



New Imago website and new charity shop coming soon

We have launched our new website. If you haven't seen it yet go to www.imago.community for an update on our latest news and our services.

Another exciting new development is that we will soon be opening a new charity shop in Crescent Road in Tunbridge Wells. The building is currently being refurbished and **I'm a Charity Shop** will be opening its doors on Friday 25th September. Every item sold will raise funds to support our projects and services in the local community.

We are excited about this development and hope that you will follow our progress on twitter. If you would like more information or if you would like to get involved please contact Liz James on 01892 530330 or email liz.james@imago.community

Contents:

Local News
Funding
Health & Social Care
Volunteering

[Page 2](#)
[Page 4](#)
[Page 8](#)
[Page 11](#)

News
Children, Young People & Families
Training
What's On

[Page 3](#)
[Page 7](#)
[Page 9](#)
[Page 12](#)

We would be pleased to hear your comments on our newsletter. Is it clear and easy to read? Is the information useful to you and your organisation? Are there any areas that you feel we are currently omitting and that you would like to see included? We would welcome positive feedback as well as suggestions for improvement and would appreciate you taking the time to contact us. You can email wendy.mcgeachy@imago.community or call 01892 530330.



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Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) Community Plan Consultation

The Sevenoaks District Community Plan creates a long-term vision (until 2028) based on the views of residents and partners on what is important to them to make the district the best place to live, work and visit. The Plan is based on six key themes: Safe Communities, Caring Communities, Green Environment, Healthy Environment, Dynamic Economy and Sustainable Economy. Each theme is supported by key priorities and actions.

The existing Community Plan is based on the issues Members and others have said are important: it shapes both the district itself and the public services operating within it. The actions are set out in a 3 year action plan delivered by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) which is a partnership of various organisations including the District Council, Police, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, health service, housing associations, voluntary organisations and businesses.

The current action plan ends in March 2016 and over the next few months SDC's community development team will be publicising the survey and attending community events to find out from both organisations and individuals what their priorities for action should be over the next 3 year period. The online survey can be accessed at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Community_Plan2016-19 or on the Council's website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan. Paper copies are also available.

They need your help to signpost people to the survey. Those completing it have a chance to win £50 shopping vouchers (closing date 30th Sept 2015).

If you require any further information about the Community Plan, call 01732 227000 or email community.development@sevenoaks.gov.uk.



Making It Happen Awards

The 'Making It Happen' awards held at the Stag Theatre were the first in what is hoped to be an annual awards ceremony for outstanding volunteering effort in Sevenoaks. Winners from nine categories were recognised for their hard work helping people across the District.

The awards were:

- Best Community Club of the Year Award
- Best Business in the Community Award
- Community Safety Award
- Sports/Health and Wellbeing Award
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Individual Community Champion Award
- Charity of the Year Award
- Charity Project of the Year Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

One of our volunteers, Madeleine Brooks-Read, was chosen as the Young Volunteer of the Year for volunteering on Imago's respite breaks for young people aged 14–18 years old with mild to moderate disabilities. Since joining the project in November 2014, Madeleine has given 72 hours of her time to help others in need and has become a peer mentor.

Another volunteer Timmi Clark was highly commended in this category. Timmi volunteers at Kent Young Carers, working with 5-18 year olds. A greater number of young carers have benefited from the service by attending more chill clubs and respite activities due to the extra support that Timmi has provided.

Apply for NCVO's A Day in the Life

NCVO's popular work-shadowing programme presents a unique opportunity for staff in the voluntary sector and government to step into each other's shoes for a day and learn how the other side works.

The government departments taking part this year are: the Cabinet Office, Department for Communities and Local Government, Department for Education, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department for Work and Pensions, the Home Office and the National Audit Office.

Click [here](#) for full details, FAQs and to apply for A Day in the Life.

The focus is well and truly on our sector!

Since the last newsletter hardly a day goes by without media attention on the voluntary and community sector. Numerous opinion pieces have been written about Kids Company, the death of Olive Cooke, charity sector pay and campaigning. We need to ensure that attitudes towards the sector as a whole don't harden as a result of all of this largely negative coverage.

