

Press Gang

The newsheet of

Volunteer Centre Swanley & District



At the beginning of this year we spent a lot of time trying to attain the accreditation for our Befriending Scheme.

We were asked to send in evidence on how the scheme runs. This proved to be a mammoth task. All our policies needed updating to comply with relevant laws, they also needed to be reader friendly. We spent a complete month rewriting all these policies as well as revising our guidelines.

A lot of the information that was asked for we had in place, but it needed to be reviewed. I would like to thank one office volunteer Stephanie Gates for helping me with setting up a database for the befriending scheme.

In April we finally sent all the documents off to the Mentoring and Befriending foundation. The parcel was huge. It took a month for us to receive any news.

The two of us here in the office were really excited when two envelopes arrived one morning in May from the Mentoring and Befriending foundation. **How sad are we!!!**

One contained all the documents that we sent, the other contained our wonderful certificate which we now display proudly on our certificate board.



UNITED
HOUSE

We would like to
thank United House
for once again
sponsoring our
Newsletter

Advertise your events in our Newsletter
Contact: Pauline or Della on 0845 241 2180
Email: info@swanleyvolunteers.com

Charity Christmas Card Sale

We are once again holding
our annual one day
Charity Christmas Card Sale
Thursday 8th November 2007
Tower Room
Library & Information building
10.00am - 2.00pm

This year we have invited local Kent based
Charities to join us—to name a few
Kent Air Ambulance, Ellenor Foundation, Lions
Hospice, Demelza Childrens Hospital, RNLI,
Queen Elizabeth Foundation, MIND, MENCAP
Plus our usual Christmas Novelty stall.

We look forward to seeing you.

Well! I've moved the furniture about, put up all our certificates on the main notice board, to give the office an air of professionalism, given the office volunteers a bigger desk than mine, thrown away the bits of furniture to make a reception area, and made a small meeting room which can help with training our volunteers. And it looks pretty good, even if I do say so myself.



The office volunteers say that they prefer the layout, and my husband has never been to the office so much, with toolkit at the ready.

The layout may have changed but the work of the Volunteer Centre remains the same. We are as busy as ever dealing with people wanting to volunteer and helping those who need either transport or befriending.

Don't forget we will always try to help if we can.

Pauline Annetts

Over the last year it has become apparent that the befriending scheme is changing. We have always had referrals for lonely and isolated elderly individuals in the community.

Many other organisations have lost their funding and we are getting referrals for couples, giving the carer a break, elderly people that are suffering from first signs of dementia, younger adults that need company through other illnesses, to name a few. Our befrienders are being asked to do more than was once expected of them.

We recognise the need to train our existing befrienders to be able to take on these new clients as well as recruiting and training new befrienders for the ever changing demand.

Over the next few months I shall be attending training days to cover the issues around the referrals that we are now receiving.

We are hoping to start our popular Reminiscence sessions in the Autumn. As you read this I am busy hovering around different locations to find the right venues.

Hope you all had a nice summer, (if you found one!)

Della Jeffery

KENT RURAL REVIVAL GRANT



You may all be asking yourself what is 'Rural Revival'. This grant has enabled us to set up drop-in session in as many villages in our area that we can find a place to sit for two hours once a month, (we prefer to be inside and warm).

It has helped our recruitment rate and highlighted our work in the area., and because of this we are gradually getting known in the villages but it is always a slow process.

To us in the office it mainly means

- ◆ Having to remember that we have drop-in sessions to be at.
- ◆ Once remembered, which village are we in?
- ◆ Remember to take appropriate leaflets.
- ◆ Identification badge is usually a good idea
- ◆ And smile as you walk through the door



Garden Safari - Della Jeffery

Our first weekend of the Garden Safari was a great success. We raised over £700. All gardens were well worth a wander around. Even the weather was impressive.

My husband was very impressed when I returned home with a lovely home baked sponge. I'm not so sure it was a good idea as he keeps referring to home baked cakes.

People who went on the tours arranged by L.Mills said how interesting it was and that they would be buying their plants from them from now on.

A big thank you goes to Geoff Parsons for the idea and his hard work, and all the gardeners that gave us the opportunity to look around their lovely gardens.



Volunteer Vacancies

Age Concern in New Ash Green are in urgent need of someone on Wednesdays in the Youth and Community Centre to help with preparation and serving of lunches.

The Volunteer Centre are in need of local correspondents to help gather information from their village to put onto our web site that have local village pages.

Areas already covered are: Hextable and New Ash Green.

We are also in need of Volunteer Drivers particularly in the West Kingsdown area, petrol is paid at 40p per mile and you need to have at least two hours to spare per drive.

For more information on any of the above or other opportunities please contact us

0845 241 02180

Catch up on our News.....

- ◆ We attended a KCC all day 'Carers Fayre' on Sat 28th April. Many organisations came together to give advice and information for those in the community that are carers. These events are very successful and held throughout Kent.
- ◆ Della went along to the Eynsford Parish Council's AGM meeting in April. They asked her to attend and talk to them about the services that the Volunteer Centre run for the eight Northern Parishes of Sevenoaks District, of which Eynsford is one.
- ◆ We would like to welcome two new Trustees to our Management Committee, Cllr Hugh Darrington who lives in Eynsford and has for the first time been elected in as a District Councillor. He is Sevenoaks Council's representative for the Centre. Mrs Maureen Halford who is also one of our Befrienders, she is a facilitator for some of our Reminiscence sessions and is always very active on behalf of the Volunteer Centre.
- ◆ At our AGM in June we presented a cheque for £692.50 to the Swanley Day Centre for Adults with Learning Difficulties. This amount was half of the funds raised by Della Jeffery, our Project Worker, who ran the London Marathon. The money went towards a sewing machine for



the Swanley Day Centre, Manager Pat Clive presented Della with a bunch of flowers for all her hard work on their behalf.

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Charity Walk – 21st October 2007

*In aid of the Swanley Volunteer Centre
£5 per walker (children under 16 free)*

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

Quote by Noel Coward

Sunday 21st October starts at 10.00am by the Café in Swanley Park.
7 miles approx also a shorter course for those who tire easily.

To book your place contact: David Coates 01322 661159 / Email: Daviddvd199@aol.com or Swanley Volunteer Centre 0845 241 2180 /Email: info@swanleyvolunteers.com

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Introduction to our Befriending Scheme - Tuesday 25th September 2007
9.30—12.30 half day

2 half day sessions of Listening Skills - Tuesday 30th October & Thursday
1st November 2007

You must be available to attend both sessions

Exits and Endings - Thursday 24th January 2008

**To all of our volunteers training places are free
Other organisations at a charge of £5 per delegate per session**

**Contact Pauline—0845 241 2180
for more information**

Dates for your diary

Saturday 1st September	Garden Safari - In New Barn, Longfield area
Sunday 2nd September	Ellenor Garden Open Day Sir Vivien and Lady Barbara Ramsey
Saturday 8th September	Crockenhill Harvest Fayre
15th & 16th September	Garden Safari—Swanley area
Tuesday 25th September	Introduction of Befriending (09.30-12.00)
Sunday 30th September	Japanese style Garden Evening
Thursday 8th November	Charity Christmas Card Sale
Tuesday 30th October	Listening Skills (half day training)
Tuesday 1st November	Listening Skills (half day training)