the past couple of years he has been preparing cash flow forecasts alongside other specialist skills.*

*Although recently taking on some voluntary work where he has prepared a cost comparison chart for year 2009 and 2010, he still has time on his hands and would like to get involved in more voluntary work.*

*Unfortunately, he has been diagnosed with a form of ataxia (which affects speech and walking/balance) which makes him walk slower than other people. He does not have to take any medication or require any disability aids, but does have to attend brief check ups at hospital.*

*Ideally, he is looking for something in the Redhill area because he would not have trouble getting there, to use public transport would be more problematic.*

*Please get in touch with us if you feel this gentleman can help you.*

## LATEST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Age Concern - Banstead** has restructured to respond to the current challenging economic environment at the same time as providing a basis for expanding to meet the needs of a growing proportion of older people in the area. They are also committed to maintaining their good reputation with clients for the quality of the services they provide. To pursue their expansion they now need several more volunteers to help with the following aspects of their work:

**Car Scheme:** This provides personal transport for Health and Welfare appointments. They need more volunteer drivers willing to use their own cars. A mileage allowance is paid to drivers.

**Befriending Service:** Many people living alone greatly value having somebody to visit even just for a chat. They need more volunteers willing to spare an hour or two for this vital service.

**Information service:** Their office is often the first port of call for older people requiring information on a wide variety of topics. They need volunteers to help provide this service.

**Minibus:** A few more volunteer drivers are needed to help maintain the service they provide to a variety of organisations serving older people.

**The Royal British Legion** is the UK's leading charitable organisation providing financial, social and emotional support to millions of serving and ex service men and women, and their dependents. They are looking for a Poppy Appeal Organiser's for the Reigate area and also the Horley area (awaiting more information). They are also looking for Caseworker Volunteers to visit people in their homes; you will identify and assess the need for assistance and eligibility for help. Reporting to the County Field Officer, the work you do is crucial to how the RBL can proceed with the case. You will support clients throughout their application and ongoing case, by providing information, advice and sometimes emotional support. They are looking for someone who is friendly, has a professional manner, energy and enthusiasm, good communication skills; verbal and written and able to work both independently and as part of a team. Training and ongoing support is given.

**The Orpheus Centre** is a residential performing arts centre for young disabled people based in Godstone. They are in need of volunteers to mow the grass (sit on mower) and water their newly sown lawn and flower beds. Also to generally look after and nurture their grounds. A volunteer can choose their own area to look after and tend from the following:

- Lake area - General cutting back of shrubs and keeping pathway tidy.
- Car Park - Mowing and keeping weed free the area surrounding the Car Park.
- Sunken Garden - This is part of the original old garden and now has a memorial patio, raised bed and surrounding shrubs that need tending and keeping weed free etc.
- Orchard - a small orchard area that needs mowing and general tidying up.
- Students flower beds (raised) - They do have a volunteer but is off sick at the moment and the roses need deadheading, gardens weeding and shrubs trimmed.
- Pathways to be kept weed free. Timing is twice a week at the moment.

They are also looking for a Finance Volunteer to help out in their Finance Office, this is just one of their many opportunities. Please ask for more information.



**Reigate & Banstead District Citizens Advice Bureau** are a very busy, innovative and well supported bureau and they now need a new Treasurer to join them as they pursue new opportunities. They are looking for somebody with financial qualifications or experience, a good working knowledge of Excel, Word and Sage, some experience or knowledge of charity finance, fundraising and pension schemes and skills to analyse proposals and examine their financial consequences also a willingness to be available to staff and to provide advice and guidance on financial matters. Timings are quarterly Trustee meetings, and bureau visit once per month-other times will be flexible to suit.

**Reigate District Scout Council** is very active, covering an area from the western outskirts of Reigate in the west to South Nutfield in the east, from Chipstead in the north to Horley in the south. There are over 200 adults who provide leadership and support for about 1,100 young people of the District aged from 6 to 18 and young adults from 18 to 25. They are looking for a District Administrator to provide administrative support to the District Commissioner, District Team and District Executive committee (and sub committees). The role will involve maintaining records of leaders on district and headquarters database and process applications of new leaders and adults (arranging meetings etc.). Compile the Annual Census, maintain the District Directory and other administrative duties as required on an ad hoc basis. They ask the volunteer to work from home, have access to a computer with internet connection and be able to use email, and Microsoft Office programs (or other compatible programs). Timing is flexible.

**Surrey Care Trust** are looking for STEPS Mentor's. This opportunity involves supporting young people towards the end of their time on their STEPS programmes or in the months after they have finished. Mentors help young people work out what they want to do next and then help them achieve their goals. The young people may have had a tough start in life and their STEPS programmes build their confidence and raise their aspirations. When they move on to the next stage of their lives it can be daunting, so the support of a mentor is so important in keeping them motivated and feeling positive about their futures. Typically the volunteer would see a young person for an hour once a week until they have achieved the goals they have set for themselves. Frequency and length of sessions can be varied by mutual agreement between you and the young person. Support and training will be given.

