



# Swale Voluntary Sector News

September 2011

**We were honoured to have the High Sheriff of Kent, Mrs Georgie Warner, and her husband, Charles, visit our offices on Tuesday 16th of August.**



Mrs Warner was interested in finding out about the voluntary and community sector in Swale and was keen to visit projects in the area.



After a tour of our offices in the morning, Mrs Warner visited Swale Mediation and then the Murston Project Summer Scheme, where she enjoyed watching the children practising their cycle skills.

Following lunch back at our offices and a chat with Joanne Wintle-Smith of Faversham Community Volunteers, the afternoon was set aside for the Island. With our Volunteer Co-ordinator, Julia Watling acting as tour guide, the High Sheriff of Kent then proceeded to visit Castle Connections, Danley Marshes Riding stables and Sheppey Matters.



Mrs Warner and her husband were very impressed with the work being undertaken in local communities by the voluntary groups in Swale and also, the high level of volunteers who are instrumental in helping these projects on a daily basis. All in all the day was a great success and the High Sheriff of Kent was keen to thank everyone that made the visit most enjoyable.

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# Swale news

## ***New Staff for Swale Council for Voluntary Services***

**Hello...I am Leigh-Anne Eason, I am the new Transport Officer.**



I am so happy to be working for such a great team. I have recently taken on this position after some months of volunteering and hit the ground running.

After a walking accident I found myself having to change my career and after many years of recuperation I discovered swale CVS and their amazing team, I was taken on as a volunteer receptionist. My confidence and self esteem built and when Geraldine Collins left I felt confident enough to apply for the new position.

I am genuinely so proud to be part of such a great happy team and equally proud to be helping our lovely clients and look forward to interviewing lots more volunteer drivers!!

**Hello, I'm Maria Cardoso and I have recently taken on the role of Befriending Co-ordinator.**



Although our Befriending Scheme has run for many years and has proved beneficial for all our clients, I have been given the opportunity to expand and enhance the scheme to benefit more clients and support more volunteers so we can reach out to the wider community in the near future.

We still make no charge for our service, relying on our volunteers and it is clear that all involved - volunteers and clients – appreciate the chance of conversation and friendship.

Befriending is highly valued by the people who are befriended and our aim is to promote this resource as far as possible.

For more Befriending information, please contact Maria Cardoso: tel: 01795 473828; e-mail [maria.cardoso@swalecvs.co.uk](mailto:maria.cardoso@swalecvs.co.uk)

## ***~~~~ Keep Sittingbourne Tidy - "Love Where You Live" ~~~~***



For Sittingbourne and Sheppey's 'Big Clean-up' Gordon Henderson MP joined the staff at Swale CVS to re-plant the flower beds outside the offices as part of the month-long **Keep Britain Tidy "Love Where You Live"** initiative which helps to combat litter and make our streets a much nicer environment.

"Many community groups and businesses tell me that they clean outside their premises on a regular basis, however, the campaign can still highlight that to set an example to others who perhaps have yet to make the effort" said Mr Henderson.

At the launch of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, Mr Henderson MP was joined by the Secretary of State for environment, food and rural affairs, Caroline Spelman MP and Kirstie Allsopp, who is an ambassador for Keep Britain Tidy; both of whom stressed the importance of cutting down on the amount of litter that is dropped in Britain.

**Gordon Henderson will be hosting a conference in October for the business, voluntary and community sector in Sittingbourne and Sheppey.**

**And will be held at the Kent Science Park on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011, between 8:00am – 11am.**



The conference will be held in partnership with two local organisations;

- Local Action, a Community Interest Company working in Swale to deliver community change projects with local people
- Swale Council for Voluntary Service, a local infrastructure organisation who work behind the scenes to ensure that local voluntary and community sector groups and organisations get the support they need.

Local businesses, charities and community groups will have the opportunity to network and listen to guest speakers specifically chosen to talk about their work and how they support the sector.

There will also be a question and answer session with local MP, Gordon Henderson.

Christine Taylor, Director of Local Action, who is helping to organise the conference said,

“By working together, both the business and voluntary sectors in Swale can pool their knowledge and develop partnerships that will enhance community action and social responsibility.”

Mr Henderson said,

“I believe this will be a great opportunity for local businesses, charities and community groups to come together to share their knowledge and experience. This will hopefully encourage them to work more closely to improve the community services on offer within Sittingbourne and Sheppey”.

“The question and answer session will allow those present to discuss any issues currently affecting them as well as highlight anything they would like me to ask the Government or pass on, on their behalf.”

