



# Volunteer Centre Bulletin

## October 2010

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### Welcome...

*To our autumn bulletin, this is packed with a variety of information that we hope will make for enjoyable reading as well as being useful and informative.*

*We are always looking for news that we can promote on your behalf, so for example if you do have any one off events, fundraising activities then please let us have details.*

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## CREATIVE VOLUNTEER SEEKS OPPORTUNITY

A lady who enjoys spending time with the elderly and has a keen interest in making handmade cards. If your organisation has or could develop an opportunity to engage her skill then please get in touch.



**Merstham Community Facility Trust (MCFT)** provides a venue in the heart of Merstham for the use of local people, groups and organisations. They are looking for volunteers to help out at their

Job Club which is held every Monday 10am-3pm and/or every other Wednesday from 7pm-8pm. The Job Club is overseen by a Careers Adviser, in a voluntary capacity who runs the Wednesday session himself. Volunteer Buddies will be provided training to support people at the Job Club searching for and returning to work. Volunteers will need to be able to use a computer, internet and Microsoft packages confidently. Be friendly, approachable, patient and be able to work on their own and be able to facilitate.



**Surrey Family Information Service (FIS)** provides information, advice and assistance to parents and carers of children up to the age of 20 (up to 25 years old for children with special needs). They provide key basic information about a variety of services related to children 0-19 years. These services include things such as

childcare, bullying advice, healthy eating, family support, parenting, child safety and volunteering opportunities. Parents can ask us about how to contact the service they require and they are able to give brief details about what it provides.

Easy access to information for parents is possible by telephone, through websites, via leaflets and during face-to-face discussions. Their Surrey County Council website contains useful information with links to other services which may be able to help. They also have the Family Information Directory which is available on their website: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/fis](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/fis) Their FIS outreach team run events for parents to attend and sometimes visit children's centres. They also provide information in local libraries, doctor surgeries, Help Shops and other public places. For more information please contact them on: 0300 200 1004 Lines are open Mon-Fri 8am-6pm (24hr answer phone) or email: [surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk).

**Public Liability Insurance** for small voluntary organisations and community groups which costs less than £10 a month or £75 a year has been developed by Zurich Insurance in collaboration with sector support umbrella NAVCA and charity specialists Tennyson Insurance. Third sector news item:

[www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/1019278/Zurich-offers-cheaper-public-liability-insurance-small-community-groups/](http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/1019278/Zurich-offers-cheaper-public-liability-insurance-small-community-groups/)

**2011 Census- Your opportunity to help tomorrow take shape.** The census is a count of the population in the UK. It takes place every 10 years and asks everyone the same questions on the same day to give a complete picture of the nation. This information is used to estimate the likely number of people and households in each area for the next 10 years. The next census will take place on 27 March 2011. The first census in 1801 took place because the Government was worried that the country's supply of food may not be enough to feed the growing population. It asked five questions and the results showed 10 million people living in two million households. By comparison the last census, held in 2001, asked 40 questions. The results showed there were almost 60 million people and approximately 24 million households. Reigate & Banstead Borough Council is promoting the idea on its website, calling it a chance to help make a difference as new jobs will be created



throughout the borough. A range of temporary part time and full time jobs are available from supervisory roles to general collectors across England and Wales. The roles are ideal for anyone looking to earn extra money, community focused individuals, parents returning to work, students and graduates, semi-retired, retired and pensioners. For more information and to apply please visit their website. [www.censusjobs.co.uk](http://www.censusjobs.co.uk).

We recently had a discussion with **A4e Pathways** who are a Department of Work and Pensions supported organisation. Their purpose is to make people aware of their options in terms of a phased return to work or assist in exploring alternative employment. They can support people with a variety of different interventions, such as, Occupational Support to manage health conditions at work, employment training, referrals to appropriate agencies, personal mentoring, coaching and in work support. Their ethos is to challenge their customer's perception of what they can achieve, rather than focusing on their limitations due to ill health. If you would like more information please contact their Redhill office on 07850924144, or email Dawn Alexander at [Dalexander@a4e.co.uk](mailto:Dalexander@a4e.co.uk).


