

## Imago updates

### Raising the profile of volunteering in Tunbridge Wells

The volunteering team at Imago had a very successful extended Volunteers Week (1-12 June). This included hosting a Volunteer Fair in Tunbridge Wells on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Twelve local organisations joined us to promote volunteering, including Kent Association for the Blind, Trinity Theatre, Kent Young Carers, Pepenbury, Headway in West Kent, Kent High Weald Partnership and Nourish Community Foodbank. The event attracted a lot of interest and was visited by the local MP Greg Clark.



### Kent Young Carers wins Charity Project of the Year

We are thrilled that Kent Young Carers won Charity Project of the Year at the Sevenoaks Community and Voluntary awards. Held on 15th June at Sevenoaks School, the awards were sponsored by Sevenoaks District Council and the Sevenoaks Chronicle. The Kent Young Carers project supports 320 young carers in the district aged from 5 to 18. It was a really enjoyable evening and it was wonderful to hear about so many amazing local heroes and projects. See [page 2](#) for the other winners.



#### Contents:

Local News  
Funding  
Health & Social Care  
What's On

[Page 2](#)  
[Page 4](#)  
[Page 6](#)  
[Page 9](#)

News  
Children, Young People & Families  
Volunteering

[Page 3](#)  
[Page 5](#)  
[Page 7](#)



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## SDC's Making it Happen voluntary and community awards

The awards featured on page 1 recognised organisations and individuals who make a difference in the Sevenoaks district. The winners were:

Charity of the Year - Edenbridge Voluntary Transport Service

Charity Project of the Year - Kent Young Carers

Sports, Health and Wellbeing Award - Up and Running

Best Community Club of the Year - West Kent Mind

Best Business in the Community Award - Sainsbury's

Volunteer of the Year - Alice Fenner for her work raising mental health issues in schools in Sevenoaks

Individual Community Champion - Jan Dean from Westerham

Lifetime Achievement Award - Pat Downing

Community Safety Award - youth worker Andy Watson from Kenward Trust

Sevenoaks Chronicle Readers Choice Award - Kathy Jones from Choices

## Tunbridge Wells Love Where You Live awards

The awards for organisations in Tunbridge Wells are still open for [nominations](#). They recognise individuals, groups and organisations who are dedicated to helping others, benefiting the environment, or accomplishing personal goals.

The categories are:

1) Charity of the Year

2) Best Group

3) Ethical Business

4) Individual Hero

5) Sports Achiever of the Year

6) Young Sports Achiever of the Year

7) Young Volunteer of the Year and

8) Love Where We Live Award (chosen by the judges as the overall winner).



Nominations close on 29th July and the finalists will be invited to an awards ceremony at the Assembly Hall Theatre on Tuesday 11th October.

## Local profile: Room for hire at Headway West Kent

Headway in West Kent seeks to promote understanding of all aspects of brain injury and at a local level, provide information, support and services to people, who have suffered a brain injury, and to their family and carers.

Headway in West Kent has a lovely centre at 3 Culverden Park, very near the heart of Tunbridge Wells, which can be rented. Available to rent are a lounge, kitchen, dining room, pottery room, equipped meeting rooms and garden. Suitable for clubs, socials and meetings. Contact 01892 619001 or email [fundraising@headwaykent.org](mailto:fundraising@headwaykent.org) for further information or to book.

Headway in West Kent would like to thank everyone who has donated coins to them. The collection is ongoing so if you have any old or foreign coins, even currency which is obsolete, which you don't want, you can drop it off at 3 Culverden Park, Tunbridge Wells during office hours.



### **NJC pay scales 2016-17 and 2017-18**

For organisations whose salary scales are linked to NJC national scales, the scales for 2016-17 and 2017-18 have now been [agreed](#).

### **New NCVO project helps you link with the media**

Charities have positive stories to tell and innovative, practical solutions to offer – but sometimes these are under the radar. NCVO's new project, Constructive Voices, wants to help you and your volunteers be heard. To do this, Constructive Voices will link charities and journalists and encourage constructive journalism. More information on Constructive Voices can be found [here](#) and in this [Guardian](#) article.

### **Government seeks views on distribution of National Lottery money**

The Cabinet Office has launched a [consultation](#) on proposed new policy directions for the allocation of Big Lottery Funds in England, Isle of Man and UK-wide funding programmes. One of the new policy directions include a renewed focus on local engagement. It also includes a focus on variety and innovation. The closing date of the consultation is midnight on Friday 12 August, with the aim of Cabinet Office Ministers being able to issue new policy directions to the Fund in Autumn 2016.

