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General

The future of Suffolk's libraries

Following recent media coverage, Suffolk County Council are keen to emphasise that no decisions have been taken on closing libraries or otherwise, nor could they be until the consultation has been concluded and the information studied. They have received around 3,500 responses to the consultation. They state that they remain keen to ensure that they tap into local enthusiasm and energy in any solution that they look to implement. SCC is as keen as ever to receive communities' expressions of interest and more details can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/Consultations/LibrariesConsultation2011.htm

Based on the current anticipated timetable, all of the consultation responses and the recommendations Cabinet will consider, should be available in Endeavour House on 7th July, in advance of the Cabinet meeting on 19th July.

IT for Outcomes

One of the key barriers to effectively monitoring outcomes is not having a suitable IT system or database to support your work. With this in mind, NPP have launched IT for Outcomes, a new online resource designed to help you select the right tool to support your monitoring work. They have created a guide to help you establish your needs, and a comparison table to clearly demonstrate key features - for example cost, flexibility, outcomes management functions and ease of use. For more information visit http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=416&dm_i=6FP,E3QP,136QF7,14ZH1,1

Suffolk Rape Crisis seeks volunteers

Suffolk Rape Crisis is looking for more women volunteers to help run its confidential helpline. The helpline has been running since November 2010 and with a steady increase in calls, the need for more volunteers has become clear. Volunteers are given comprehensive training and are asked to commit to approximately three hours per week for one year after completing the training course. Contact kate@suffolkrapecrisis.co.uk or phone 07565769962 or 07551065892 for more details.

Sign up and join the Suffolk Congress

The Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) is a vital and vibrant part of Suffolk life and services. At this time of cuts and wide reaching change, many of these services are under threat. Services need to be offered in new, collaborative and innovative ways and we need to work more closely together and speak more loudly together to ensure that the people of Suffolk continue to receive the services they need.

Add your voice and demonstrate the need for and the value of our work by visiting the Suffolk Congress website at www.thesuffolkcongress.org.uk The sign up is easy and will enable us to follow up with quick surveys that can capture the impact of changes on your services. We will share the information to enable you to shape your services and inform decision makers to help them make the right choices for Suffolk. We'll also have news, events and ways to get involved.

Free help available in West Suffolk

If your group wants some FREE mentoring help, why not take advantage of the mentoring support offered by the West Suffolk LSP. 20 groups in the West Suffolk area can access one and a half days of mentoring support which can be used over the next 11 months. This could take the form of training workshops, one to one advice, ongoing support etc. The type of support available could range from help with developing policies and procedures or a business plan, help with a funding application, a short training session for management committee members etc etc. Contact your local support officer - see below for their details.

Helping older people to stay independent in Suffolk

Age UK Suffolk can now offer more help to people over the age of 60 who want to remain living independently in their own homes following a successful re-launch of its Independence Advisors Service as a result of a new partnership with Supporting People Suffolk.

To request a visit from an Independence Advisor call Age UK Suffolk on 01473 288048, or email marsha.janssens@ageuksuffolk.org or write to Age UK Suffolk at 14 Hill View Business Park, Old Ipswich Road, Claydon, Ipswich, IP6 0AJ.

“The Independence Advisors Service offers a home visit from a friendly, well informed advisor” said Independence Advisors’ Manager, Marsha Janssens, today. “We can visit anyone over 60 wherever they live in Suffolk and the visit is free. Our Advisors are able to discuss any issue that is affecting someone’s daily life and give accurate information and advice about services available to help people stay independent.” Mrs Janssens continued, “We can also help people take action on the information and access local services if they wish, or to consider other housing options if their home is not meeting their needs.”

“The Independence Advisors Service has been running successfully for 5 years in partnership with Suffolk County Council, but a recent injection of funding from Supporting People Suffolk will allow us to expand the service, employing more advisors to meet the high demand for visits” said Mrs Janssens. “As part of this new funding we will be particularly seeking to offer our service to older people living in the county’s Sheltered Housing schemes, in order to assist residents to be fully informed about services available to help them stay living independently for longer.”