To book a place at the voluntary and community sector conference, please email Christine Taylor on [christine@localactionuk.org](mailto:christine@localactionuk.org).



**Drop in** ... if you would like free confidential, advice, information or support in an informal setting



**We can:**

- ✓ explain and help with forms and paperwork
- ✓ arrange a time to discuss issues in depth and explore options
- ✓ help you prepare for meetings or arrange to support you at meetings
- ✓ provide and explain information on SEN and Disability processes and the legal framework
- ✓ help you communicate your concerns

**12 October 2011**  
**9 November 2011**  
**11am – 12:30pm**

**Murston Children's Centre**  
*Church Road, Murston, Sittingbourne, ME10 3RU*

**Did you know?....**

*By impartial, KPPS understands the meaning to be:*

- *not favouring one side over another*
- *treating all parties respectfully; and*
- *not having any rights or power over the outcome of any discussions or decisions*

**Drop in** ... if you would like free confidential, advice, information or support in an informal setting.



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- ✓ provide and explain information on SEN and Disability processes and the legal framework
- ✓ help you communicate your concerns
- ✓ signpost to other support organisations

**Tuesdays 25 October and 22 November 2011**

**9:30am – 11:30am**

**Minster Community Centre**

*55-57 New Road, Minster-On-Sea*

**Sheerness, ME12 3PT**

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**SWALE POLICY BULLETIN**

A digest of key announcements which could affect either the Council or the Borough of Swale.  
 Courtesy of Swale Borough Council

<p><b>Localism Bill</b></p> <p>The House of Commons Library has issued a briefing note giving an overview of the amendments to the local government and community empowerment parts of the Localism Bill so far. The Bill will continue its passage through Parliament when the House reconvenes this Autumn and will be subject to further changes through amendments.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN06006">http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN06006</a></p>
<p><b>Kent Youth Service Hub</b></p> <p>KCC are inviting views on their proposals to change the Youth Service before any decisions are taken. The consultation runs until 29 October.</p>	<p><a href="http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Youthservice2011/consultationHome">http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Youthservice2011/consultationHome</a></p>
<p><b>Public service reform and civil society organisations</b></p> <p>Civil Society Minister, Nick Hurd, has issued an open letter outlining the Government's plans to help charities, social enterprises and other civil society organisations to play a bigger role in public service delivery through the investment and contract readiness fund.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/open-letter_0.pdf">http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/open-letter_0.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Safe and Active Communities</b></p> <p>The Government has published a progress report following up the publication of the Safe and Active Communities report by Baroness Newlove earlier this year.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/19538171.pdf">http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/19538171.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Community organisations controlling assets</b></p> <p>A research report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows that there has been an increasing policy interest in the ownership and management of assets by community-based organisations. The report shows there is a diverse range of community organisations engaged in this work and proposes that particular kinds of support are needed if the field is to flourish.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/community-organisations-assets-full.pdf">http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/community-organisations-assets-full.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Community Orchards</b></p> <p>The Department for Communities and Local Government has issued a 'How to guide' on setting up a community orchard.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1973262.pdf">http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1973262.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Big Society Bank</b></p> <p>The Cabinet Office has announced the establishment of the Big Society Bank.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/big-society-bank-launched">http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/big-society-bank-launched</a></p>

The Kent LINK is pleased to be hosting a Community Engagement Event in Sittingbourne on Tuesday, 4 October 2011 at UK Paper Leisure Club, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, ME10 4DE at 10.00am to publish the findings of the recent Mental Health Report.



During 2010, the Kent LINK worked with Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) to look at how investments can be made to services. The Kent LINK will launch the resulting Action Plan at the Event, where participants will be invited to monitor the parts of the services that they are involved with.

Both experts by experience and carers are invited to attend this meeting, to give their views on how the Kent LINK can support KMPT to invest in services and improve them for people who use those services. Kent and Medway LINK participants are urged to attend this event as KMPT provide services for those living in the communities of Kent and Medway.

The event will commence at 10.00am with registration and refreshments and a light buffet lunch will be provided. The meeting will close at 2.45pm to avoid traffic congestion with local schools.

Places at the Event are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you have not already booked your place and would like to attend, please contact Sylvia at the Kent LINK:

Telephone: 01303 297050 Email: [sylvia@kmn-ltd.co.uk](mailto:sylvia@kmn-ltd.co.uk)

Write to: The Kent LINK, FREEPOST NAT 17761, Folkestone, CT19 4BR

Please ensure that you advise any dietary or special requirements when booking your place. If you require a hearing loop, interpreters or accessible formats, please let us know prior to the meeting.