Front line staff and volunteers have a key role to play but trustees also need to be clear about their role in the direction of their organisation. The Charity Commission has updated [The Essential Trustee](#) guidance (July 2015) which explains the key duties of trustees of charities based in England and Wales and what trustees need to do to carry out these duties competently.

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) model proves popular

More organisations are applying to become charities because of the appeal of the CIO structure, the chief executive of the Charity Commission has said. Paula Sussex said at the Commission's public meeting in Birmingham that registrations had seen a steady increase of around 20 per cent year-on-year, and this was "driven by organisations' desire to become a charitable incorporated organisation". The Commission recently revealed that for the first time almost half of all new registrations were CIOs.

In the year to March 2015, the regulator registered 4,648 organisations, of which 2,248 were CIOs, almost twice as many as the previous year. There are now 4,576 CIOs registered, according to the Commission register.

Source: Civil Society Enews

People's Health Trust 'Active Communities' Grants in Kent and Medway

Eligible projects are those which:

- Are designed and led by local people
- Create stronger connections between people
- Are seeking funding of between £5,000 and £25,000 a year
- Last for between twelve months and two years
- Are small and local (a few streets or a small village); or are a community of interest, with social and economic disadvantage
- Are in one or more of the fundable neighbourhoods



There is a short Stage 1 form after which you may be invited by [People's Health Trust](#) to fill in a more in depth Stage 2 form. Stage 1 must be complete by the deadline of 1pm on the 26th August.

Kent Community Foundation are offering support to groups wishing to apply to this Fund, please read the guidance notes and speak to a member of their Grants Team before beginning your application (T: 01303 814500).

Kent Community Foundation

The deadline is approaching for Kent Community Foundation's themed funds. There are 2 themes—one is Children, Young People and Families and the other is Elderly and Vulnerable Adults. Grants of up to £5,000 are available (£7,500 may be considered for exceptional applications). Apply by Friday 28th August.

For more information go to www.kentcf.org.uk.

Youth Diversion Fund

Grants of up to £5,000 are available from the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Youth Diversion Fund for projects that meet the following criteria:

- Diverting young people from crime or anti-social behaviour
- Looking to positively address potential risk-taking behaviours
- Looking to engage with vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups

The scheme is administered by Safer Kent and grants must be used in by March 2016.
Deadline: 30th August 2015

For more information: www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/youth-diversion-fund.html

KCC - Combined Members Grants

In 2015/16, each Kent County Council Member has £25,000 to allocate for community grants. These grants can support a lot of different activities, including community safety schemes, sports equipment, events etc.

Grants are available to constituted organisations, such as voluntary and community groups, societies and charities, social enterprises and parish/town councils for projects that benefit local communities. For more information contact your local Member or Community Liaison Officer or go to <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding/combined-members-grant>. The application process is ongoing until the allocation is spent.

Building Better Opportunities in the South East

The Big Lottery Fund is matching funds from the European Social Fund (ESF) to provide joint investment in local projects that will tackle some of the root causes of poverty, promoting social inclusion and driving local jobs and growth. The programme is operating in the 37 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas and will support projects ranging from improving employability for the most disadvantaged, helping those with multiple and complex needs, to improving financial literacy.

In the South East Local Enterprise area applications are being sought for delivery in the north (Essex) and in the south (Kent and East Sussex). The application process has not yet launched in this area and is expected to be in October and the funding priorities initially proposed for this area have been subject to a lot of change.

Imago in association with 3VA and the Speak Up Forum in east Sussex and Basildon, Billericay and Wickford CVS have worked to try to ensure that the voluntary sector is engaged with this process. The bids for this funding will be large and the successful applicants are likely to be partnerships so we have been asking organisations to identify themselves as lead partners or delivery partners and have invited interested organisations to networking events.

