

Imago Charity Shop

The latest Charity Shops Survey shows a 6% drop in volunteering in charity shops. Imago seems to be bucking this trend with lots of interest in volunteering in our 3 shops. We have recently expanded in Tunbridge Wells and now have our main shop at 17-19 Monson Road, a pop up shop at Number One Community Trust in Showfields and our newly opened book shop in Crescent Road. You can follow the progress of the shop on Twitter [@imacharityshop](https://twitter.com/imacharityshop).



Sevenoaks Partners Debate Community Safety Priorities

The partners in the Sevenoaks Community Safety Partnership met on 12th January to identify the priorities for the coming year. Action will be taken on the 8 priority areas which are:

- Domestic Abuse
- Organised crime groups
- Anti-Social Behaviour including environmental crime
- Repeat victims and locations
- Safeguarding (including Prevent, gangs, human trafficking, modern slavery, child sexual exploitation, vulnerable adults and protecting children)
- Mental Health
- Substance Misuse
- Road Safety

To find out more about the partnership contact community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk



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https://twitter.com/imago_community



<http://www.facebook.com/imago.uk>

Stronger Kent Communities

In addition to the support that you currently receive from your local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) and Volunteer Centre you can now access an innovative package of support from a new Kent-wide consortium. KCC has commissioned a consortium called Stronger Kent Communities to deliver infrastructure services in new ways.

The consortium will be offering business support, strategic support and volunteering and social action opportunities.

One of the first offerings from the consortium is a low cost fundraising training course. This will be available in each of the 12 Kent districts starting with [Sevenoaks](#) in February. They also plan to run 3 more specialist courses. For email notifications about future courses contact Pauline Smith on 01732 749426 or Pauline.smith@westkentextra.org.

To find out more about the consortium call 01227 467230, email info@strongerkentcommunities.org.uk or go to www.kentcan.org.

SDC Voluntary and Community 'Making it Happen' Awards 2017

Sevenoaks District Council values the contribution that voluntary and community organisations and volunteers make to the well-being of people in the District and would like to invite you to take part in their annual 'Making it Happen' Voluntary and Community Awards.

There are ten categories and you can nominate a person or a project in more than one category. The nominations need to be returned by **Friday 14 April 2017**, and the awards ceremony will be held on **Wednesday 14 June, 7.30-10pm, Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks**.

We are more than happy for you to nominate your own organisation, project or volunteer. Or perhaps you have a client who would like to nominate you. I hope you would see this not only as an opportunity to nominate someone or an organisation but also to showcase the work of the sector and help us to celebrate the positive work that you do.

The nomination form is available at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityawards.

If you would also like to participate on the night by having a stand at the venue contact Kelly Webb, Community Safety Manager on 01732 227000 or kelly.webb@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

Good Merger Index

Have you had a look at the latest report on mergers in our sector? [The Good Merger Index 2015/16](#) tracks merger activity in the non profit sector and compares it with activity in previous years. The report is by Eastside Primetimers in association with Big Society Capital and Bates Wells and Braithwaite. Interestingly they say that the number of mergers has remained fairly static and point to the barriers to mergers that exist. It is an interesting report and will be valuable reading for any organisations considering merger.

There are sections on the financial drivers, the types of model adopted and some interesting case studies.



Children's Social Care Developments

The Guardian reports on developments and innovations to children's social work and social care in 2017. Developments include: the launch of the What Works Centre, to enable social workers to learn from the best examples of social work; the introduction of the accreditation scheme for children's social workers; and the conclusion of the Children and Social Work Bill.

Source: [Guardian](#) **Date:** 13 January 2017

Department of Health Consultation

NHS England, along with DWP and the Department of Health are making £70 million available over four years to test different ways to support people with a disability or long-term condition to get in and stay in work. The government has launched a national consultation on work and health and is asking health professionals to have their say on the best ways to transform employment and health support.

The DoH are consulting on why disabled people and people with health conditions might be unable to get a job or keep one, and to recognise the wide range of conditions and circumstances they face.

They want to hear views from a range of respondents:

- people with health conditions and disabled people
- both large and small employers
- employability professionals
- health and care professionals
- families, friends, teachers and carers
- local leaders and commissioners in health, social care and local authorities
- voluntary and community organisations

Closing date: 17th February

<https://consultations.dh.gov.uk/workandhealth/consult/>

Radio Campaign Explores Mental Health Issues

BBC Radio 1, 1Xtra and Asian Network have launched a year-long campaign to encourage young people to explore issues surrounding their mental health. [My Mind and Me](#) aims to: get young people talking about mental health; to reduce the stigma around mental illness; and raise awareness and understanding of mental health issues that affect young people.