### **New Charity Commission powers coming into effect**

The Cabinet Office has published a [timetable](#) for introducing new powers for the Charity Commission from the new Charities Act.

The first set of changes, due to be implemented in July, include the Charity Commission's power to investigate and suspend trustees, remove disqualified trustees, and direct the winding up of a charity.

Further phases will take place in October 2016 and April 2017.

The Charity Commission has said that it will address gaps in the Charity Commission's protective powers and will only affect a relatively small number of charities and individuals". However the Act will make several "significant changes", including powers of disqualification which it said "all charities need to be aware of".

## Kent and Medway Funding Fair

The Kent and Medway Funding Fair took place on the 1st of June at Skinners Kent Academy in Tunbridge Wells and was very successful. Organised by [Funding for All](#) the event attracted over 200 delegates. There were 24 seminars to choose from and there were over 30 stands. There were sessions on the Big Lottery Fund, the Skinners Charities, the Tudor Trust, KCC Member Grants, Kent Community Foundation, Whitehead Monckton grants, and European Funding to name a few. The exhibitors included funders, fundraising support organisations and local organisations such as West Kent YMCA, Age UK and Spadework. Imago ran a breakfast networking session for west Kent groups and had a stand. We also operated a minibus shuttle service from the train station to the venue. Funding for All have reported that the feedback from those attending the Fair has been excellent and we would like to thank them for bring the event to Tunbridge Wells.



*Imago volunteer Carol Boyd with Alasdair Mackenzie, Senior Community and Engagement Officer (London and South East Region), Houses of Parliament*

## Small charities 'too afraid' to ask for core costs

The Garfield Weston Foundation have said that small charities are at risk because they are too afraid to apply for core costs. Foundation director Philippa Charles said her organisation had found that only a quarter of charities apply for funding for their core costs when they ask for a grant, and that the main reason given was because they were too afraid of being turned down. Source: NAVCA

## New Core Strength Programme

Comic Relief has a new grants strategy and one of the things to emerge from that strategy is a new [Core Strength Programme](#) to support small organisations delivering work in the UK with an annual income of between £100,000 - £500,000.

They are launching a pilot core funding programme for smaller organisations working across our four programme areas (as outlined in our new grants strategy) which are:

- Investing in children and young people to be ready for the future
- Empowering women and girls to be free to lead the lives they choose
- Improving the health and wellbeing of vulnerable and disadvantaged people
- Building stronger communities in areas of disadvantage, deprivation and poverty

Grants will be up to £20,000 for each of two years (maximum grant of £40,000).

Applications opened on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 and close midday on **27th July 2016**.

## Access: the Foundation for Social Investment

Throughout 2016-18 Access will develop and fund 3 [new programmes](#) which support charities and social enterprises to be better able to take on a loan:

- 1) The Reach Fund - to make them investment ready
- 2) Impact Management Fund
- 3) Infrastructure Investments - supporting the social investment market's own infrastructure.



## Profile on: Carers Week 6- 12 June 2016

Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. The campaign is brought to life by thousands of individuals and organisations who come together to organise activities and events throughout the UK, drawing attention to just how important caring is.

In Carers Week our Young Carers Support Officers attended events, school support groups and were featured in local magazines. They also put on events for our young carers project in Kent, East Sussex and Southwark.

Kent Young Carers held a picnic in Swanley park for some Swanley and Dartford young carers. The young carers enjoyed playing with sports equipment, group games and playing in the park. There was lots of food which was provided by Sainsbury's (Dartford and Sevenoaks).

East Sussex Young Carers staff raised awareness for Carers Week at Denton Community Games Challenge in Newhaven. The event was well attended and the weather was great for the basketball challenge set by the ESYC team.

Southwark Young Carers spent a day at the London Sea-Life centre. They met at our office in Surrey Quays Shopping Centre and went on a journey up the Thames. They then visited the Sea Life Centre, many for the first time. They had the opportunity to handle starfish and in a unique photo booth had the chance to ride a sea turtle. For many of the group the highlight of the day was seeing the penguins in their newly opened home. Thank you to the aquarium for a generous donation of tickets and also to local charity Edible Avondale who donated some City of London Time Credits which we were able to exchange for return tickets on the Thames Clipper.

Here are some pictures from the various events held:



## Kent Young Carers

Our new Workforce Development team will be delivering free training to professionals which will cover new legislation to the Care Act, Children and Families Act as well as how to identify, support and refer a Young Carer – if you want to know more about the training then please contact Jo Rickword on [jo.rickword@imago.community](mailto:jo.rickword@imago.community).