**Gatton Park** are happy to announce that work has begun on the first phase of their parterre restoration. For those of you who know Gatton you will know that a huge difference this project will make and how much of a transformation it will provide. Alongside the physical work to restore the parterre they are also looking to improve their volunteering set up and community engagement. Thanks to a grant of £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund they are looking to take on a Volunteer Community Project Officer who will help them to deliver this project. This will help them to support, improve and diversify their volunteering opportunities. Their other main aim is to improve access to the park by providing more events, tours and supported visits for those who cannot access the park. Therefore, they are looking for more Estate Tour Guides to give tours of the site and bring the rich history of Gatton to life! (This is one of their many opportunities). They are also looking to set up a friends of Gatton Park scheme which will be launched at their carol concert on December 11<sup>th</sup>.



**Advocacy Partners Speaking Up is changing its name** on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, to **VoiceAbility**. They are really proud of what they do, and they are proud of their new name. They want everyone's voice to be heard loudly and clearly and want to support people to understand their rights and take control of their lives. They have summed this up in their new mission statement: strengthening voice, championing rights, changing lives. They are looking for people to be Volunteer Citizen Advocates who can support people with learning difficulties. They are desperate for volunteers for the Reigate & Banstead area. So if you have a desire to uphold people's rights, are seeking a challenge, looking to develop new skills, have common sense and the ability to make a regular commitment this will be an ideal opportunity for you.

**Soroptimist International of Reigate & District.** The members have been delighted to receive recognition of their work with East Surrey Talking Newspapers. At a recent supper meeting Michael Finch from Talking Newspapers, presented the club with a certificate in recognition of its service to the Talking Newspaper Association. Then the club heard that they had been presented with the SI Regional Programme Action Award for "their long standing commitment to meeting a need in





the community by providing taped versions of local news to the visually impaired thereby allowing them equal access to knowledge". Members of the club work in collaboration with Reigate Rotary in copying and posting tapes of the Talking Newspaper each fortnight. Club members continue to raise funds for local charities whilst enjoying themselves at social functions. The sum of £350 was raised for St. Catherine's Hospice from a cream tea combined with a bring and buy sale and from a raffle on a lunch cruise. Also a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Nurses raised £200 to support its work with the terminally ill in the community.

**Downlands Countryside Management Project**, a Surrey County Council project held their 11<sup>th</sup> annual countryside Day in Banstead Woods in September. Its aim is to encourage people to come out and enjoy their local countryside. Although the event took six months in the planning, it was a very successful event with thousands of visitors and lots of entertainment, activities, a variety of stands for people to enjoy.

## TRAINING


**East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services (ESDAS)** offers information, support and advice to anyone affected by domestic abuse living or working within the boundaries of East Surrey. They are looking to recruit volunteers for their Domestic Abuse Support opportunity. The role may involve one to one befriending, support at court hearings, solicitor appointments etc. Other opportunities included for example; event planning, co-facilitation of support programmes, publicity and awareness raising. Volunteers with personal experience of domestic abuse welcomed. They are only able to accept female volunteers for direct client support. You will need to be non-judgmental, adaptable, flexible with good communication skills is essential, an ability to work within confidentiality protocols and access to own transport is desirable. Their next mandatory 3 day induction programme will take place on November 9th, 10th and 17th.

## EVENTS

**Age Concern Merstham, Redhill, Reigate** – WW2 Remembering to say THANK YOU. This event is being held at Age Concern Mestham Day Centre in Weldon Way on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 11am – 2pm. Refreshments will be available. In conjunction with the local Royal British Legion and all proceeds will be going to Age Concern Merstham.

**Reigate & Redhill Live at Home Scheme** are holding their Autumn Fair on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November from 10am – 12pm at the Redhill Methodist Church, Gloucester Road. There will be lots of stalls including crafts, gift ideas, cakes/james, toys, tombola, books and raffles. For more information please call: 01737 780610.

**Woodhatch Centre** – Volunteers and members are gearing up for the forthcoming Christmas bazaar at the Woodhatch Centre which will be held on Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup>. They are currently seeking donations for raffle and tombola prizes and would appreciate any contributions. For more information please call Linda Cope or Anne Ager on 01737 221030.





