



# Wealden View

Newsletter for the Community and Voluntary Sector in Wealden

Provided by the SDCVS/EAVS Wealden Support Partnership

## Welcome to 3VA

**At Annual General Meetings on 28<sup>th</sup> October members of South Downs CVS and EAVS passed the final stages that enabled the convergence of the two councils for voluntary services to be ratified.**

Becky Shaw, Director of Policy and Communications at East Sussex County Council, attended the meeting and gave a formal welcome to 3VA.

*"We, the County Council, believe that the voluntary and community sector that you have here today..... have an absolutely vital contribution to make in improving the lives of people in East Sussex. We know that 3VA has a vital role to play and we know that you will do it well."*

Becky and Councillor Bob Tidy then presented 3VA with a watering can and seeds, signifying the 'tools' they would need to grow and prosper.

The new organisation became a legal entity on 1 November and has three local identities



Launch of 3VA. Richard Moore (Chair 3VA) Becky Shaw (Director of Policy and Communications, ESCC) Cllr. Bill Tidy, Alan Wenham (Vice Chair 3VA)

(Voluntary Action Eastbourne, Voluntary Action Lewes District and Voluntary Action Wealden).

Work is now underway to bring the two original organisations together into a new look organisation that will add value to the services delivered to members. Voluntary Action Wealden members will be consulted through networking meetings on the delivery of services in our area.

The first network meeting of Voluntary Action Wealden took place on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Heathfield Community Centre, for a report of the meeting which included a presentation on the Wealden Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and an introduction to the LSO

"Understanding Deprivation in Rural Wealden" project, please go to:

[www.southdowncvcs.org.uk/wealden/wealden-view-newsletter.php](http://www.southdowncvcs.org.uk/wealden/wealden-view-newsletter.php)

The next Voluntary Action Wealden networking meeting is taking place on Wednesday 10 February in Uckfield.

## CONTENTS

Outreach	p2
Funding	p3
Training/Top Tips	p4-5
Policy	p6
Comnet	p7
Wealden Area News	p8

### Enclosures:

Big Event 2010: Facing the Future - Get support for your organisation or group

Effective Volunteer Management

**Seasons Greetings and a Healthy New Year to all our readers**

# 2 Outreach

## Understanding Deprivation in Rural Wealden

Wealden Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Action in Rural Sussex working with 3VA is undertaking research to understand the level of deprivation in rural Wealden. Traditional approaches for identifying deprivation, for example- the Index of Multiple Deprivation, do not adequately tell the story of deprivation across Wealden District. Much of the district appears relatively affluent which can make it difficult to identify precisely what the hardships are and where they are located.

This project seeks to build up the picture of deprivation across Wealden District by identifying and exploring alternative information and

datasets to those normally used for this purpose. A key element of this project therefore focuses on establishing how different organisations go about identifying what the need for their service and where the need is located. To do this Wealden organisations are invited to take part in the project by completing an initial questionnaire and if applicable, follow-on focus groups.

For further information or to take part in the project go to [www.southdownscvs.org.uk/wealden](http://www.southdownscvs.org.uk/wealden) or contact Sue Shoesmith telephone: 01273 483832 email: [sue.shoesmith@3va.org.uk](mailto:sue.shoesmith@3va.org.uk)

## The Third Sector – Where will the funding come from?

At a forum on Central Government policy hosted by Rotherfield St Martin on 20<sup>th</sup> November at Rotherfield Village Hall an invited audience representing the community and voluntary and public sectors heard from speakers who attempted to answer this question.

The first speaker was Charles Hendry (MP for Wealden) who called for reforms to regulations and the simplifications of processes to make it easier for charities when battling with the administrative processes of Gift Aid and making grant applications. He went on to highlight the benefits of volunteering to third sector organisations, society and to individuals who volunteer and said that the public sector should take the lead in encouraging

people to volunteer.

The programme for the day included presentations on:

- the East Sussex Compact;
- the mechanics of commissioning policy within East Sussex and the Primary Care Trust;
- The Big Lottery Fund and
- the work of the Sussex Community Foundation.

