

HVA E-Bulletin: 15th January 2024

NEWS

Links Project Receives Generous Donation

Shortly before Christmas, The Links Project was delighted to receive a generous donation of £500 from Louise Carlyle, partner of the late Jeremy Birch, former leader of Hastings Borough Council. The money was raised from sales of a book titled 'Remembering Jeremy', which celebrates Jeremy's life and his huge contribution to the town.

Donations were also made to the The Refugee Buddy Project and Hastings Community of Sanctuary, reflecting Jeremy's unwavering commitment to the people of Hastings and all those who arrived here seeking refuge. Full story

here: <https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/news/links-project-receives-generous-donation>

Tribute to Pat Fisher

Everyone at HVA was saddened to hear of the recent death of Pat Fisher the founder of Gizmo – a unique local organisation offering pathways into performance for children and young people. For years Pat was the driving force behind Gizmo and its schedule of performances at local events. Though her work in the community she enabled huge numbers of young people to gain the confidence to perform for the first time – truly enabling them to find their voice. She will be hugely missed.

Read the full tribute here: <https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/news/tribute-pat-fisher>

New Year Honours 2023

HVA would like to congratulate those people whose contribution to the local community was recognised in the recently published New Year Honours list. Local members of the VCSE community were recognised this year in the fields of peer education, mediation and support to the victims of conflict. We celebrate their work, contribution and many years of service to those in need. Full story here: <https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/news/new-years-honours-2023>

Could you be an HVA trustee?

Hastings Voluntary Action's trustee board is still able to co-opt additional people to be HVA trustees, particularly if you are a representative of a Hastings charity, community group or social enterprise. The commitment is 6 meetings a year. If you have been inspired by the work we do, and you feel you can guide and steer HVA in the future, find out more

information here: [Could you be an HVA trustee | Hastings Voluntary Action](#)

Are you looking for office space?

We have a spare room to rent at Jackson Hall for a local charity, community group or social enterprise, at a very affordable rate. The Office is 22m² with views over Hastings town centre, access to a shared kitchen with other voluntary organisations, an entry phone system and reception cover 9am – 4pm. The cost of the office is currently £337.50 per month inclusive of heating and lighting. To find out more express an interest contact Laura on 01424 444010 or email finance@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk

Volunteer Coordinator's Networking Forum, 29th February

Our next Volunteer Coordinator's Forum will take place on Thursday 29th February, 9.30 – 12.30, at Hastings College, Station Plaza. Discussion topics include young people and volunteering, including a presentation from a representative from the DofE; how can we diversify our volunteer pool; Volunteers' Week planning and more. The team from Bronzelabs will also be there to chat to you and give you an update about Tribe, an online volunteering platform that has rolled out across East Sussex. Book your space here: <https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/civcrm/event/info%3Fid%3D494%26reset%3D1>

HCN Open Mic, Marketplace & Hastings Levelling Up Partnership Programme

28th March 2024, 10am-1pm, The Hastings Centre

We are pleased to announce the date of our Hastings Community Network event 'Open Mic & Marketplace' which will include a session about the Hastings Levelling Up Partnerships Programme. This is an opportunity to share information about your work, learn about a range of services that are delivered in Hastings, browse the marketplace, and network with a mixture of people from the voluntary, statutory and independent sectors. You will also have the chance to hear about the Hastings Levelling Up Partnerships Programme. Book at: <https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/events>

Let's Talk Men's Health - Wed 7th Feb, 7-9pm, Hastings Library

Hastings Library have a new date for the open and honest talk about men's health, supported by local poets and charities including HVA. Find out more here: <http://tinyurl.com/47pckv5>

Opportunity: Peer Researcher

The [Mr. - Men's Room Hastings & St Leonards](#) team has an exciting opportunity for 2024

- would you like to join the project and become one of our peer researchers collecting stories from men in your local community? For more information please contact John from the research team : john@apteligen.co.uk or call John on 07789 896022

Winter Support - Food Access Sheet

The Hastings & Rother Food Network have compiled a Food Access document for frontline organisations looking to refer clients for help or for anyone else needing to access emergency or low cost food.