The latest event was held in the North School in Ashford on Monday 17th August. 100 delegates attended and heard from Mike Rayner, Skills Lead at the South East LEP and Laura Furness, Local Deals Manager at the Big Lottery Fund that the beneficiaries will be:

- people with disabilities and long-term health issues;
- people with mental health issues;
- carers (including both carers for children and carers for adults);
- older people;
- lone parents;
- people with difficulty sustaining employment

Areas of focus:

- Overcoming barriers to employment facing those furthest from the labour market
- Sustaining meaningful employment and overcoming isolation
- Supporting a return to employment and re-entry on to the escalator of opportunity

If you are interested in finding out more about this programme contact Wendy McGeachy at Imago on 01892 530330 or email wendy.mcgeachy@imago.community or go to:

<http://www.bbwcvs.org.uk/projects/building-better-opportunities/>
<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/esf>



European Union
European Social Fund
 Investing in jobs and skills

Big Potential

The Big Lottery Fund has launched the £10 million Big Potential Advanced Fund for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in England that are at a more advanced stage in their social investment journey.

The new Advanced route is an extension of the Big Lottery Fund's existing investment readiness programme, the Big Potential. Big Potential is administered by the Social Investment Business in partnership with Locality, Charity Bank, Social Enterprise UK and University of Northampton, on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund.

Further information can be found on the Big Potential [website](#).

Big Lottery Fund - Help Through Crisis Fund

Grants of between £300,000 and £500,000 are available to improve the prospects of people currently living in crisis or at risk of crisis as a result of hardship. The Big Lottery Fund has established the new £30 million programme to fund projects that provide tailored support, advice and advocacy to enable people to address difficulties and be in a better position to improve circumstances and plan for their future.

All projects should be rooted in the community and focus on supporting individuals who have the most difficulty accessing mainstream services, for example disabled people, those with learning difficulties, people with mental health issues and those who live in rural locations. Funding can be used to cover revenue costs and overheads. 5% of the project cost can also be allocated to funding emergency items. All proposals must demonstrate how they will achieve all four of the following objectives:

- ◆ People who have experienced hardship crisis are better able to improve their circumstances
- ◆ People who are at high risk of experiencing hardship crisis are better able to plan for the future
- ◆ Organisations are better able to support people to effectively tackle hardship through sharing learning and evidence
- ◆ Those experiencing, or who are at high risk of experiencing, hardship crisis, have a stronger, more collective voice to better shape a response to their issues

Deadline: 26th August 2015

More information is available on the Big Lottery [website](#).

Little book of campaign inspiration

JustGiving has produced the [Little Book of Campaign Inspiration](#) as a follow up to their popular 'Campaign tools for charities' and it is available to download for free.

Interested in crowd funding?

At this year's NCVO Evolve conference in London one of the sessions focused on the new funding landscape. Peter Baek from Nesta talked about the resources that Nesta has developed including a publication called [Working the Crowd](#) which gives a useful introduction to crowd funding.

Imago Young Carers Projects

Imago provides services for young carers in Kent and East Sussex and will soon be launching a service in Southwark. Our longest established project is our Kent Young Carers service and we would like to thank several sponsors who have provided wonderful opportunities for young carers in their local area.

Custodian, a data centre based at Maidstone TV Studios have chosen KYC as their charity of the year and have been busy fundraising for us by holding a Farmers Market which saw 33 stalls selling various local goods. The market raised a total of £859.79



During the summer holidays Custodian again arranged for a local dance instructor to hold a two hour workshop of contemporary dance, this saw 24 of our West Kent young carers learning 3 dance routines in an active TV Studio!

A HUGE thank you goes to all at the Tonbridge Lions Club who funded 24 of our West Kent young carers to have a day at Drusilla's. Not only did they fund the ticket prices for all young carers and staff, they provided a coach and gave each young carer £10 to spend in the gift shop – they had a fantastic time.



Local council scorecard

A new at-a-glance [scorecard](#) that shows the public how well their local council is doing in getting young people into education, employment or training is being launched by Skills Minister Nick Boles.

Record turnout for the Summer Family Fun Days in Sevenoaks

The free family fun days run by Imago and Sevenoaks District Council have so far proved to be more popular than ever with record numbers turning out in what has been very variable weather.