The overarching message was sources of funding were changing with the implementation of commissioning and the introduction of the personalised care budgets, some of the traditional forms of funding (grants etc) will remain but due to the economic downturn the amounts they have to give out may be smaller.



### Wealden Support Partnership:

#### 3VA Eastbourne Office

Chief Executive: Adam Chugg  
01323 639373

Wealden Community Support  
Officer: Karl Parks, Uckfield  
Volunteer & Information Centre  
01825 765136

[wealdencommunity@btconnect.com](mailto:wealdencommunity@btconnect.com)

Community Development Co-ordinator: Marie Tomblin 01323 419788

#### 3VA Lewes Office

Director: Debby Matthews  
Information Officer: Sue Shoesmith  
[sue.shoesmith@3va.org.uk](mailto:sue.shoesmith@3va.org.uk)

ComNet: Sue Shoesmith  
[sue.shoesmith@3va.org.uk](mailto:sue.shoesmith@3va.org.uk)  
Contact number 01273 483832  
Speakup: Miriam Miklaszewska

#### Core Funders:

East Sussex County Council  
East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT  
Wealden District Council  
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**Andy Miller (Chair Rotherfield St Martin) with Kevin Richmond (Chief Executive Sussex Community Foundation)**

Kevin Richmond (Chief Executive of the Sussex Community Foundation) spoke about the work of the foundation and answered a key concern of many small organisations by saying that the Sussex Community Foundation is able in principle to fund core costs.

## **Comic Relief UK Grants Programmes 2009/12**

There are currently eight UK programmes: refugee & asylum seeking women; domestic & sexual abuse; sexually exploited & trafficked young people; young people & alcohol; mental health; young people with mental health problems; sport for change and local communities. Programmes for older people and young carers will open later this year. Go to [http://www.comicrelief.com/apply\\_for\\_a\\_grant/uk](http://www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/uk)

## **Awards for All**

BIG Lottery have made some changes to Awards for All. Now the application form doesn't ask for a referee, so it's even easier to apply for a small Lottery grant. For more information, go to: <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/index.html> or contact [enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk).

## **Helpful tips**

For helpful tips on common mistakes to avoid when filling out an Awards for All Application go to: [www.southdownscvs.org.uk/funding/looking-for-funds.php](http://www.southdownscvs.org.uk/funding/looking-for-funds.php)

## **Age Concern Small Grants**

Age Concern England offers small grants towards new or expanding services or activities that directly benefit older people. Decisions are made monthly. For an application form, call their Grants Helpline on 0208 765 7738 or visit [www.ageconcern.org.uk](http://www.ageconcern.org.uk)

## **Concertina**

Concertina makes grants to charitable bodies which provide musical entertainment and related activities for the elderly. They are keen to support smaller organisations which might otherwise find it difficult to gain funding. For application form and criteria please go to the website: [www.concertinamusic.org.uk](http://www.concertinamusic.org.uk). The trustees review applications 31 January, 30 April, 30 June and

31 October. Please submit your application in good time so the administrator can ensure there are no omissions and that it is suitable before submission. For more information contact: Sally Dyson, email: [info@concertinamusic.org.uk](mailto:info@concertinamusic.org.uk) 20 Kent House, Aylesford Street, London SW1V 3QB. Tel: 020 7976 5785.

## **Funding Central**

The National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) & The Office for the Third Sector (OTS) launched this free website for comprehensive information about national, local and regional government funding, national, local or regional charitable funding, and EU funding. It provides access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus a wealth of tools and resources supporting third sector organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs. The site provides a comprehensive list of funding opportunities (grants, grant in aid and contracts) available from government and government non-departmental bodies and agencies, local and regional government, charitable organisations and foundations, and the EU. <http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk>

## **Trusthouse Charitable Foundation**

Organisations with an annual income of less than £300,000 can apply for small grants which are available to charitable and not-for-profit organisations that address health and disability, community support, and arts, education and heritage. For details visit: [www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk](http://www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk)