*In accordance with the LINK's Governance, expenses are not reimbursable from the LINK for attendance at this event. If you are attending this Event and are able to offer transport to another attendee it would be greatly appreciated. The LINK is unable to accept any responsibility or liability for such an arrangement, but it will act as a facilitator to pass on details. Please contact us for further information.*

## NEWS

### Other news & events

#### **sported launches new grants programme**

sported provides funding and capacity building services to voluntary and community sports groups that use sport to support disadvantaged young people. sported has recently launched a new funding stream for small grants up to £2,000 which is open to members.



Membership to sported is free and it is looking for new members in Surrey, Kent and Medway.

For more information on becoming a member and accessing the support and funding on offer visit <http://www.sported.org.uk/news/regional-news/south-east/sported.-launch-new-grants-programme-in-the-south-east>

#### **Planning for Low-carbon Living - Maidstone, 6 October 2011**

A free one-day training workshop run by **Centre for Sustainable Energy** for those working with communities on community led planning for a sustainable future. The workshop will introduce you to a suite of tools and information designed to support communities to plan low-carbon and renewable energy initiatives.



For more information and how to register visit <http://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1546>

#### **Empowering the Voluntary Sector workshops**

NAVCA are running workshops in Bracknell, Guildford, Eastbourne and Maidstone in October and November to equip third sector organisations to better negotiate with public bodies. These workshops are open to staff and volunteers from all third sector organisations who are funded by, or seeking funding, from public bodies.



For more information and to find out how to book your place visit

<http://www.navca.org.uk/services/learningopps/evs/evsworkshops#datesandvenues>

Do you have a **desire to challenge preconceptions and myths about ageing and older people?**

Do you recognise and seek to celebrate that **older people are assets**, contributing in many diverse ways to their families, neighbourhoods, and local communities, **with a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience** that can and does benefit others?

Rather than passive recipients of services, do you see **older people as active participants with voices that need to be heard**, playing an **important role in reaching solutions**, including volunteering, supporting other older people, or self-support?

If you answered yes to all of the questions above then you will be interested to know that Big Lottery Fund will shortly be rolling out an exciting new challenge:–  
*to develop great ideas into projects that will pioneer approaches which help vulnerable older people manage change in their lives.*

We will be soon be seeking inspiring and exciting ideas which:

- Deliver either a completely new service, grow, or replicate to a new area, a service that has been proven to be successful;
- support and strengthen older people through difficult changes in their lives (recognising that transitional phases are times when anyone can become particularly vulnerable but that older people often face specific challenges);
- help older people to prepare for future transitions, building resilience and capacity to cope with difficult life events;
- see volunteering as an opportunity utilise the skills and experience of active older people to support the less active ageing population;
- and embrace partnership working with other agencies and organisations, and particularly with local communities to address the current and future needs of older people.

We hope that the challenge will stimulate interest amongst groups who might not traditionally apply for Lottery funding and create sustainable partnerships between local organisations to deliver joined up support for older people. Whilst only voluntary and community groups, registered charities, social enterprises and other not for profit companies will be able to submit ideas directly, partnerships can include private sector and statutory bodies, as we are particularly interested in testing new models of interventions that support older people to manage changes in their lives.

**Look out for further information, including how to submit your ideas, coming soon....**

Kate Sawdy  
Regional Manager - Development, South East  
T: 01483 462903  
F: 01483 462915

Big Lottery Fund, Chancery House,  
11-17 Leas Road,  
Guildford,  
Surrey,  
GU1 4QW



# Vcs training

## Courses Running in Swale

First Aid Appointed Person		28th SEPTEMBER 2011	9.30 - 4.30	£40
Challenging Behaviour		5th OCTOBER 2011	9.30 - 4.30	£55
SOVA		12th OCTOBER 2011	10.00 - 1.00	£25
Presentation Skills		14th OCTOBER 2011	9.30 - 4.30	£55
Sign Language (BSL)		2/11 NOVEMBER 2011	10.00 - 4.00	£60
Delivering Great Service		8th NOVEMBER 2011	9.30 - 4.30	£55
Drug Awareness		18th NOVEMBER 2011	10.00 - 4.00	£55
Website Design		23rd NOVEMBER 2011	10.00 - 4.00	£55
Minute Taking		25th NOVEMBER 2011	2.00 - 4.30	£55
Funding Applications		2nd DECEMBER 2011	9.30 - 4.30	£55
Food Safety		7th DECEMBER 2011	9.30 - 5.00	£50
Assertiveness		13th DECEMBER 2011	9.30 - 4.30	£55
Dementia Awareness		14th DECEMBER 2011	9.30 - 1.00	£25
Excel Workshop		13th JANUARY 2012	9.30 - 1.00	£25
Volunteer Management		17th JANUARY 2012	9.30 - 4.00	£55
Better Together		18th JANUARY 2012	9.30 - 4.30	£50
Practical Bid Writing		20th JANUARY 2012	1.00 - 4.00	£25
Outputs and Outcomes		27th JANUARY 2012	9.30 - 4.30	£55
Fire Safety (accredited)		3rd FEBRUARY 2012	9.30 - 5.00	£50
Health & Safety (accred)		8th FEBRUARY 2012	9.30 - 5.00	£50