You can download the document here: <https://tinyurl.com/574yjwbx>

Public Consultations

Would you like to give your views and opinions on local issues? The following consultations and surveys are open to the public, giving you a chance to have a say about what is important to you in your community. To take part in any of these surveys or questionnaires, please click on the title of the one you would like to complete and follow the link to the webpage.

- [NHS - Redevelopment Plans for the Conquest, Eastbourne DGH & Bexhill Hospitals](#)
- [Healthwatch East Sussex- Feedback Your Experiences of Health & Care Services](#)
- [Home Farm Garden Survey](#)
- [Lived Experience Consultation: Safe Accommodation for Survivors of Domestic Abuse](#)
- [HBC - Statement of Community Involvement](#)
- One You ES - [How to Develop our Services to Better Serve the Community](#)
- [ESCC - Supporting People With Mental Health Support Needs to Address their Financial Health](#)
- [ESCC - Budget & Priorities for East Sussex - close 10th December 2023](#)
- [Clinical Reference Group Stakeholder Registration](#) - close 31st December 2023
- [ESCC - East Sussex Transport Plan 4 \(2024-2050\)](#) - close 25th February 2024
- [NHS - Health Checks Client Survey](#) - close 30th April 2024
- [Care Opinion - Share Your Experiences of UK Health & Care Services](#) - ongoing

FUNDING

VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme

If your charity or social enterprise runs a building, you may be able to make it more energy efficient and save money on your energy bills. Apply for an Independent Energy Assessment for your building, which could unlock capital grants to make some of the changes recommended in that assessment.

For full information visit <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/vcseenergyefficiency/>

Homes for Ukraine Community Support Grant Fund

Hastings Voluntary Action is working with East Sussex County Council to provide small grants to community groups and voluntary organisations that are already established to support people who are part of the Homes for Ukraine (HfU) scheme in Hastings; or have already adapted their activities/services to support HfU, or set up as a result of a local involvement in the HfU programme. The Homes for Ukraine (HfU) Community Support Grant Fund is set up to make grants of up to £5,000 towards activities across four identified themes, Transportation, Social Interaction, Wellbeing Activities, and Accessing Services.

For more information visit: [Homes for Ukraine \(HfU\) Community Support Grant Fund | Hastings Voluntary Action](#)

HVA's Small Grants Guide

Here is the latest version of HVA's Small Grants Guide, listing information about sources of funding up to around £10,000 for local charities, community groups and social enterprises:

[HVA's Small Grants Guide | Hastings Voluntary Action](#)

East Sussex County Council Funding News

Every month ESCC produces a listing of different sources of funding that would be relevant for charities, community groups and social enterprises.

[Funding News – monthly updates on sources of funding | East Sussex County Council](#)

TRAINING

HVA Finding the Funds Training

This FREE training is aimed for people who are fairly new to fundraising or who are looking for small amounts of money up to £10,000. In this training session we will think about different sources of funding for charities, community groups and social enterprises, and look at how to fill in a funding application form for a small grant. This training is FREE for two representatives of voluntary/community organisations that operate in East Sussex.

There is a choice of two sessions:

Thursday 21 March 2024 9.30am-12.30pm (in person in Hastings)

Monday 25 March 2024 2.00pm-4.00pm (online on zoom)

To book a place, visit www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/events or phone 01424 444010. HVA are assessing if there is enough interest to repeat this training one evening – please email peter@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk if you would prefer an evening training session.

HVA's Training Programme

Hastings Voluntary Action runs a programme of training throughout the year for volunteers, employees and trustees of charities community groups and social enterprises. Forthcoming training includes:

Basic Food Hygiene & Infection Control – 2nd February 2024, 10am-12.30pm

Directors Briefing – 4th March, 2pm-3pm

HCN Open Mic, Marketplace & Levelling Up Programme – 29th February 10am-1pm

Basic Safeguarding Adults Awareness – 26th March 2024, 10am-12.30pm

Professional Boundaries – 26th April 2024, 10am-12.30pm

To book or find out more head to: [Events | Hastings Voluntary Action](#)

What training do you need?

