

Press Gang

The newsheet of

Volunteer Centre Swanley & District

Areas covered: Ash, Crockenhill, Farningham, Fawkham, Eynsford, Hextable, Horton Kirby, New AshGreen, South Darenth, Swanley, Swanley Village and West Kingsdown

Communities Futures Launch



Community Futures Kent is a new organisation led by, and with, adults who have a Learning Disability. At present they are based in Sidcup as part of the Avenues Group, but hope in the future to have offices in the Swanley area and become independent from Avenues.

The Aims and Objectives of Communities Futures is to work with people who have learning disabilities. Supporting them to lead active, inclusive lives in their community, to help campaign on behalf of the disabled where necessary and to encourage organisations and companies to include adults with learning difficulties when recruiting.

The 'Launch Celebrations' were held at St Peter's Hall Hextable, invited were Sevenoaks District Council Chair, Swanley Mayor, representatives from Parish Councils, local organisations and statutory organisations. We were welcomed to the event by Vivienne Smith Chair of Trustees for Community Futures, the event was also to launch their new logo (seen above with Trustees of Community Futures).

We were entertained by a group from Kent Music, one of the musicians had written a special song for the event which they performed. The evening was a great success and we wish Vivienne and her Trustees all the best for the future.

POPPY APPEAL

The Royal British Legion need Poppy People to join their team of volunteers. Without Volunteer Collectors, Appeal Organisers and Volunteer Caseworkers, this great cause, that helps thousands of ex-services men and women every year, would grind to a halt.

If you wish to join your local team of volunteers contact the Volunteer Centre on 01322 669292 or info@swanleyvolunteers.com



Once again United House have agreed to Sponsor 'Press Gang' for another year

Thank You

What has your Volunteer Centre been up to?

What a busy year we are having,.
Let's start by going back to 31st March and
our Annual Spring Bulb
Walk in Sir Vivian and
Lady Barbara Ramseys'
home.

After a really freezing winter, the Spring
Bulbs decided to stay firmly in their beds
and refused to pop their heads above
ground until late March. Even when they
did and the display was glorious, our typi-
cal British weather put the dampers on the
day, but did not dampen our enthusiasm.
Most of the viewers braved the weather to
look round the garden then came into the
house for tea and cakes. Poor Barbara was
not only rushing around in the kitchen but
doing mini tours round the wonderful Old
Vicarage.

Although it wasn't one of the best days for
this kind of event we still made an incredi-
ble £160.00.

Older Persons Forum

Last year I was asked to help organise,
with other organisations, a District Older
Persons Forum. The Swanley launch was in
the Alexandra Suite, March 23rd and it was
a huge success. All those attending were
asked if they would like to join this forum
and most signed up. One or two people
were asked to be part of the steering
group who would run the 4 meetings per
year. Our very own Roger Bryan is now
their Chairman and they have re-named
themselves Sevenoaks District Seniors Ac-
tion Forum SDSAF.

If anyone is interested in joining give me a
ring and I will put you in touch with Roger



A BIG 'THANK YOU'
to Howdens for the donation of £150
www.howdens.com

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held on the 10th June 2010 at the
Hendry Rooms in the Olympic, Beechenlea Lane.
Due to a family bereavement the Manager,
Pauline, was unable to attend, so a big , big thank
you goes to Della, Julie and all the Trustees. They
helped out in every way and made sure that it went
ahead without a hitch, which it did.

We had an 'Oscar' style Presentation for our volun-
teers in different categories:-

Most drives from a Volunteer Driver?

Winner: Mr Fred Best

Longest Serving Volunteer to Befriend ?

Winner Mrs Christine Davies

Volunteer of the Year?

Mrs Maureen Halford

Lifetime Achievement Award

Winner Mrs Inge Touboulic

Inge had volunteered with us for 20 years as a
driver and office volunteer, she also helps us with
any events that we put on.

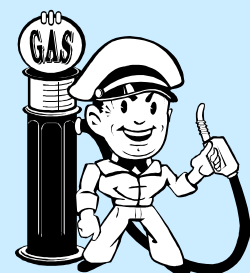
All received a small gift for the great services that
they provide.

School 'Reflections' Project

We have run another of our reminiscence projects,
this time with St Barts School.

Several Volunteers went into the school to talk
about the '**good old days**' which included the
WWII years and up to, and including, the 1950's.
The children greatly enjoyed themselves asking
questions on how things were in '*their day*' and part
of the project was for them to write it down. Hope-
fully we can put together a pamphlet for people to
read.