National report sheds light on the health and wellbeing of young people

Statistics on the health, care and wellbeing of young people in England - from birth to young adulthood - are published in a report from the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC). It brings together in one place a range of information, including use of hospital services, talking therapies, prescribing, immunisations and lifestyle trends. The report aims to provide a more joined-up picture of key areas of health and care among younger age groups.

With this information we are able to gain a clearer understanding of how the NHS is used by this generation. This is absolutely vital to give people in charge of commissioning services for young people the building blocks of information they need to plan for now and the future. The full report can be accessed at: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/ypfocusjun15>.

Local profile: Headway in West Kent

People are being invited to enter a new short story competition being organised by Headway in West Kent, a charity that supports those with acquired brain injuries living in West Kent. The competition to write a story is open to anyone who is aged 16 and over. The contest will see writers create a story of 500 words or fewer with the theme "headway". This theme can be interpreted in a broad and imaginative fashion. Stories do not need to be about the charity and its services.

The winner will have their story published in The Courier as well as receiving £50 of Waterstones' vouchers, donated by the Tunbridge Wells shop. The runner up will receive £15 of book vouchers donated by Mr Books Bookshop, Tonbridge.

The four strong judging panel consists of the two local authors, Bridget Collins and Graham Cawley as well as Tunbridge Wells Waterstones Manager, Michael Venner; and Gill Leandro, a Headway in West Kent Trustee.

The closing date for entries is 18th September 2015. For more information on the competition including terms and conditions visit Headway in West Kent's website www.headwaykent.org.

Kent Autistic Trust Support Group meetings

Kent Autistic Trust runs a support group for parents/carers of children and young people with Autism or Asperger Syndrome in Tunbridge Wells. Meetings are held at the TN2 Community Centre on Tuesdays from 7.30-9 p.m.

Forthcoming meetings: 8th September, 3rd November 2015 and 5th January, 1st March 2016.

For more information contact: Jo Blamires, Family Support Officer, Tel: 01634 405168
jo@kentakautistic.com.

Welcome to our Autumn 2015 Training Programme

We are pleased to announce our training opportunities for September–December 2015.

Imago Training and Consultancy aims to provide high quality training that meets the needs of the voluntary and community sector in an ever changing climate. We offer a training programme, bespoke training and facilitation.

Our courses are aimed at voluntary and community organisations; however they are also open to statutory organisations and others.

Our autumn training programme provides value for money and information on all of our courses can be found on our [website](#).

For more information, contact Angela Holland angela.holland@imago.community or Diane Brenham diane.brenham@imago.community, alternatively call 01892 530330

Imago is a provider of courses accredited by the LASER South East Region. For LASER Open College Network accredited courses; pre and post course work will form part of the course and will need to be completed for accreditation.

** Organisations can choose whether to go for the LASER accredited course (£50) or for the non-accredited course (£40). The former will enable participants to receive a certificate accredited by the LASER South East region.

Course	Date and Time	Venue	Cost	
**Introduction to Assertiveness in the workplace	Friday 25 th Sept 2015 9.30am-4.30pm	Imago - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	Non Laser Accredited	Laser Accredited
			£40	£50
**Introduction to Presentation & Public Speaking	Thursday 8 th Oct 2015 9.30am-4.30pm	Imago - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	Non Laser Accredited	Laser Accredited
			£40	£50

Introduction to Managing Volunteers	Tuesday 20 th Oct 2015 9.30am-4.30pm	Imago - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	£40 per person	
**Roles & Responsibilities of Trustees	Thursday 19 th Nov 2015 9.30am – 4.30pm	Imago - 17-19 Monson Road Tunbridge Wells Kent	Non Laser Accredited	Laser Accredited
			£40	£50
Appointed Person First Aid	Friday 6 th Nov 2015 9.30am – 3.30pm	Broadmead Church Hall Broadmead Tunbridge Wells Kent	£60 per person	

How to book

Booking is very easy. You can now download a booking form on-line at www.imago.community or email Diane Brenham at diane.brenham@imago.community for a booking form.

You are now able to book online via our website and pay by credit or debit card. Please note payment in advance secures places as per our booking form.