BBC Children in Need deadlines

The 2017 deadlines for the BBC Children in Need main grants programme are 1st June and 13th September 2017.

Reaching Communities Funding Simplified

The Big Lottery's Reaching Communities programme provides grants between £10,000-£500,000 for voluntary or community groups. If you're looking to make a positive change to your community, this could be the fund for you.

They are looking to hear from projects that support:

- Lasting and sustainable changes to places and spaces
- Communities to develop happier and stronger relationships with each other
- Taking action to focus on the root causes of social problems to tackle them at the earliest stage

Read the [guidance notes](#) to find out more.

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers now in store

It's that time of year again – [Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers](#) are in store until the 2nd May. Since Active Kids began in 2005, over £170million worth of equipment and experiences have been claimed.



WomenWork

Friday 10th March 2017 Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

An event is taking place on 10th March in Tunbridge Wells which may be of interest to some of you. A variety of speakers will talk on subjects relating to health and wellbeing, increasing confidence, starting your own business and performing well in the world of work. There are several speakers from local voluntary sector organisations.

The day is made up of **three events**:

1. the daytime **FREE workshops** - to be booked in advance.
2. the **evening event** (£5 per ticket) - with all proceeds being donated to the Pickering Cancer Drop in Centre - book online, by phone, at the Gateway or pop into the Box Office.
3. the **NatWest Mobile Business School (FREE all day)**. 10.00am - 6.00pm offering free advice to anyone setting up a business. Writing a business plan, marketing plan, finding investors, crowdfunding, angel investing, mentorship, how to build partnerships and network.



Thanks for the support

Christmas is becoming a distant memory but we'd still like to thank many of the generous benefactors that made it so special for the children and young people that we support.

We would like to thank Heart Radio for the many presents from the Giving Tree that they provided for Kent Young Carers and for the children in our Short Breaks clubs.

We also need to mention Hélène Carpentier de Caro (Corporate Social Responsibility Executive) and the rest of her team from Lloyd's who provided food and presents for our Christmas Party in Maidstone, they also volunteered on the evening too! The cake was made by a volunteer baker from Free Cakes for Kids Tonbridge.



Imago Care Navigator Service

Looking for some office experience or to use your existing skills? Confident with computers and talking to people on the phone? The Imago Care Navigator team is looking for volunteers to carry out evaluations with clients over the telephone, record comments and update spreadsheets. This is a greatly valued service and collecting feedback helps develop and improve future activities.

The team are looking for volunteers in both their Sevenoaks and Gillingham offices and full training is provided. We anticipate the role will require a commitment of 2 half days per week.

For more information contact sharon.overy@imago.community or phone 01892 530330.

Brain Injury Support



HAWKHURST

Friday's 11am-12.30pm

Grove Mills, Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4AS

- Join us for refreshments and a chat in a relaxed space
- Information and advice available, carers and family welcome
- Limited parking on site
- Contact Kate on 01892 619001 or visit our website www.headwaywestkent.org.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED

Headway West Kent, 3 Culverden Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 9QT
www.headwaykent.org (Charity no. 1062884)

YOUR
FUTURE
NOW!

**FREE workshops for 16-24 year olds
 to start your journey into work.
 Lunch provided**

Location: Children's Centre, Broomhill Park Road, Southborough TN4 0JY

MON 6 FEB	1. First steps - finding out what you want to do 10.00am - 12.00pm	TUE 21 FEB	5. Making the most of your money 1.00pm - 3.00pm
TUE 7 FEB	2. Building your confidence and tips for dealing with stressful situations 1.00pm - 3.00pm	MON 27 FEB	6. Benefits of volunteering/keeping that job 12.00pm - 2.00pm
MON 13 FEB	3. Identifying your skills and starting your CV 12.00pm - 2.00pm	FRI 3 MAR	7. Outdoor activity day with Kent High Weald Partnership 10.00am - 3.00pm
MON 20 FEB	4. Interview skills - tips and techniques 12.00pm - 2.00pm	TUE 7 MAR	8. Outdoor activity day with Kent High Weald Partnership 10.00am - 3.00pm

Contact:

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 dawn@working-futures.co.uk