The Head Teacher wanted to take this project a
stage further by asking the Volunteers to teach the
children some lost skills, such as sewing. Again
this was a great success and we hope to take this
project to other schools.



**Repair costs to your property too high?
Having trouble finding quality trades people?
Do you want a quality job and value for money?
Do you want to do two jobs for the price of one?**

Another venture that the Volunteer Centre have tried to help is **FTSE Property Maintenance**. This is a not-for-profit company who have joined forces with the organisations below to employ young people who are at various qualified stages in their careers.



All they need is more experience to develop their trades. The young people are supervised and mentored by skilled volunteers who have worked all their lives in the industry. They ensure that you get a quality job at low-cost.

To find out more about this company contact 01322 277 027 or www.backingthefuture.co.uk



Get Walking

**FREE weekly walks in Swanley and
NEW Health Walks in Lullingstone!**

Sevenoaks Council are training volunteer 'Health Walk Leaders' to encourage people to live a more healthy lifestyle.

- **Swanley walks starts at the White Oak Leisure Centre every Tuesday at 2.00pm**
- **Lullingstone's start from Visitors Centre every Monday 2.00pm**

**All walks are free - Last about 1 hour
All ages and abilities welcome -
Just turn up—no need to book.
Don't forget to dress for all weathers with comfortable footwear.**

**More info 01732 227000
Visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/health**

CD LAUNCH PARTY

WITH THE BEAUTIFUL VOICE OF ANGUS MORTON

JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF THE RELEASE OF HIS WONDERFUL NEW CD CALLED
THE STORY OF MY LIFE
WITH A LIVE PERFORMANCE FROM ANGUS MORTON
RECEPTION DRINK
BUFFET AND REFRESHMENTS
RAFFLE
(PROCEEDS FROM RAFFLE TO THE ORPHEUS CENTRE)

AT FIVE WENTS HALL, SWANLEY LANE, SWANLEY BR87RA
ON FRIDAY EVENING AT 7:30PM 10TH SEPTEMBER 2010

TICKETS £7
CALL 01322 666054 OR 01322 614048
.CDS ON SALE

Angus Morton is a young local man with a beautiful voice. If you have never heard Angus sing you are in for a real treat. If you cannot attend the launch, please support him by buying the CD

THE FUTURE DOES NOT LOOK BRIGHT?

IT COULD BE MORE RED THAN ORANGE!

No one can have escaped the problems that this country is facing. The economic climate is grim, everyone is having to cut back and tighten their belts. County, Borough, District and Town Councils are having to look at ways to save money in the coming years and you can bank on the Voluntary Sector being one of those worst hit by the recession.

It is now, more than ever, that we will need everyone's support to enable us to continue helping people to be a part of their community, for us to ensure that the elderly attend their medical appointments and that the lonely and isolated are not forgotten.

We are very grateful for all who have helped us with Grants and Funding in the past. Mainly Kent County Council, Sevenoaks District Council and Swanley Town Council who have been our main funders for many years. We can only hope that they consider the work that we do in the area to be of the highest quality and therefore worthy of their continued support.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH DARTFORD AND GRAVESEND

There are three Volunteer Centres in North West Kent, all doing the same or similar activities. All three have a Volunteer Transport Scheme, all three have a Befriending Scheme and all three recruit, place and train volunteers for other local voluntary organisations.

It is in our interest that we ensure that all three Volunteer Centres have a presence in their own community, that policies and procedures are of the highest standard, and that we work together for the good of the people in our area.

We are being asked by funders to consider working more closely together, this of course, will help them with budgeting the funding that needs to stretch far and wide. It makes sense that all three should put their heads together to work in a more efficient way, to collectively collaborate on Grant applications and to streamline office use.

This does not mean that you will lose your nearest Volunteer Centre, what we hope is, that you will have a better, more efficient, more-active-in-the-community Volunteer Centre.

Things you may like to know!

These are the kind of statistics that our funders like to know that we have achieved throughout the year. The figures below are April 2009 to March 2010

Volunteer Transport Scheme: 3,445 drives by 22 drivers

Number of visits made to Befriending clients: 1,536 by 36 Befrienders

Enquiries for Volunteering: 695 of which 212 were placed

We feel sure that this year we will exceed these figures.