## East Sussex Young Carers Win Sparks Award

East Sussex Young Carers was the runner-up of the Advice and Guidance Achievement Award at the SPARK Awards 2016. They were presented with the award at the awards ceremony on 10th May at the Winter Gardens, Eastbourne. The event was hosted by Bryony MacKenzie, Education Correspondent at BBC South East, and Callum Ward, Chairman of the Ringmer Youth Voice Centre. The SPARK Awards 2016 were sponsored by East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service.



## Consultation on Domestic Abuse Support Services

Domestic abuse support services in Kent are currently funded through a mixture of commissioned services, grant funding and charitable funds. The landscape of service provision varies across the county with different levels of support available in different areas of Kent.

With the contracts for the three largest commissioned services, Women's Refuges, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and Floating Support, expiring in 2016, Kent County Council has begun a consultation process on changes to the way that these services are commissioned. They are proposing to integrate these services into a single service, to be delivered by service providers working together within partnership and subcontracting arrangements. The proposal includes the introduction of a central referral process.

The consultation can be viewed on KCC's [consultation webpage](#). The consultation ends on 15th July 2016.

## Loneliness and social isolation event

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) is hosting an event designed to bring together voluntary and community organisations, patients, carers and their staff, to discuss loneliness and social isolation. The event will be chaired by Jane Roberts who is a KCHFT Governor and the Chair of Kent CAN. There will be presentations from a KCHFT Health Trainer and two members of a coffee morning group to share their experiences of loneliness and social isolation. There will also be group discussions to help KCHFT understand what their role could be in terms of identifying the lonely and socially isolated people they are already having contact with and how they can improve signposting to sources of help. The event takes place on Friday 22 July 2016 from 9:30am-12:30pm at Lenham Community Centre. To book your place contact Beverley Bryant, Community Involvement Manager at [kchft.involveme@nhs.net](mailto:kchft.involveme@nhs.net) or call 01233 667812.

## New non-emergency patient transport service for Kent and Medway

A new [patient transport service](#) is being launched across Kent and Medway on 1st July 2016. Tough new measures to raise standards are being introduced with greater emphasis on customer care and getting patients home from hospital promptly. The new service will be provided by G4S which will be taking over from NSL when their contract expires on 30th June.

## Carers Strategy Call for Evidence

The Department of Health is welcoming any comments and views in their [survey](#) on how they can improve support to carers including advice on how they might reach some of the stakeholders representing the diversity of carers. The initial deadline for the call for evidence was 30th June 2016 however the Department of Health has extended the closing date until 31 July 2016.

## New carers toolkit

NHS England has published a [toolkit](#) to help health and social care organisations work together in identifying, assessing and supporting the wellbeing of carers and their families.

## Public health commissioning in the NHS 2016 to 2017

This [agreement](#) sets out outcomes to be achieved and funding provided for NHS England to commission public health services. The original agreement which dates from 2015 was updated on 10th June this year.

## Volunteer Centre News

Did you know that 21 million people volunteer in the UK and that this contributes an estimated £23.9bn to the UK economy?

Throughout the country a celebration of the contribution of volunteers took place in Volunteering Week (1st -12th June). The West Kent Volunteer Centre had a great Volunteers' Week 2016 - the extra few days this year gave us even more time to celebrate local volunteers and promote volunteering.

We went to the Bridges Centre in Edenbridge, and the Vine and Sencio Leisure Centre in Sevenoaks to talk to people about volunteering. We dropped leaflets off at shops, cafes and public places all along the high street in Tonbridge.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, we held a Volunteer Street Fair in Calverley Precinct with the support of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

We featured volunteer stories on the Imago website and social media <http://www.imago.community/Volunteering/Volunteers-Week-2016>, and in the West Kent Volunteer Centre newsletter.

There were some great articles in the national press about inspiring volunteers. This is one of our favourites: <http://www.theguardian.com/voluntary-sector-network/2016/jun/06/volunteers-week-charity-leaders-volunteering>

Over the next couple of months, we will be focussing on growing the West Kent Volunteer Centre Facebook and twitter media audiences; and mailing list for the West Kent Volunteer Centre digital newsletter. Both of these are proving to be very successful ways of engaging with potential volunteers.

You can catch up with the newsletters here: <http://www.imago.community/About-Imago/Newsletters>. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please email [volunteering@imago.community](mailto:volunteering@imago.community).