## **Sports Programme Funding**

Charities supporting sporting activities or projects which provide opportunities for people who are disabled or otherwise disadvantaged to fulfil their potential and to develop other personal and

life skills can apply for funding through the Peter Harrison Foundation "Opportunities through Sports" programme. For more information please go to: <http://www.peterharrisonfoundation.org/programme.htm>

## **vcashpoint**

vcashpoint is giving away £1 million to 16-25 year olds in England with good ideas. If you've got an idea for a volunteering project to improve your community, you could get your hands on a grant to make your idea a reality. Interested in bringing your ideas to life, learning new skills and transforming your community? The next 2 rounds of vcashpoint are now open for application! Make sure you read the guidance notes to check your eligibility before applying. Deadlines for application are:

## **Round 7**

12 noon, Monday 25 Jan 2010

## **Round 8**

12 noon, Monday 10 May 2010

To apply and for guidelines and criteria please visit the website: [www.vinspired.com/vcashpoint](http://www.vinspired.com/vcashpoint) If you need help please contact the help desk tel: 0800 089 9000 [vcashpointinquiries@bss.org](mailto:vcashpointinquiries@bss.org)

## **Green Grants Machine**

Green Grants Machine is a comprehensive source of information on grants, loans and awards available to help your business go green and save on energy bills. Their free directory contains information on over £1.2 billion of funds available. Why not run a search now to find out what money you could be eligible for? Registration is FREE and gives you full access to all the features of the website including information on over 350 funding schemes and their weekly green funding e-newsletter. Please visit: [www.greengrantsmachine.co.uk](http://www.greengrantsmachine.co.uk)

## 4 Training & Conferences

### **3VA Lewes Training Opportunities**

#### **Taking Time to Manage Your Time**

With Nicola McCrudden  
Wednesday 20 January 2010,  
9.30am – 12.30pm at 3VA, 66 a  
High Street, Lewes, BN7 1XG.

#### **Introduction to Public Relations**

With Daniel Bettridge - Green Rocket, an ethical PR company and member of the Business Community Partnership.  
Wednesday 10 February 2010,  
9.30am – 12.30pm, Yarrow Room, Town Hall, High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2QS.

#### **Race Equality**

with Naima Noudjem and Tim Stephens  
Wednesday 24 February 2010,  
9.30am - 4.30pm, Yarrow Room, Town Hall, High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2QS.

This one-day equality course is for practitioners and managers, and will:

- increase your understanding of the legal framework of Race Equality and impact of racism
- increase your ability to deal with BME individuals & families through better understanding of how cultural heritage affects individuals
- cover techniques to challenge racist behaviours in a safe and empowering manner
- explore usage of self to fulfill Race Equality duties & promote equality of opportunities
- cover basic techniques to identify and address Race Equality gaps within your own employment and service provision

Cost: £35 - £60 depending on status.

### **Emergency First Aid at Work**

with Nicola McCrudden  
Thursday 18 March 2010, 9.30 – 4.30pm at St James, 11 Blatchington Rd, Seaford, BN25 2AB (light lunch included).

For full details of all the above training please go to:  
[www.southdownscvs.org.uk/information-and-training/training.php](http://www.southdownscvs.org.uk/information-and-training/training.php)

#### **First Aid**

The Health and Safety Executive have updated their guidance on training of first aiders in the workplace, to take account of the changes which became effective from 1 October 2009. From that date appointed first aiders must either have a certificate of competence in either first aid at work (FAW) or emergency first aid at work (EFAW)

“First aid at work. The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981. Approved Code of Practice and guidance” (October 2009) can be viewed at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/l74.pdf>

**(please see details of Emergency First Aid at Work training provided by 3VA above)**

#### **ON THE WEB**

[www.knowhownonprofit.org](http://www.knowhownonprofit.org)  
KnowHow NonProfit is a new website to help community non profit people and organisations with any aspect of their work. Completely free and easy to use, it is packed with practical information and resources covering topics as diverse as managing volunteers, commissioning and procurement and setting up a charity shop. There are discussion forums for

problem solving and sharing knowledge to help others.