At Hastings Voluntary Action we are planning our training programme for 2024, to improve the effectiveness of Hastings charities, community groups and social enterprises. Almost all of our training is free of charge to participants. What training do you need, and your volunteers, trustees and staff? If you haven't let us know already, please complete HVA's 2024 training survey: [What training do you need? | Hastings Voluntary Action](#)

VOLUNTEERING

The **Hastings International Piano Competition** runs from 22 February - 3 March 2024 and we are looking for volunteers to help with the lead up to this event and during the event at the White Rock. Duties include helping on the front desk, selling merchandise, stewards to help steer our competitors in the right direction. We also need host families to provide accommodation and moral support to our competition entrants during their time in the competition. If you think you have space in your calendar and/or your home during our

competition, contact Jess on: jess.young@hastingsinternationalpiano.org

Hastings Furniture Service would like to expand our Board of Trustees and it is an exciting time to join us. We are currently developing our new 3-year plan to deliver even greater impact to the people and families we support, which you will have a key role in shaping and influencing. Contact CEO Kate Davidson for more information email kate@hfs.org.uk or visit <https://hfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/HFS-Trustee-Recruitment-pack-Nov-23.pdf>

Are you passionate about community dance? Have you experienced the joy, energy and buzz of a shared dance activity? Would you like to make a difference and enable more people to get involved. **Dance Hastings** is looking for people like you and have a range of opportunities for you to explore. We currently have openings for Trustees and Buddies. If you would like to find out more, and join the Dance Hastings Team call or email Phillippa on 07790698053 or philippabeagley2@gmail.com, Or follow this link to the Dance Hastings website: www.dancehastings.co.uk

NCT Parents in Mind provide judgement free, welcoming peer support to parents of children under 2 who are feeling overwhelmed, isolated or struggling with their mental wellbeing. We offer accredited mental health training to equip our volunteers with the skills to actively listen and allow our service users to feel heard. Our next training dates for Mums, Dads and Parents from the LGBTQIA+ community begin in January and February. Please email parentsinmind.es@nct.org.uk for more information.

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Links Project

The Links Project continues to be delivered every Wednesday from HVA's main office at Jackson Hall, Hastings and we hope to be back at Central Hall as soon as possible. The Eastbourne drop in remains unchanged. Details can be found at: <http://www.hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/project/links-project>. For enquire please call 01424 444010 (during normal office hours) or email marc@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk

Room Hire

Our offices located in Hastings town centre have a range of spaces specifically designed to

accommodate meetings, training and interviews. We try to keep the charges affordable and offer reduced rates for local charities and community groups that are HVA members. By hiring these meeting spaces you are supporting us and the communities of Hastings that we serve. To find out more head to: <https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/service/hire-room>

Did you know HVA runs a Payroll and Pensions service?

Costs for this service are extremely competitive, starting from just £19.50 per pay run for combined payroll and pensions processing! To find out more and discuss how we might help you with your payroll responsibilities, contact Tinka Neascu on payroll@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk / 01424 444010 or head to: <https://bit.ly/3jA2XdA>

JOBS

ESCV

ALLIANCE ADMINISTRATIVE & PROJECT SUPPORT OFFICER

East Sussex Community Voice (ESCV) are seeking an organised individual with excellent administrative and project support skills, with an eye for detail and a 'can do' attitude.

Deadline: 21st January

Follow the link for more details:

<https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/jobs>

**FSN
FAMILY SUPPORT
WORKER (Eastbourne)**

FSN are looking for an enthusiastic individual who could support families in a hub environment. You will need to be able to deliver a range of activities, working with the whole family or with groups of children and/or young people (8 hrs p/w)

Deadline 26th Jan

Follow the link for more details:

<https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/jobs>