To book a place on any of these courses contact:

Swale VCS Training  
 Central House, Central Ave,  
 Sittingbourne. ME10 4NU  
 Tel: 01795 473828 email  
[training@swalecvs.co.uk](mailto:training@swalecvs.co.uk)

Swale  
 VCS  
 Training

LOTTERY FUNDED



North Kent Partnership has secured 3 years of funding through the Big Lottery Fund.  
 Swale CVS, North West Kent CVS and CVS Medway will use this funding to provide training for the Voluntary Sector across North Kent.

# First Aid (Appointed Person)

28th SEPTEMBER 2011

Registration at 9.15 for 9.30 until 16.30

Venue: Swale CVS, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne

## Overview:

This course covers the syllabus as recommended by the HSE for the appointed person. The appointed person manages the first aid box and equipment and takes charge when someone is injured or falls ill.

## Course Outline

- first aid priorities
- managing incidents
- basic life support
- examination of a casualty
- unconsciousness
- control of bleeding
- burns and scalds
- regulations
- first aid kits
- recording and reporting

To book a place on this course please contact:

Swale VCS Training

Central House, Central Avenue,  
Sittingbourne. ME10 4NU

Tel: 01795 473828 email: [training@swalecvs.co.uk](mailto:training@swalecvs.co.uk)

swale  
VCS Training

Only  
£50

North Kent CVS Partnership



This partnership has secured 3 years of funding through the Big Lottery Fund. Swale CVS, North West Kent CVS and CVS Medway will use this funding to provide training for the Voluntary Sector across North Kent.



# Challenging Behaviour

5th OCTOBER 2011

Registration at 9.15 for 9.30 until 16.30

Venue: Swale CVS, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne

## Overview:

This course is intended to help participants identify what makes effective communication and the specific skills required to be more effective.

## Course Outline

- barriers to communication and how to overcome these
- how to build rapport with others
- the importance of listening and not making assumptions
- how to make communication clear and the importance of clarity
- intention vs perception
- the importance of asking open questions to clarify understanding

To book a place on this course please contact:

Swale VCS Training  
Central House, Central Avenue,  
Sittingbourne. ME10 4NU

Tel: 01795 473828 email: [training@swalecvs.co.uk](mailto:training@swalecvs.co.uk)

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# Funding

## Is your village ripe for revival?

Have you been inspired by the recent Village SOS series on BBC ONE with Sarah Beeny? If so you will be pleased to hear that BIG has launched Village SOS Active, a campaign to inspire and equip people in rural communities to tackle local problems and help revive their local area.



Whether you want to restore and take over your local pub, create a local food business or establish an arts and heritage facility to attract visitors we have pulled together some great resources to help you get started:

- [www.villagesos.org.uk](http://www.villagesos.org.uk) is a new website offering tools and information to help you bring your ideas for community businesses to life. You can also share advice and first hand experiences through an online community network.
- A dedicated **advice line (0845 434 9123)** run by rural community enterprise experts the Plunkett Foundation, offering tailored advice on different aspects of setting up a community business.

And **funding is now available** to help put those big ideas into practice. If your village has a population of less than 3,000 you can enter the [Village SOS Active competition](#). We will be making awards of **£10,000 to £30,000** for the brightest ideas for new community enterprises that will make a lasting difference.

Application forms are available from the Village SOS website.  
The deadline for submitting your idea is **Thursday 6 October 2011**.

## Have your say

**The Government is running a 12 week consultation on proposed new policy directions for the Big Lottery Fund.**

The consultation invites views from a wide range of stakeholders which include the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and other government departments. Welcoming the consultation, Minister for the Cabinet Office Francis Maude said it was about "putting more power in people's hands, opening up public services and encouraging social action".

For more information about the proposed policy directions and how to submit your response visit the [Cabinet Office website](#). The deadline for responses is midnight on **Friday 18 November 2011**.