We can tailor training to meet your needs and can deliver to just your organisation, or you can share the course with another organisation to split the cost and improve working relationships. Costs are based on your requirements, length of session. Topics include funding and fundraising, monitoring and outcomes, roles and responsibilities of management committees, development planning and collaboration.

We can also facilitate sessions for your organisation and potential partner organisations looking at collaboration, change management, troubleshooting, strategic planning and ideas generation.

If interested contact Angela Holland on 01892 530330 or email angela.holland@imago.community. The cost for this specialised service is upon application.

Volunteering Team

Many people can face barriers to volunteering whether it be through a learning or physical disability, mental health issue, criminal conviction or long-term illness or unemployment. At Imago, we believe in the positive benefits of volunteering to both the individual and the community. Because of this we are focusing our efforts on increasing accessibility to volunteering for all. Over the next few months we will be out and about in our local communities finding out what support individuals need to volunteer and helping people take the next step.

We'd like to hear from charities, organisations and community groups in West Kent who would like to find out more about what we're doing. You can contact the volunteering team on 01892 530330 or at volunteering@imago.community.

Remember also that the volunteering team can help you and your organisation promote volunteering opportunities in a variety of ways: keep us updated with new opportunities to promote locally; send us an A4 (portrait) poster and we can display it in our Tunbridge Wells shop window; share your news with us via Facebook and Twitter.

Do you have a one off volunteering opportunity? Maybe you need stewards for an event or fundraisers for a bucket collection. Email us the details and we'll share it with our Time to Time volunteers.

Give us a call to find out what other support we offer.

Volunteering... a booster for older people

In January 2014, the Big Lottery's first Foresight report was produced which provided an overview of 10 topics. Over the next few years, they will be taking a more in-depth look at each of these topics in the form of quarterly presentations. In August the focus was on Ageing in the UK. One of the findings in the ['Ageing in the UK'](#) report was that volunteering can help elderly people alleviate loneliness and build stronger social ties.

Forthcoming Events

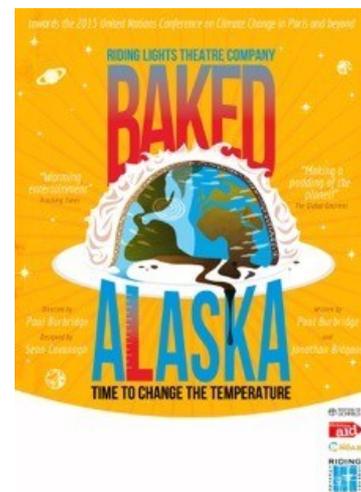
Living (or not) with Climate Change

Through the richly entertaining world of BAKED ALASKA, the realities of climate change are served up with flair and clarity about the temperatures involved. Riding Lights are creating an inspiring show which is challenging but fun, urgent but hopeful.

It takes place in Walthamstow Hall, Hollybush Lane on Wednesday 30th September at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £12 (concessions £9) available from Sevenoaks Bookshop, High Street (452055).

Supported by St John's Hill URC and Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District.



Ageless Thanet

Social Enterprise Kent and the Ageless Thanet partnership would like to invite you to attend the **Thanet 50+ Festival** on September 6th 2015, from 10am to 4pm at the Winter Gardens, Margate. The 50+ Festival is the big launch, and will be offering a wide range of activities from body toning tables to burlesque dancing and much more. A wide range of partner organisations have been invited from across all sectors to participate in the day. They would be delighted if you could join in celebrating Thanet's success and helping to shape the project for the next five years.

Ageless Thanet is one of 14 projects nationally, all funded through the Big Lottery Fund's 'Fulfilling Lives: Ageing Better' programme. In 2015 they successfully secured £3m over 5 years to reduce social isolation and loneliness and improve mental and physical health in older people.

For more information go to www.sekgroup.org.uk/ageless-thanet or contact the project manager, James Kirby on j.kirby@sekgroup.org.uk.



A date for your diaries—next year's Funding Fair

Funding For All has confirmed that they have booked next year's Kent and Medway Funding Fair. It will be held at Skinners Kent Academy in Tunbridge Wells on 1st June 2016.