The site is being built by the KnowHow Team at the Centre for Charity Effectiveness at Cass Business School and is funded by the Big Lottery Fund. It launched at the end of April.

#### **[www.direct.gov.uk/pensions](http://www.direct.gov.uk/pensions)**

People looking online for information on retirement and later life can now find everything they need on Directgov, in a new area about pensions and retirement planning. Information about disability and Attendance Allowance is already available on Directgov, along with all other government information and services. Retirement information relating to businesses will move to [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk)

#### **[www.trusteefinder.org.uk](http://www.trusteefinder.org.uk)**

This website is from the Charity Trustee Networks (CTN) for organisations needing new trustees or those wanting to become a trustee. Search for trustee vacancies in the UK or add your own vacancy for free on the CTN's website: [www.trusteenet.org.uk](http://www.trusteenet.org.uk)

#### **Local Grants Forum - Defending Local Grants**

The Local Grants Forum is a partnership of national organisations. They campaign to protect grants for local third sector organisations and community groups. They have produced some resources you can use at local level which will help you to convince councillors, commissioning officers and procurement professionals that grants should continue to be used to fund local organisations and groups. Download from <http://www.navca.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/0C1A3369-C77C-4E77-8A27-8C23AD0BC37E/0/Defendinglocalgrantsrevised.pdf>

## **CHANGE Guide – How to Make Information Accessible**

CHANGE, the national equal rights organisation led by disabled people, has developed a free guide – How to Make Information Accessible: a Guide to producing easy read documents. For more information on the guide please go to: [www.changepeople.co.uk/productDetails.php?id=2010](http://www.changepeople.co.uk/productDetails.php?id=2010)

## **Keep on the road for longer**

This Dept of Health leaflet, produced in partnership with Age UK, gives details of current entitlements and services that people aged 50 and over may be able to access, and when. It covers sight, hearing, foot care, falls, vaccinations and various screening services. Go to: [www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_104783](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_104783)

**365 Ways to Cut Costs** by Alex Blyth £16.95 ISBN 9781906294366 1st edition September 2009

This is a new book from DSC. Cost cutting is always important to charities but never more so than now. Turn a difficult situation into an opportunity with this book which contains 365 ideas for cutting costs without strangling your income or decimating your human resource. They cover a wide range of subjects from salaries to tax, and from the Internet to public relations. Some are big ideas and long term projects others you can implement today. Using the ideas in this book you could transform your organisation and potentially save your charity thousands of pounds leaving it well placed to survive the recession.

Buy online at: [www.dsc.org.uk/Publications/Finance/@54043?dm\\_i=6S7,1SKR,N8AWR,5QN3,1](http://www.dsc.org.uk/Publications/Finance/@54043?dm_i=6S7,1SKR,N8AWR,5QN3,1)

## **Updated Legal Support Handbook for the Voluntary Sector**

Written by the team of leading charity lawyers at Russell-Cooke Solicitors and Sandy Adirondack, The Russell-Cooke Voluntary Sector Legal Handbook is an essential guide to the law as it applies to charities, community groups and other voluntary organisations. The comprehensively revised third edition not only reflects legal changes that are in force, but also future changes that will or might take place. Please go to [www.dsc.org.uk/Publications/Law/@15924?dm\\_i=6S7,1SKR,N8DK7,5QN3,1](http://www.dsc.org.uk/Publications/Law/@15924?dm_i=6S7,1SKR,N8DK7,5QN3,1)

## **TOPICAL TIPS**

### **Company Law Changes from 1st October 2009**

As publicised in the previous South Downs View from 1st October a number of company law changes will impact on charitable companies, trading subsidiaries owned by charities and community interest companies. This includes forms from Companies House, new filing requirements and changes around company constitutions. Bates Wells and Braithwaite solicitors have produced a summary of changes. View the summary at: <http://www.bwbllp.com/Updates/Detail.aspx?UpdateID=243&Location=1&ID=0>