Age UK Suffolk is a local independent charity working with and for older people and their family carers in Suffolk. It provides a range of services and support including information help desks, benefits advice, an independent advocacy service, befriending, support for people with dementia and their family carers, day centres and home helps.

Your Health Your Say - NHS Community Conversations 2011

Go and tell your latest health stories - good and bad - to NHS listeners. Tell them about how you look after your physical and mental health, and your use of health services. They also want to know your views on medicines and using them, services in the community, the changing NHS and what keeps you out of hospital.

Two events have been arranged:

- Thursday 30th June 2011 - 12.45pm (lunch and registration) for 1.30pm until 4.30pm at The Stevenson Centre, Stevenson Approach, Great Cornard, Sudbury CO10 0WD.
- Thursday 7th July 2011 - 12.45pm (lunch and registration) for 1.30pm until 4.30pm at Riverside Centre, Mill Lane, Stratford St. Andrew, Saxmundham IP17 1LL.

To book your place click <http://www.suffolk.nhs.uk/yhys/>

Job Vacancies

The Suffolk Refugee Support Forum is currently recruiting for two ESOL Tutors (funded until March 2012). Closing date for the posts is Wednesday 25th May 2011 with interviews expected to take place on the 31st May. All applicants must complete an application form. Application packs can be obtained from the Suffolk Refugee Support Forum, 38 St Matthew's Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3EP tel: 01473 400786.

Events - Courses, Conferences, Workshops and Fun

Understanding the Tender Process - FREE procurement training from SCC, SAVO, Young Suffolk and the Suffolk Children's Trust Integrated Training Programme

Suffolk County Council is working in partnership to offer free training to VCS organisations about tendering for service contracts with Suffolk County Council. The course is running on 31st May and 12th September and places are limited. To book your place please email katrina.browning@suffolk.gov.uk

Give and Take - Volunteer Conference (SAVO and the Suffolk Congress)

There are still some places left for the Give and Take conference on the 6th June 2011 at Kesgrave Conference Centre (9:30-2:00). This event is devoted to the 'Volunteer' in Suffolk and will offer opportunities to discuss:

- The future of volunteering in Suffolk
- Innovation Opportunities
- Investing in your Volunteers
- Toolbox - practical resources for volunteer management, including the new ASDAN volunteering qualification

Contact sue.stephens@savo.co.uk or 01473 275191 for more information or to make a booking for the day.

Environmental Day for all the family - All Under One Roof

When you hear the words 'climate change' and 'global warming' do you feel helpless, unable to do anything about it or does it feel so remote, you haven't got the time or the will to do anything? Maybe, you are at the stage of wanting to know a little bit more but you are not sure how or where to go and if you did, would it really make much difference?

On Saturday July 16th between 10am and 4pm, Bungay is hosting an Environmental Information Day. This is a free event giving everyone an opportunity to browse the different stands without any pressure, a time where you can find out if there is more that you and your family can do.

This event is being held in the Orange Hall at Emmanuel Church, Bungay, NR35 1BH and will have a variety of stands and displays incl. Recycling, composting, double glazing, loft insulation, wood-burning stoves, water softeners, solar panels, biomass boilers, ground source heat pumps, green funerals, rain water harvesting, and an electric car. You will be able to find out about Sustainable Bungay and the various projects that they are involved in, The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and displays from a scientific perspective and our own solar panel journey.

All Things Greener, the Eco shop from Harleston will be selling a selection of their environmentally friendly products, Greengrow - an organic co-operative in Ilketshall St Andrew will have a selection of vegetables on offer and there will be a stall selling recycled toys and games as an example of recycling.

Tea, coffee and light lunches will also be available. Please put July 16th in your diary and come along to see if you can make a difference.

You don't have to be a swimmer to be a part of the British Gas Great East Swim 2011!