Facebook: VolunteeringWK  
Twitter: @Volunteering\_WK

## I'm a Charity Shop

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June we held a thank you event for our amazing charity shop volunteers who are all doing a fantastic job. With quality items for sale and friendly volunteers serving our customers we hope that the charity shop will continue to build its regular clientele. If you haven't yet visited you can find the shop at 14 Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells.



## YMCA Volunteering Opportunities

West Kent YMCA have a number of volunteering opportunities available as follows:

**Volunteer leader/assessor/supporter for Duke of Edinburgh award scheme** - They offer the DofE award to young people and always have scope for young people up to age 25 who want to register with them to undertake an award and for people of any age who are willing to be trained to lead, assess, train or support local young people achieve their DofE award.

**Voluntary Furniture Store Staff** - this would suit someone with stamina who is physically fit and who would like to gain experience of a furniture store environment. For more information contact Finn Hayes, Retail Manager, 07799 696197 [Finn@WestKentYMCA.org.uk](mailto:Finn@WestKentYMCA.org.uk).

**Voluntary Sales Staff** - would suit someone who is fairly outgoing and friendly, likes talking to people and who would like to gain experience of a furniture shop environment.

**Voluntary Cleaner** - would suit someone who is methodical and has an eye for detail. Someone who enjoys routine and appreciates seeing quick results of their work. This role will ensure that the West Kent Furniture Store and offices are well kept, tidy and safe.

**Voluntary Collections and Deliveries Assistant** - Would suit someone with stamina who is physically fit and who previously has, or who would like to gain, experience in the area of deliveries or removals.

**Voluntary 'Recycle' Bicycle Mechanic** - Would suit someone who has a passion for cycling or mechanics and preferably has some experience of bike maintenance and refurbishment. Alternatively someone who is keen to learn and gain experience in this field of work.

Application forms available from [www.WestKentYMCA.org.uk/vol](http://www.WestKentYMCA.org.uk/vol).



## Home-Start South West Kent needs new trustees

Home-Start South West Kent needs new trustees. If you are interested contact them on 01892 524916 or email: [home-startswk@btconnect.com](mailto:home-startswk@btconnect.com)



## Trustees Week

Trustees Week this year runs from 7-11 November 2016 and it presents a good opportunity to recruit trustees. A visit to the website tells us that :

- There are 165,000 charities in England and Wales, and 850,000 trustees.
- From NCVO research, we know just under half the UK's trustees are women.
- The average trustee is 59 years old.
- There are many young trustees too with some 83,000 trustee positions held by 16-34 year olds.

Visit the Trustees Week [website](#) to see how you can get involved and get local media coverage.

# Sevenoaks Family Fun Days 2016



Mon 25 July Edenbridge	Tues 26 July Four Elms	Wed 27 July Otford	Thurs 28 July Halstead	Fri 29 July Leigh
Mon 1 Aug Seal (10-2)	Tues 2 Aug Hartley (10-2)	Wed 3 Aug Crockenhill (10-2)	Thurs 4 Aug West Kingsdown (10-2)	Fri 5 Aug Chiddingstone (2.30-5.30)
Mon 8 Aug Shoreham (10-2)	Tues 9 Aug Hextable (10-2)	Wed 10 Aug Fawkham (10-2)	Thurs 11 Aug Westerham (10-2)	Fri 12 Aug Fordcombe (2.30-5.30)
Mon 15 Aug Knockholt (10-2)	Tues 16 Aug New Ash Green (10-2)	Wed 17 Aug Dunton Green (10-2)	Thurs 18 Aug Swanley (10-2)	Fri 19 Aug Chipstead (10-2)

**COHESION +**  Kent Equality Cohesion Council

**PROUDLY PRESENT**  
**MELA FESTIVAL @ TUNBRIDGE WELLS 2016**  
**A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC, VISUAL ARTS, FOOD AND DANCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

**FAMILY FRIENDLY FREE EVENT**

**MELA FESTIVAL 2016**  
@ TUNBRIDGE WELLS

**JULY 17 2016**  
**BETWEEN 12.30PM AND 6.30PM**  
**CALVERLEY GROUNDS, ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT**  
**MELA FOOD ZONE • MELA ARTS ZONE**

MELA PARTNERS

    

For further Information Please contact: **Gurvinder Sandher 01474 369329**  
 Twitter @tunwellsmela  Facebook: TunbridgeWellsMela | [www.cohesionplus.com](http://www.cohesionplus.com)

**SUPPORTING THE MELA BY TEXTING KECC11 TO 70070 AND DONATE BETWEEN £1 AND £10**