## VOLUNTEERS SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES

*A retired gentleman and his wife who live in Chipstead, both having lots of skills and are wanting to volunteer. He has recently retired to the UK from Australia having been a Human Resources director who held a Board-level position with a global manufacturing company. He was accountable for the company's HR strategy and held specific responsibilities for recruitment, employee relations, training and development, organisation development, health & safety and the environment. He has also previously held Trustee and Management Committee roles in the charitable sector.*

*His wife who until her retirement and return to the UK in 2008 has a number of years work experience at managerial level in the UK and Australia in health promotion and public health with hospital and community health service providers, government and the Non Government Organisation sector. Her experience covered strategic planning, staff and resource management, teaching and provision of policy advice with the government health departments.*

*Please get in touch if you feel these people can help you.*

## OLYMPICS 2012

Inspiration and Legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games



*If your organisation is involved in Arts and Culture, Environment, Conservation, Sport, could you develop a Games Inspired Opportunity? If so we would like to hear from you.*


The key letters used to describe the necessary ingredients for such an opportunity are BCDE. Each opportunity must:


- **Benefit** your local community now and/or in the future
- Be an opportunity that **celebrates** the 2012 Games
- Have a **demonstrable** link with the 2012 Games
- Be a practical **expression** of the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect; and Paralympics values of courage, determination, inspiration and equality.

## LATEST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Bloomin' Arts** is a small charity that provides opportunities in Performance Arts for adults with learning disabilities. They need a variety of volunteers for their expanding, fun and exciting drama workshops.

**The Orpheus Centre** is a residential performing arts centre for young disabled people based in Godstone. They especially need Receptionists, Gardeners, Drivers and their newest opportunity; front of house/box office volunteers to help out at their shows and performances.





**Furnistore** collect good quality no longer needed items of furniture, household goods and appliances and delivers them to households on low income or on benefits in the Reigate and Banstead Borough area south of the M25. They are looking for a variety of volunteers but especially warehouse assistants, admin volunteers and van crew.

**Redhill Counselling Centre** are looking for Receptionists. Duties will include answering telephone and taking messages for the administrator. Timings are: Monday - Thursday evenings (any one evening) from 5.45pm-9.00pm, normally the shift is split between two volunteers. Volunteers need to be available to set up rooms for counseling or clear away afterwards.

**Seeability** provides 24 hour residential care enabling individuals with visual impairment and additional abilities to achieve their full potential. They are looking for volunteers at their Horley centre by becoming a link between people who use their services and the wider community in roles such as gardener, befriender, escort for shopping or swimming or help with activities including art and craft, cookery or music. Volunteers need to be over 18 years and will need a CRB check.

**St Catherine's Hospice** is a charity dedicated to providing specialised end of life care and gives support to local people, their families, friends and carers. They are committed to relieving pain and anxiety, and to helping people achieve the best possible quality of life. They are holding a Santa Run on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at East Court in East Grinstead and Whyteleafe, times: (9.30am – 12pm). They require Marshalls to help out at this event. They are also in need of Volunteer Helpers for their Charity Shop in Reigate, to help on the till, serve and assist customers and to promote gift aid. They especially need volunteers for Monday and Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday mornings and Friday and Saturday all day. These are just a few of their opportunities for more information please contact us.

**Surrey Police** are looking to recruit new volunteers for their Independent Custody Visitor Scheme where volunteers visit police stations at random to check on the welfare of people in custody. Applicants need to be over 18, have their own transport and live or work in the Surrey Police area, no previous experience is needed.

**Together at Christmas** is an initiative led by the Anglican Churches in Merstham for those who might be on their own or families who want to be with other people and those who cannot afford to celebrate Christmas this year, it takes place on Christmas Day. They are looking for volunteer help with the following tasks: Volunteer Drivers, Table Hosts, Father Christmas and Marketing.

**HOST UK (Hosting for Overseas Students)** offers international students at British universities the chance to be guests in a British home. They are looking for friendly, hospitable people who would enjoy welcoming an international student into their home for a day, a weekend or 2-3 days over Christmas 2010. This will be an interesting opportunity to meet someone from a different culture and will give a student a unique insight into the way of life in this country. Many students are unable to return to their own countries at Christmas and would love to experience this festival in a real home-possible for the first time in their lives. Guests will probably be in the 20's but might be older. They will be from China, or a wide range of other countries and will be studying full-time in a UK university. There is a small amount payable towards the hosts expenses, if requested after the visit. Times flexible.