Would you be willing to spare some time to help someone achieve a lifetime ambition? The Great East Swim is a mass participation event being held at Alton Water Reservoir on Saturday 11th June. The event needs 30 volunteers like you to make the day a success. All volunteer marshals will be invited to a pre-race induction at an Ipswich hotel on the evening of Wednesday 8th June. To find out how to get involved contact your local Volunteer Centre or e-mail Mike McCarthy at 2012legacy@volunteeringsuffolk.org.uk or call on 01473 275196

SAVO's Training Calendar 2011

24 th May	Level 1 Manual Handling	Ipswich
7 th June	Emergency First Aid	Lowestoft
7 th June	Level 2 Food Hygiene	Lowestoft
13 th June	SAFE Child Protection	Ipswich
14 th June	POVA	Ipswich
16 th June	Time & Management	Ipswich
22 nd June	Risk Assessment	Ipswich
23 rd June	Level 2 Food Hygiene	Ipswich
28 th June	Hygiene in Social Care	Ipswich
29 th June	Level 1 Food Hygiene	Ipswich
30 th June	Speaking & Presentation Skills	Ipswich
1 st July	Emergency First Aid	Lowestoft
5 th July	Level 2 Food Hygiene	Lowestoft
13 th July	Level 2 Health & Safety	Lowestoft
25 th July	Emergency First Aid	Ipswich

For a full calendar, visit www.savvo.co.uk or for more information contact e: sue.stephens@savvo.co.uk or t: 01473 273273.

Free training sessions in West Suffolk

West Suffolk Consortium of Voluntary Organisations in partnership with SAVO have gained funding from West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to offer free sessions to small voluntary organisations, community groups and community activists to develop skills and new ideas on a range of valuable subjects. All the sessions are FREE and different subjects will be running in a variety of locations into next year.

17 th May	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Initial Planning / Setting up a new group	Bury St Edmunds Volunteer Centre
17 th May	6.30pm - 9.00pm	Trustee/Management Committee Roles & Responsibilities	Christopher Centre, Sudbury
25 th May	10.00am - 1.00pm	Organising Events	Lower Downs Slade, Haverhill
25 th May	6.30pm - 9.00pm	Writing Good Funding Applications	Parish Council Office, Mildenhall
8 th June	10.00am - 1.00pm	Business and Project Planning	Voluntary Network, Newmarket
14 th June	10.00am - 1.00pm	Business and Project Planning	Christopher Centre, Sudbury
15 th June	10.00am - 1.00pm	Trustee/Management Committee Roles & Responsibilities	Lower Downs Slade, Haverhill
16 th June	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Writing Good Funding Applications	Bury St Edmunds Volunteer Centre
23 rd June	6.30pm - 9.00pm	Trustee/Management Committee Roles & Responsibilities	Church Institute, Brandon

To book your FREE places and for further information, contact the following people:

For sessions running in Newmarket, Brandon and Mildenhall, contact Caroline Cowie on 01638 608049

For sessions in Bury St Edmunds contact Hazel Pidsley on 01284 766126

For sessions in Sudbury contact Jo Travis-Shelton on 0845 2606340

For sessions in Haverhill contact Elaine Hewes on 01440 708444

Money, Money, Money....

News from the Suffolk Foundation

The Suffolk Foundation is seeking applications to its funding programmes and in particular the Transforming Suffolk Fund and the Improve and Prove Fund. The next closing date for the Transforming Suffolk Fund is 3rd June and applications are encouraged from voluntary or community organisations that wish to carry out a project that fits one of the four themes of the Fund. Grants are up to £5,000.

Additionally the Improve and Prove Fund is seeking applications from voluntary and community organisations with income is under £130,000 pa. If you have a project for which you need funding that would help your organisation move towards self sustainability, then this Fund may be able to help you with a grant of up to £5,000. An Award is also available for voluntary groups who have already carried out projects that have shown some outstanding outcomes and an amount of up to £10,000 could be secured if you are able to demonstrate those outcomes. Other funding programmes are available.

Please see the Suffolk Foundation website for details of any of these funds at www.suffolkfoundation.org.uk . Alternatively, please call Sue Wright on 01473 734127 who is happy to talk about potential applications with you.