### **Incorporating an existing charity as a company**

Following the release of the revised model Memorandum and Articles of Association for charitable companies, the

Charity Commission has produced a Questions and Answers pack on 'Incorporating an existing charity as a company'. Please visit: <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/supportingcharities/incqanda.asp>

### **Charity Commission's new model constitution for charities with under £5000 income**

A new, simplified constitution for very small charities has been launched by the Charity Commission in partnership with umbrella bodies across the sector. The new constitution is designed to provide a concise, practical framework for charities with an income of under £5,000. It uses clear, direct language that is easy to understand, is only 700 words long and covers all the requirements for a very small

charity which does not own land or employ staff. Charities with an income of less than £5,000 do not need to register with the Commission, but are still subject to charity law. If the income of the charity grows larger than £5,000, the charity will need to register with the Commission and will need a more comprehensive governing document. This constitution is a useful addition to the range of other model constitutions produced by the Commission and other organisations.

Download the constitution here: [www.smallcharities.org.uk/fileadmin/user/john/Small\\_Charities\\_Constitution.doc](http://www.smallcharities.org.uk/fileadmin/user/john/Small_Charities_Constitution.doc)  
**Find out more information on the Charity Commission's website:** [www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/smallcharity.asp](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registration/smallcharity.asp)

# 6 Policy & Information

## Compact

For the second year running the East Sussex Compact, has been awarded a Compact Excellence Award at this year's Compact Awards. Organised by the Commission for the Compact in partnership with Compact Voice and the Office of the Third Sector the award was presented by Simon Blake, Chair of Compact Voice, at a ceremony at the Dali Universe in London on Tuesday 3 November 2009 attended by 100 guests and Sir Bert Massie CBE, Commissioner for the Compact.

Celebrating excellent partnership working, the Compact Awards showcase the Compact, the long-standing agreement that sets out shared commitments and guidelines for partnership working between government and the third sector at a local, regional and national level.

Sir Bert Massie CBE, Commissioner for the Compact, said:

"I would like to congratulate the East Sussex Compact for being awarded a Compact Excellence Award. All our winners and finalists show that Compact principles improve the quality of partnership working, focusing on delivering the best services and providing maximum benefit, as well as promoting the building of long-term, sustainable relationships built on trust and commitment."

East Sussex was singled out for its work, including:

- implementing the Compact at a local level;
- integrating the Compact into local strategies and into local policy, planning and regeneration processes;
- reviewing the progress of the Compact; and
- carrying out an excellent campaign to promote the use of the Compact.

The judging panel also highlighted the annual training events in East Sussex for both public and third sector staff, and the production of the Code of Practice Checklists aimed at assisting organisations in developing policies and activities that are compliant with the principles of good partnership working.

For more about the East Sussex Compact, contact Paul Rideout, Voluntary and Community Services Co-ordinator email: [Paul.rideout@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.rideout@eastsussex.gov.uk), telephone 01273 482911 or go to the website at: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/partnerships/downloadcompact.htm](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/partnerships/downloadcompact.htm). Your local Compact Champion at 3VA Lewes Office is Seema Kapila (Policy and Development Officer [seema.kapila@3VA.org.uk](mailto:seema.kapila@3VA.org.uk))

## "Putting Service Users in Control" Conference

On 17 November 2009 the "Putting Service Users in Control" conference was held in Uckfield. It provided opportunities for disabled people, carers and the organisations who represent them to explore new opportunities to change the way services are provided to disabled people and their carers.

The day comprised of a number of speakers and workshop sessions on topics connected with the development of user-led organisations and the personalisation agenda, which result in disabled people having more control over the services they receive.

Reg McLaughlin, CEO of East Sussex Disability Association (ESDA), chaired the conference. The keynote speaker was Tim Cooper, Director of the Office for Disability Issues, who spoke about the government's "Improving Life Chances" strategy and the personalisation agenda. Other speakers were: Nick Danagher (Equality 2025), Mike Adams (Essex Coalition of Disabled People) and Vicky Smith (East Sussex County Council's Putting People First programme).