## **Student Volunteering Week 2011 (21-27 February) 10th Anniversary** 'Inspiring futures; connecting communities'

sponsored by Santander, is a national celebration that raises the profile of Further and Higher Education student volunteering. Co-ordinated by Volunteering England, the national volunteering development agency, Student Volunteering Week 2011 brings organisations from all sectors together to celebrate volunteering. For details of how to get involved, visit their website: [www.volunteering.org.uk/SVW2011](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/SVW2011) or call them on: 020 7520 8934.

**Big Society** – Volunteering England hosted a fringe event at the Conservative Party conference with the National Trust on the Big Society which was well attended and generated a lively discussion. This is the general thrust of what they had to say:

*They see tremendous opportunities for volunteering with the Big Society concept, in particular the emphasis on reducing red tape, stimulating employer-supported volunteering (in the private and public sectors), and encouraging more of the do-it-yourself, informal forms of community action. Having campaigned for years for governments to take volunteering more seriously, they are delighted to see it taking centre stage in the political debate. However, they have several areas of concern: Firstly, the language being used to describe the Big Society suggests that all of this is somehow new, whereas there are 23 million volunteers, giving 100 million hours a week, worth up to £40 billion a year! The danger of assuming that this is new is that the government will look to set up things again from scratch rather than investing in what already exists and works. Secondly, that the government will fall into the trap of assuming that volunteering is free and requires no investment, a particular worry at this time of economic retrenchment. And thirdly the dangerous gap developing between rhetoric and reality which threatens to fatally undermine the Big Society concept before it has got off the ground.*

## **2012 Games Volunteer Programme – McDonald's as Presenting Partner.**

In response to discussion with Life-Time UK Alliance members in the Volunteer Advisory Working Group for the Games Maker volunteering programme, LOCOG has given Volunteering England a statement about McDonald's role: "As a Presenting Partner, McDonald's have committed an amount of money and gifts in kind to support the Volunteering Programme. McDonald's are permitted to create month-long marketing campaigns within their restaurants, which will communicate their support of volunteering and help promote the Volunteering Programme. During the Games, they can produce a magazine and provide gifts and merchandise for Games Makers. Following the Games, they can be involved in planning parties, the volunteer parade and a volunteer club. McDonald's will have a special London 2012 logo which will be used in many different ways during the lifetime of the relationship. This ranges from opportunities such as emails to people, to promotions within interview venues, training centres and the Live Sites. Their logo will also appear on printed materials, merchandise and volunteer-specific gifts relating to the Volunteer Programme. As part of their gifts in kind contribution, McDonald's are covering considerable printing costs and seconding two full-time staff, who will work as part of LOCOG team to design and develop high-quality training materials and develop an e-learning module which will be available for all volunteers to use.



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Horley Youth Centre:** A new £1.2 million Youth Centre has opened its doors to the children and young people of Horley. The centre, situated on Albert Road opened on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September and is on the site of the an old fire station. Some of the features include an internet cafe, a radio station, an entertainment studio, sexual health clinic and counselling and advice services. The centre is open seven days a week welcoming under 19's both in the mornings and in the evenings. Two youth workers will be responsible for the running of the centre.

**Activenture** is a registered charity who organises residential adventure weeks for young people with disabilities and special needs (ages 8-18) throughout the school holidays. This would not be possible without both adult and young volunteers who attend these weeks-many have made life changing decisions as a result! Could you be one of them? This is a fantastic way to gain new skills for your CV. For more information and to download an application form please visit their website: [www.activenture.org](http://www.activenture.org) or call them on: 01342 828218.


**Small Change, Big Difference Campaign.** Guests at the Hilton London Gatwick will be using their small change to make a big difference to disadvantaged children. This campaign will run until December, where guests are invited to add an optional £1 onto their room bill during their stay. A similar venture in past years has since had money raised for the likes of Burstow Park Riding for the Disabled Centre and the Olive Tree Cancer Support Centre, based at Crawley Hospital.

**Update on Volunteer Centre appointments procedure** - Please note: Whilst we are always pleased to hear from people who want to volunteer in Reigate & Banstead area, 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 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 December please let us know by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010.*



**For more information about any of the above please do get in touch.**

**Contact Lisa Irwin, Volunteer Centre Administrator**

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**Tel: 01737 762115**

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.