Fit Villages Funding

Fit villages is a Suffolk Sport initiative which aims to get the rural population of Suffolk more physically active by utilising village facilities as a base for sporting and physical activity sessions, the nature of which are determined following consultations with the local community. To find out more about Fit Villages, including how to access funding and where current programmes are taking place visit www.suffolksport.com/fitvillages

Budget unveils 'most radical reforms to charitable giving for 20 years'

Charities will no longer have to obtain signed gift aid declarations on the first £5,000 of donations per year in order for those donations to qualify for the tax relief, Chancellor George Osborne announced in his Budget speech in March. The Government also plans to:

- **Move to a new online filing system for Gift Aid claims** - A first step will be the publication of intelligent online forms. Government aims to have the online system fully operational by 2013.
- **Change Gift Aid rules to allow an increased limit for 'thank you' gifts** - The Gift Aid rules will be changed to ensure that the benefit limit for 'thank you' gifts from charities is increased from £500 to £2,500 from April and Government will publish new guidance to clarify what counts as a 'benefit'.
- **Reduce the rate of inheritance tax by 10% moving from 40% to 36% for estates that leave 10% or more of the estate to charity** - This will be a potentially significant benefit to those charities that benefit from legacy income.
- **Increase payments to drivers** - Increase the Approved Mileage Allowance Payments rate to 45p per mile (25p after the first 10,000 miles) and also extend the passenger allowance of 5p per mile, which is already available to employees, to volunteers.
- **Retain the Community Investment Tax Relief (CITR)** - there are calls on government to retain CITR as an important way to stimulate the growth of the social investment market and to channel much needed investment into deprived communities.
- Hold a consultation on reducing tax to incentivise the gift of 'pre-eminent works of art or historical objects to the nation'.
- Examine ways to promote the take-up of **payroll giving**, which has been disappointing and has potential to increase the rates of giving.

Making money from old CDs, DVDs and games

If you have unwanted CDs, video games and DVDs, why not get some money for them for your charity? Sites like Ebay and Amazon allow you to sell books, games etc but rely on single sales from customers. Music Magpie allows you to sell bundles of CDs, games and DVDs to them, which they then resell, and offers a charity section. Prices vary from 30p upwards per item and you must sell more than a hundred items at once. You can scan items through their barcodes to find their worth, submit the details to Music Magpie who then send you a postage label for you to send your parcel to them. A cheque is then sent for the total. Find out more at www.musicmagpie.co.uk

Heritage Lottery Fund wants your views

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has recently launched a consultation which looks at how they will deliver their funds from 2013 onwards. HLF are keen to hear views from as many organisations as possible. The full consultation document can be found at <http://www.hlf.org.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/Pages/Consultationonourstrategicframeworkfor20132019.aspx>

Those groups who want to know more about HLF and their work in the East can find more details at <http://www.hlf.org.uk/InYourArea/EastOfEngland/Pages/Welcome.aspx>

Projects and Partnerships

End of Suffolk Infolink Champions project

At the end of March 2011 the Suffolk InfoLink Champions project, hosted by SAVO, came to an end. We would like to thank all the organisations that supported the project, which recruited 99 volunteers through its lifetime. We would like to wish Kerry Overton, the project officer success in her new role at the Suffolk LINKs. Suffolk Infolink is still available online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/infolink

West Suffolk VCS hub

Calling groups working in West Suffolk - are you looking for new horizons? Do you want to have new flexible and exciting office space with dedicated and shared services? Do you want to be with people who can work together and share future planning, offer complementary services and organisational support, representation and other benefits? Bury St Edmunds Volunteer Centre may have the solution to your aspirations whether you are a big or small organisation, social enterprise or a community interest company.

Contact Hazel or Holden 01284 766126 e-mail burystemunds@volunteercentre.co.uk

Governance and HR Resources for VCS organisations

Health and Disability Questions when Recruiting

The Government Equalities Office has published 'What do I need to know? A quick start guide to the ban on questions about health and disability during recruitment'.

This can be downloaded from

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/110406%20Pre%20Employment%20Questions.pdf>

Will Charitable Incorporated Organisation Status Be Right For You?