Workshop sessions comprised of discussions on the benefits and support needs of organisations in terms of being user-led, the benefits and support needs of disabled people receiving services from user-led organisations, the opportunities and challenges for disabled people receiving personalised services through Putting People First, and what providing personalised services means for service providers.

### Theresa Hodge, ESDA

## New Guide to Procurement Law

A new guide to procurement law has been published by NAVCA and NCVO to help Voluntary/Community Organisations to understand the laws around public sector contracting. 'Pathways through the Maze – a Guide to Procurement Law' is free to download from the NCVO and NAVCA websites. The guide is written specifically for people working for local charities, voluntary organisations, community groups or social enterprises. Please go to: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/pathways> (a copy of this guide is available in 3VA Lewes Office library).

Wealden Community Network (ComNet) provides representatives to sit on different partnership bodies or planning groups. It holds an annual review and runs events on health improvement related topics. It is supported by East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT

## **Volunteers and the Disability Discrimination Act**

An Employment Appeal Tribunal has ruled that volunteers are not protected by the Disability Discrimination Act, as they are not covered by the term 'occupation'. While the legal concept of employment is well established, this case brought by a volunteer adviser for Mid Sussex Citizens Advice Bureau was the first test of the scope of 'occupation'. The solicitor representing the CAB, from Bates Wells Braithwaite said the outcome was in line with previous decisions that maintained that laws designed to protect employees did not apply equally to volunteers. <http://bit.ly/volsanddda> or [www.civilsociety.co.uk](http://www.civilsociety.co.uk)

## **Care Quality Commission Registration**

All health and adult social care providers, who provide regulated activities, will be required by law to register with the Care Quality Commission from April 2010. To do so, providers must show they are meeting new essential standards of quality and safety across all of the regulated activities they provide. Further details can be found at: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/guidanceforprofessionals/registration/anewregistrationsystem.cfm>

## **CARERS' RIGHTS**

Over the past nine months Adult Social Care and the local NHS have been working on developing a strategy for carers' services in East Sussex. They consulted widely with carers and the general public and have now produced a final Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers' Services for the period 2010-2015, which was published on the ESCC website on Carers Rights Day, 4th December 2009. They have also produced an easy-read booklet which gives details of how the plans were developed based on what people told them.

Follow this link to find out more:  
[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/2009/supportforcarers](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/2009/supportforcarers)



**“Big Event 2010: Facing the Future – Get Support for your organisation or group”** 20 January 2010. This year we are organising an Annual Conference and Advice Fair. The fair will offer information, face to face contact with people including funding advisors and a chance to book further one to one sessions and training. This event is free and open to all organisations based in East Sussex. We are also inviting a number of public sector partners from the local and county agencies. Read more details on the enclosed flyer.

SpeakUp Forum has been very busy for the last few months supporting organisations across East Sussex. We have organised, together with South Downs CVS (now 3VA Lewes), **“Compact-why use it?”** a workshop for groups and public sector partners in Lewes District.

We also supported **‘Putting Service Users in Control’** conference for the disability sector (see page 6). If you missed the session but would like to know more about Compact, contact your local Compact champion Seema Kapila or Miriam Miklaszewska at 3VA Lewes (formerly South Downs CVS) office.

SpeakUp Forum continues to support BME (Black Minority Ethnic) organisations through the **Together As One – TAO** project. Coming up is a workshop, **“Adults and Older People in BME community in East Sussex”**. It's an open meeting for BME organisations and community leaders who support or work with Adults and Elderly. Speakers include Adult Social Care Services and Age Concern East Sussex. There will be an opportunity for discussion and direct questions about how existing and planned services can answer the needs of the BME Adults and Elderly. The workshop takes place on 13 January 2010 in Eastbourne from 3pm to 6.30pm. Contact Miriam to book a place or submit questions to the speakers by emailing: [speakup@3va.org.uk](mailto:speakup@3va.org.uk), telephone 01273 483832, [www.askcasper.org.uk/speakup/BME](http://www.askcasper.org.uk/speakup/BME)

# Wealden Area News

## East Sussex Fire & Rescue Community Volunteer Project

The new East Sussex Fire and Rescue Community Volunteer Project in the Heathfield area is now established with the first four volunteers to this exciting new initiative have been recruited and will start their training in the new year.