**Surrey Police** – through restructure they want to recruit more volunteers to support their services in a variety of ways. One or two we have been made aware of are IT and communications.

## TRAINING

**The Brigitte Trust** in Dorking offers emotional support and practical help at home, to individuals and families facing the effects of cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. During the past year they have supported over 200 local families and they always need new volunteers to enable them to continue to provide this vital service. Make Autumn 2010 the time you join the volunteer team at The Brigitte Trust, supporting families. You will be joining a local charity offering valuable help at a time of real need. The Trust is recruiting now for October training. Their Introductory Evening is on September 16th. Do go along, without obligation, and meet some of their volunteers and trainers.

**Surrey Independent Visitor Service** is a service recruiting volunteers who visits, befriends and advises children in care who are looked after by Surrey County Council and live in foster care or residential homes. They ask for a commitment of two years to visit a child once per month. The volunteer will work with a child or young person, usually aged between 10 and 17, who do not have regular contact with a family member. Children come from all cultures and backgrounds. They are holding an Open Evening on Tuesday 12th October 2010 at Omnibus Building in Reigate from 7.00pm to 8.30pm. For more information please contact us.



## **An article taken from their recent e-news:**

Organisations including the Scouts, Girlguiding UK, the England and Wales Cricket Board and the Rugby Football Union have today backed Volunteering England's calls for more adult volunteers to help run children's and young people's activities. This year the Volunteers' Week campaign did not only celebrate the millions of volunteers across the UK, but also calling for more volunteers to get involved. Across the UK, hundreds of thousands of children and young people want to take part in organised activities but are currently unable to due to a lack of adult volunteers. Without the help of adult volunteers many organisations such as the Scouts and Girlguiding UK simply could not function. Nor could grassroots football, rugby and cricket, which are almost entirely supported by volunteers.

The figures below show just how big the problem is across the UK:

- Scouts need 6,000 volunteers and Girlguiding UK needs 7,000 volunteers to involve the girls and boys waiting to join on their waiting lists
- England and Wales Cricket Board needs 10,000 more volunteers across 1,379 clubs
- The Rugby Football Union need 2,000 more volunteers
- Football Association needs 8,000 more referees by 2012

**Vetting and Barring scheme halted.** The ISA registration stage of the Vetting and Barring Scheme for people working and volunteering with children and vulnerable adults in England, Wales and Northern Ireland has been halted. A review of the Scheme will be undertaken by the Home Office with the aim of cutting it back to "common sense levels". The first phase of ISA registration was due to begin on 26 July. This has now been stopped. However, existing arrangements introduced in October 2009 will continue. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) recently provided registered bodies with an initial stock of new application forms, ready for the planned launch of the ISA-registration phase in July. The CRB will still launch the new application form on 26 July as planned but parts of the new form which capture ISA registration requirements will be ignored when applications are processed. Details, key dates and FAQs about the interim arrangements can be found on the CRB website: [www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/faqs/interim\\_application\\_process.aspx](http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/faqs/interim_application_process.aspx)

## EVENTS

**The Orpheus Centre** The following shows are being held in their Barn Theatre in Godstone: "All Over The Place" with Phakama Theatre Company - 25th and 26th August-7.30pm and Song Week with Richard Stilgoe - 16th September - 7.30pm. If you would like more information or to book tickets please visit their website: [www.orpheus.org.uk](http://www.orpheus.org.uk) or call them on: 01883 741415

**The Downlands Project** are presenting the Banstead Countryside Day 2010 on Sunday 12th September at Banstead Woods, Holly Lane Car Park from 10.30am - 4.30pm. Free parking and entry - donations welcome. For further information, contact The Downlands Project on: 01737 737700.

# FUNDRAISING



**The Children's Trust Tadworth-** Walk under the stars and help raise funds for children with multiple disabilities for whom a good night's sleep is a rare luxury. They are holding a **Sleepwalk** on 25<sup>th</sup> September starting in Reigate at 10pm, registration price for individual entry is £15, this will include a walker pack, details of the event, entry to the walk, a limited edition t-shirt, mini midnight feast, a medal and a goody bag at the finish. This is open to men and women of all ages, children are welcome but under 16's must be accompanied by an adult. For more information please contact: [sports@thechildrenstrust.org.uk](mailto:sports@thechildrenstrust.org.uk) or 01737 365018.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Update on Volunteer Centre appointments procedure** - Please note: Whilst we are always pleased to hear from people who want to volunteer in Reigate & Banstead. Since moving to our new offices in Brighton Road we are now operating an appointment only system for our one to one meetings with volunteers.



Keep regularly updated, follow us at <http://twitter.com/RedhillVC>



Become a fan of the **Reigate & Banstead Volunteer Centre** on our new Facebook page for volunteers and organisations at: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and **Like** our page.

*If any of you would like to include an article in our next Bulletin, which will be issued in October please let us know by Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010.*

For more information about any of the above please do get in touch. Contact  
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Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Service (C.V.S) does not take up references or Police checks. This is left to the recruiting voluntary organisation.

Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the C.V.S. and whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the C.V.S. cannot be held liable for the accuracy of the information.