Sandy Adirondack's Legal Update gives information on the proposed Charitable Incorporated Organisation legal model (CIO) and poses questions which organisations will need to ask themselves when deciding whether to apply to be a CIO, when the option finally becomes available. For more information visit <http://www.sandy-a.co.uk/managing.htm#cio-yes-or-no>

Social Franchising - A Guide

The Social Enterprise Coalition has published a guide on social franchising, aimed at social enterprises which want to replicate their business model. The guide can be downloaded from <http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/pages/social-franchising.html>

Protecting Charities from Fraud and Financial Crime

The Charity Commission has published the third chapter of its compliance toolkit for charity trustees, Protecting Charities from Harm. It highlights some of the types of fraud and financial crime to which charities are vulnerable and provides practical advice for trustees and managers on how to tackle it. For more information visit http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_toolkit_chapter_3.aspx

New Health and Safety Guidance

The HSE has created new sections on its website which include:

- 'Health and safety made simple', available at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/index.htm>
- 'Voluntary Organisations Managing Low Risk', available at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/voluntary/index.htm>
- 'Checklist for Managers of a Village or Community Hall', available at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/voluntary/village-halls.htm>

Basic First Aid at Work

The HSE has revised its guidance on "Basic advice on first aid at work". This document explains what individuals should do in an emergency and also describes some basic first aid techniques and also gives details of the first aid records an employer needs to keep.

For more information visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg347.pdf>

New Gift Aid Forms

HM Revenue and Customs has issued new Gift Aid forms, including the repayment claim form R68, which can be downloaded from their website at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift-aid-toolkit.htm>

Resources for Small Charities

The Charity Commission has put together a webpage containing a range of resources for small charities. Small may be defined differently in various circumstances but most of the resources on this page will be of interest to charities with income under £25,000 per year. For more information visit http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/charity_requirements_guidance/specialist_guidance/small_charities/default.aspx?

Final thoughts....

Personal social responsibility

Imagine a different form of Bank - a Suffolk Bank - perhaps a tiny little, thatched building a couple of doors down from where you live. It has no interest in money - instead it asks you to deposit your neighbourliness, friendliness, helpfulness, family connections, skills, experience, knowledge. It is staffed by friendly people who you quickly get to know very well. Because you are busy, you cannot pop in every day - so it is useful that this Bank regularly sends you statements of the healthy balance you are building up. New customers soon develop enough in their 'Social' account to feel wealthy - longer term customers - like you - can be described as rich.

You are happy with the Suffolk Bank, because it uses its deposits to very good effect - it invests it in places and people that need this wealth - so they too can become wealthy. You are also quite pleased that you are regularly asked what and how the collective wealth

of the Suffolk Bank should be used - what is important to you becomes important to the bank.

Of course, having made deposits, you may also want to make a withdrawal - perhaps not for yourself, but for someone important to you. As a valued customer it is right that you should get all you need. In fact, if you hit really hard times, the Suffolk Bank should bend over backwards to help you sort out your situation - both you and the Bank are in it for the long term, and know that over a lifetime deposits will far outweigh the withdrawals.

As a Suffolk person, you might be interested in the developing concept of 'Personal Social Responsibility' - it goes to the core of questions about community, society and the role of the individual. Are we individuals that want to use our lifetime to make a positive impact or do we expect it to be done for us.

For me, these are fundamental questions for thinking about the future of Suffolk - is it a journey you are on? I'd like companions on mine.

Jonathan

(PS This isn't a subliminal advert for a certain bank that is big on the idea of charters)

If you want to unsubscribe from Suffolk Sound please email enquiries@savo.co.uk

Feel free to pass this email on to other people you think might be interested - though urge them to sign up themselves by simply completing the short form [here](#)

If you are not already a member of SAVO, why not join us today - we offer membership for individuals and organisations from as little as £5 per annum. Email enquiries@savo.co.uk for more details.

The next edition of Suffolk Sound will be sent out in mid June 2011, the deadline for content is 31st May 2011. Please send any information and articles to Laura Hack laura.hack@savo.co.uk clearly indicating that you would like it to be included within Suffolk Sound.

SAVO Members' Magazine, Suffolk Vollies, will next be published in late July. Please send any information and articles to Robin Hodgkinson robin.hodgkinson@savo.co.uk by 15th June.

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