A poster and leaflet have been produced and distributed locally. If you would like further information on the project please contact Rosey Eggar on 07950 876771 or email her at [volunteer@esfrs.org](mailto:volunteer@esfrs.org) for a copy of the leaflet which gives more information about becoming a Community Volunteer. Rosey will also be pleased to come and talk to local groups about how volunteers can support the work of the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service.

## FREE INFORMAL LEARNING FOR THE OVER 50S

Training courses for over 50's in East Sussex. Creative writing, beginner's computer courses, music creation, website design. All

courses are **FREE** of charge and run from November 2009 to March 2010 in Bexhill, Eastbourne, Hastings Lewes and Uckfield. If interested please call Shaping Voices on 07979 658312 or email [info@sharedstage.org.uk](mailto:info@sharedstage.org.uk)

## Volunteering Passport

Are you working as a volunteer and interested in going further or keen to have your skills recognised or an organisation interested in recognising, developing and retaining your volunteers? Then the Certificate in Community Volunteering Qualification (CVQ) could be for you!

The CVQ is a unit based qualification available at 3 levels and involves the volunteer putting together a portfolio of their voluntary work, by highlighting the skills and knowledge they are already using in their role.

It is a free and flexible qualification that can be delivered in a number of ways to fit in with the needs of different organisations, projects and volunteers.

The CVQ benefits projects and organisations supporting volunteers to become more motivated, organised and knowledgeable together with giving additional support to the volunteer over and above any support or supervision provided by the organisation. This can help with recruitment and retention of volunteers.

If you would like to find out more about CVQ contact: Leanne Cleaveley, (Volunteer Passport Assessor covering Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden) Furniture Now, Unit 1 Phoenix Works, North Street, Lewes BN7 2PE, 07929 157780, email: [vol.passport@furniturenow.org.uk](mailto:vol.passport@furniturenow.org.uk)

## Creating a VOSOP!

There is no Voluntary Organisations for Older People VOSOP network currently in Lewes district and Wealden. Age Concern and other partners would like to test out the interest for this. Please come along to 3VA Lewes office at 66High Street, Lewes on Wednesday 3 Feb. 2010 at 11.00.

This network could include all groups and forums interested in older people issues such as the future of the Phoenix and the Uckfield day services. More information will be circulated soon.

## Waitrose Partners "Community Voice"

Did you know that each local Waitrose store "Community Voice" has £1,000 per month to give away to local community and voluntary groups. To find out more and how to apply visit or telephone your local branch.

## DIARY

### January 2010

13 Adults & Older People in BME Community Workshop 13 WDC Full Council Meeting 20 SpeakUp Big Event 28 NHS East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT Board Meeting 26 ESCC Full Council Meeting

### February

3 WDC Cabinet Meeting 9 ESCC Full Council 17 WDC Full Council Meeting

### March

17 WDC Cabinet Meeting 9 ESCC Cabinet Meeting 25 NHS East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT Board Meeting 30 ESCC Full Council 31 WDC Full Council Meeting

Next issue copy date:  
Thursday  
18 February 2010

### Wealden View

#### Produced for Wealden by 3VA Lewes & 3VA Eastbourne

Notices of publications, events and services do not necessarily carry an endorsement by the editor or 3VA, nor do they represent 3VA's own views

#### 3VA Lewes

#### (formerly South Downs CVS)

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Registered Charity No: 1096788

Company Limited by Guarantee

Nº 4637252

Member of the National Association  
for Voluntary & Community Action  
(NAVCA)

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