## Heroes Return 2 extension

**Following the overwhelming popularity of our Heroes Return 2 funding programme, the Big Lottery Fund has extended the scheme's travel date deadline to December 2012.**

**The application deadline for a Heroes Return 2 grant remains 31 January 2012** but Second World War veterans will now have until the end of December 2012 to make their commemorative visits. The Lottery grants are available for travel and accommodation costs for veterans or their widows, along with spouses and a carer.



This extension will be a big help to those who have felt so far unable to make their personal journeys back to the battlefronts of WWII. It is clear how valuable these journeys are in helping veterans to retrace the steps of their past and honour comrades lost almost 70 years ago.

To date over 50,000 veterans have travelled to former battle-fronts in Italy, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Germany, the USA and the Far East as well as attended commemorative events within the UK thanks to the scheme.

Details about the scheme and how to apply are available by calling the Heroes Return 2 advice line on 0845 00 00 121 or by visiting our [http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_heroes\\_return](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_heroes_return)

# Compact news

## Compact Week

This year's Compact Week is taking place between Monday 7 and Friday 11 November. Visit [www.compactvoice.org.uk/compactweek2011](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/compactweek2011) to access resources and find out how to get involved.

### About Compact Week

**Compact Week** is an annual campaign held to promote the Compact and engage voluntary sector organisations, government departments, local authorities and other public sector partners working with the Compact locally or nationally.

### This year's theme is "local knowledge is local power"

With 'localism' high on the political agenda, we're encouraging people from all sectors to think about how well they know their local Compact and how well it is working. We're also asking organisations to find out how their local authority records information on funding awarded to the voluntary and community sector. Knowing about funding in your local area encourages openness and transparency in partnership working, leading to better public services for all.

Plus we're encouraging local councillors, mayors and other senior local government figures to take on a leadership role on the Compact. Leadership from a Cabinet member or other elected member sends out a positive message that the voluntary and community sector is a valued and important partner.

### Get involved

Compact Voice is asking organisations to commit to 3 things during Compact Week.

- 1. Find out how your local authority records and retains information about funding of the voluntary and community sector.** We have recently [published the results](#) of requests made to 351 local authorities in England under the Freedom of Information Act, asking them about their funding to the voluntary and community sector. We're encouraging voluntary and community organisations to use the data or approach local authorities and ask them the above question – encouraging local authorities to record and retain information encourages openness and transparency in their dealings with the voluntary sector.
- 2. Seek a statement of support from council leaders, Mayors or equivalent outlining commitments they will personally take to promote their local Compact.** Many people have reported that leadership is one of the key aspects for strengthening local partnerships. You could also ask councillors to sign up to their local Compact on behalf of their ward.
- 3. Set 3 targets for both sectors to achieve in the coming year.** You could renew or update your Compact or secure engagement with new partners (for example, partners representing the emerging local health structure).

**Tell Compact Voice** about your progress on any of these 3 things, and the best performing areas will be promoted via our website, social media and e-newsletters.

### Events

Various events and activities take place across England during Compact Week. Compact Week is the ideal opportunity to fix a date in everyone's diary to promote the Compact. **Let us know** what events and activities you are holding in your area for Compact Week, and we'll promote them via our website.

Compact Voice has put together a [Guidance Pack](#) (pdf) and collection of resources to help you get Compact Week up and running in your area. This includes news items for websites and newsletters, press release templates, ideas for activities and tips for running a Compact event.

You can also request a Compact Voice speaker for your event via our free speaker service. To request a visit from a member of the team, simply [fill in our short online form](#).

### Compact Awards 2011

We will be announcing the winners of the [2011 Compact Awards](#) during Compact Week.

Nominations are now open, and the deadline for submissions is 5 October.

Being shortlisted is an excellent way to raise the profile of your work, your organisation and verify your knowledge of and commitment to the Compact.

### Find out more

More information about Compact Week is available at

[www.compactvoice.org.uk/compactweek2011](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/compactweek2011)



The next **SCEN** meetings  
will held on

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October  
at 10.00am

in The Artisan Room, Central House, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne

*For agenda items  
Please give Julie Blackmore a ring at  
Swale Council For Voluntary Service (CVS)  
on 01795 473828  
or email: [julie.blackmore@swalecvs.co.uk](mailto:julie.blackmore@swalecvs.co.uk)*

If you have articles for inclusion in next issue please contact

Julie Blackmore at

Swale CVS, Central House, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne, ME10 4NU

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E-mail: [julie.blackmore@swalecvs.co.uk](mailto:julie.blackmore@swalecvs.co.uk)

Web site [www.swalecvs.org.uk](http://www.swalecvs.org.uk)

Swale CVS is committed to working towards equal opportunities

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