

September edition

Imago charity shop relocates

The Imago charity shop in Tunbridge Wells has outgrown its premises in Crescent Road. So this month saw its expansion. Most of our stock has been relocated to the ground floor of our building in Monson Road. The relocation has resulted in a significant increase in visitor numbers ... and subsequent increases in donations and sales. Our Crescent Road site is still open for books and pictures. If you haven't yet visited, why don't you pop in to Monson Road or Crescent Road to grab a bargain.

To follow the progress of our shop and to find out about key pieces for sale follow the shop on twitter [@imacharityshop](https://twitter.com/imacharityshop). If you would like to know more, contact the shop manager Sally Simms on 01892 530330 or email sally.simms@imago.community.



Voluntary sector networking event

On 15th September Imago staff organised a networking event for voluntary and community groups in West Kent. It was held in the Camden Centre in Tunbridge Wells and the guest speakers were Natalie Smith from Kent Community Foundation and Craig Kendall from Kent County Council. It was an excellent opportunity for groups to find out what others are doing and to share their experiences of applying to these funds. All who attended gave updates and we learnt a lot about local developments, a few examples of which are:

- Tunbridge Wells Citizens Advice is advertising for an Advice Manager (see [page 3](#))
- New Shoes Theatre is touring its play and discussion about domestic violence and is developing a new production about FGM
- What [PMRGCAuk](#) stands for
- KCF have a new fund for organisations in west Kent (see [page 2](#))

To find out more about joining a network visit our website or contact [Wendy McGeachy](#).



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Good cause lotteries are go!

Good cause lotteries are flavour of the month with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. TWBC are at advanced discussion stage with an external lottery manager and the Hive Lotto is already live for organisations in Tonbridge and Malling. It looks like a good way to attract extra funds for your organisation.



Tickets for [Hive Lotto](#) are £1 each. With each ticket bought via an organisation's link, that organisation receives 50p to support their projects. Currently 13 projects in the Tonbridge and Malling area are registered with the Hive Lottery. Could you be the 14th?

The Gatwick Foundation Fund: Deadline 21st October 2016

This week Kent Community Foundation launched the [Gatwick Foundation Fund](#). It is open to charities, social enterprises, community groups and voluntary organisations working in West Kent, specifically the boroughs of Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling.

The Fund will prioritise projects which promote:

- Employment, training and skills – helping people to gain confidence and raise aspirations through training and development of new skills.
- Families – supporting families and children in need and projects which combat social isolation and disadvantage.
- Widening horizons/providing opportunities – supporting projects that enable young people to have opportunities that they would not otherwise have and to help them to widen their horizons and aspirations.
- Elderly people - improving access to facilities and reducing isolation for the older generation.

Grants can be used to fund existing services and facilities or new initiatives. There might also be the opportunity for successful projects to receive support from Gatwick employees. The maximum grant available is £10,000.

For more information contact [Natalie Smith](#), Senior Funds Manager.

Have you applied yet to be the KM Charity of the Year?

Good causes in Kent applying to be the 2017 KM Charity of the Year could now also receive a cheque for £2,000. Specsavers branches across the county have decided to support the application process by picking their own cause to champion from those applying to KM, and awarding their choice a cheque.

Last year 183 charities and good causes applied to be one of the 10 editors' charities of the year with the chosen causes championed in their corner of the county for 12 months.

Applying to be KM Charity of the Year is easy. Visit www.kmcharityteam.co.uk and complete the application form. The deadline for applications is **21st October**.



#GiveFive

A social media campaign is urging people to donate their first plastic £5 note to charity, after the new version entered circulation at the end of last week. It is asking people to give their first new £5 note to a charity of their choice. Supporters are using the search tags #firstfiver, #givefive and #fivergiver to share the campaign with their followers.

Charities offered free Social Media Toolkit

A free social media [toolkit](#) has been produced by Skills Platform. There is a lot of useful content and not too much jargon. It might be worth a look.



West Kent CCG want to hear from you ... soon

NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) would like to hear from local people about their plans to develop a new model of care. The way that care is delivered is going to change, to offer more care in the community using GP practices and community hospitals. West Kent CCG is working with others to try to integrate health and social care services. GP practices will work with community services, mental health services and the voluntary sector to offer a range of services in a more joined up way.

The CCG would like to hear from people in west Kent about their experience of primary (GP practices) and community services, and whether they have any ideas on how they could be improved. Patients can complete the [survey](#) until **30th September 2016**.

Vacancy at Tunbridge Wells and District Citizens Advice

Tunbridge Wells and District Citizens Advice (TW&DCA) seeks a full-time Advice Manager to take overall charge of their core advisory service. Reporting to the Chief Officer, you will be responsible for a small team of paid supervisors and about 80 volunteer advisors. This role is all about nurturing and developing our volunteers to be the best they possibly can, so that they in turn can deliver an excellent standard of advice to our clients. A good understanding of Citizens Advice processes and methods is essential for this role and the successful candidate is likely to be an experienced people manager. Experience of managing volunteers is highly desirable.

Application deadline	Noon on Monday 26th September
Interviews	Week commencing 3 rd October
Salary	£27,500 to £30,000 plus contributory pension scheme
Hours	37.5 hours per week
Location	Tunbridge Wells



For further information and an application form please contact Ann Starke on 01892 516335 or astarke@twcab.org.uk.

Trustees' Week to focus on leadership skills

[Trustees' Week](#) 2016 celebrates the UK's 1 million trustees and promotes the benefits of volunteering to be a trustee. This year it will be held between 7th and 13th November and will focus on building skills to make trustees effective leaders.

Organisations interested in taking part can list trustee matching, training and celebration events on the national Trustees' Week [website](#).

Trustees' Week highlights will include:

- NCVO/ BWB and Third Sector Governance Forum's charity conferences on Monday 7 November
- [Charity Commission Webinar on good governance for Trustees](#) on Tuesday 8 November, 7 to 8pm – free online
- Free training resources
- Trustees tweeting about their experiences on [@trusteesweek](#).

Imago will be producing a special Trustees' Week newsletter for those looking to volunteer as a trustee in west Kent. If you have trustee vacancies and would like your organisation to feature in this publication please email your opportunities to volunteering@imago.community by 20th October.



New Imago Service: Bexley Young Carers

Being a young carer can have a negative impact on a young person such as low confidence and self-esteem, low educational attendance and attainment and poor physical and mental health. At Imago Young Carers we aim to reduce the negative and highlight the positive impacts of being a carer such as increased resilience, empathy, a non-judgmental attitude and a caring nature.

Imago Young Carers delivers a support service to anyone aged 8-18 living in Bexley who is taking on caring responsibilities for a family with a long-term illness, disability, mental health or substance misuse issue. The service enables young carers aged 8-18 to receive some respite from their caring responsibilities, socialise with their peers and receive tailored support. We provide social groups for young carers called Chill Clubs as well as in school drop ins, one to one work and information, advice and guidance.

For further information contact the Imago Young Carers Hub: phone: 0300 111 1110
email: hello@bexleyyoungcarers.org.uk. The Imago Young Carers Hub is available for you to call Monday-Friday 9am-5pm to talk about young carers' needs and can provide information, advice and signposting.

You can refer a young carer online at <http://www.imago.community/Children-and-Young-People/Bexley-Young-Carers>



And finally, the winner is

Imago held a prize draw for those who completed one of our surveys and the winner was Stuart Shields from West Kent Community Interpreting Project who wins a bottle of champagne. Well done Stuart.