

THE VALLEY

Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEST VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES

SMILES AND APPLAUSE AT VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Every year thousands of people in Test Valley have reason to be grateful to voluntary and community groups for the services they provide. Many individuals give hours of their time each week without financial reward.

During national Volunteer Week in June, Test Valley Community Services, in partnership with Test Valley Borough Council, celebrated local achievement at an awards ceremony in Romsey.

Certificates of achievement were awarded to 28 voluntary groups and to five individuals.

TVCS leader Janet Blann recalled what an older person said when taken on a day's outing by minibus. "This is my annual holiday," said the lady. "What price can you put on that?" Janet asked the audience.

The following volunteers received individual awards after being nominated by members of their community:

Sonia Few - 12 years voluntary service to Age Concern, Andover.

Diane Dawkins - daily co-ordinator for Romsey Good Neighbours, and work for four other voluntary groups.

Gwen Hugo - for her work in Chilworth Old village.

Peter Betteridge - long involvement with the 10th Crusoe Scout Troop, as well as 18 years service to Romsey Dial-a-Ride.

Peter Mesher - volunteer driver for Romsey Good Neighbours, and support to other charitable organisations.

All presentations were made by the Mayor of Test Valley, Cllr Mrs Pam Mutton.

The event was sponsored by Leckford (the Waitrose farm), Stannah and Testway Housing.

The excellent food (paid for by the sponsors) was prepared on site by volunteers from Longstock Village Hall, to raise funds for their hall.

Music performed by the Mountbatten School Chamber Quartet entertained all during the celebrations.



Janet Hoskins and Bob Tee from Romsey Disability Forum with The Mayor Cllr Mrs Pam Mutton and Mr Dennis Mutton



ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



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45,766 people helped by voluntary groups in Test Valley!

For this and more survey findings, read on

We are very grateful to the 45 groups who returned the survey on our work during 2006. The results have been analysed and are helping us plan our services in future.

Of course, there are more than 45 voluntary and community groups out there, but these groups alone have more than 2,000 members and support more than 45,000 people on a regular basis. What would life in Test Valley be like without them?

We acknowledge there is room for improvement. For example, one or two groups felt we could do more to help them find volunteers, and of 11 groups who attended training, three did not feel that it had increased skills within their group.

Services which will be better targeted and improved, thanks to feedback, are:

- Content of Valley Messenger
- Our quarterly Voluntary Sector Forum
- Funding advice
- Training opportunities

Of the many, many positive comments, here are some highlights:

"Minibus hire very useful and staff very co-operative."

"A valuable network."

"Always there when we need help!"

"Excellent service."

"Your profile has improved. Keep it up!"

"Thank you for being available."

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

News from Kerry St. John Neighbourhood Activities Co-ordinator, Turnaround Project.

There have been lots of exciting activities at King Arthur's Hall recently as well as the regular meetings.

Club Alamein meets every other Wednesday 2 till 4pm and gives older people the chance to talk over tea & cake, listen to a speaker or play cards/games. Recently **Club Alamein**, together with Club Phoenix went on a trip to Swanage - it was a fantastic day out. We are looking to arrange a trip in the summer, maybe to the Watercress Line in Alresford, for a look at the trains and a cream tea. Come and join us!

Alamein Youth Group meets every Wednesday, 4.30 till 6pm, for youngsters 5 - 11 years. Come along and play pool, table tennis, table football, arts & crafts or drumming. The Group is always looking for volunteers to help out, if you have some free time.

The Teapot meets on a Thursday, 9.15 - 10.45am and is for parents/carers to meet and for their children to play. There are lovely staff and a very friendly atmosphere.

During the school holidays there have been wonderful play & picnic days, a teddy bears picnic, drumming workshops, a trip to The Lights, art & crafts for parent/carers, toddlers and older siblings. We have been to the coast, had a big community day, and a community pantomime.

During the summer holidays there will be lots of creative & exciting activities leading up to **The Walk for Inspiration!!** For more information see the Diary of Events on page 7.

Kerry St. John



Some of the children from the Alamein Youth Club

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Needing transport on evenings and/or weekends?

The fleet of minibuses operated by TVCS are proving ever more popular, particularly during the daytime on Mondays to Thursdays, and occasionally we have to turn down requests because we are already fully booked.

However the vehicles are rarely used in the evening or at weekends, and they are also often available on Fridays. We would love to see them out and about at these times too.

Do you run an evening youth group or any other organisation who could benefit from the minibuses to get to and from meetings, events or outings?

Do you know sports clubs who need transport to get to fixtures at weekends? Or youth groups who want to go away for the weekend?

And would you consider changing weekday plans to Fridays if we can't help on the other days of the week?

The hiring rates of the minibuses are extremely reasonable (£12.50 per half day, plus 50p per mile, all fuel included), and the vehicles can be hired from Andover, Stockbridge or Romsey.

Ring **Zoë** or **Dick** on **01264 362600** for more information. We're waiting for your call!

TVBC Mayor's Charity Appeal

Would you like an opportunity to promote and showcase your group while raising funds for your charity?

Over the next year the Mayor of Test Valley, Cllr Pam Mutton, and her committee will be arranging a few special days to help increase awareness of local charities and voluntary groups and their hard working volunteers.

They would be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to join them in promoting their volunteers and charities for the benefit of the community.

Also, if you would like to donate to the Mayor of Test Valley's Charity Appeal, please contact:

Pat West (Chairman) 01264 339880

Jan Lovell (Secretary) 01962 761170

TRAINING ADVICE

LearningNet



If you would like a report on the training needs of your organisation, with specific advice on where appropriate, cost-effective training can be obtained, then the **LearningNet Project** is able to help.

The service is **FREE**, and following a short (45 minute) session with an experienced Adviser, you will receive your own report, summarising the training you need and where to find it. We may also be able to help with costs for training, depending on eligibility.

Over 80 voluntary & community organisations have now benefited from LearningNet's free service, which has identified the training needs of the organisation, the staff and of volunteers.

The service has been developed by the voluntary & community sector for the sector, covering all of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Contact Mary Whitworth on 01264 362600 or email mary.learningnet@tvcs.org.uk to find out more about the service and to book an appointment.

You'll need to be quick; this free service is only available until December!

Using Microsoft Word to produce newsletters, flyers and posters

**Wednesday 5th September 9.30am
12.30pm**

Venue: Meeting room, TVCS, Wessex Chambers, Andover

This workshop, delivered by Learning Links, is designed for those who would like to use MS Word to produce newsletters, flyers and posters. It assumes that you have a

reasonable knowledge of word processing but would like to learn some more features to be able to use the software for producing creative documents. Each participant will have handouts to take away for future reference.

By the end of the session learners will be able to:

- Layout a page using columns and section breaks
- Enhance a document by using images, wordart, borders and symbols
- Use the drawing toolbar to create shapes and add colour

The cost of this workshop will be £20 per learner. Tea and coffee will be provided.

To book a place phone **Zoë Bussian on 01264 362600** or email **zoe.bussian@tvcs.org.uk**. Only a few places available, so don't delay.

A really inspiring day!"

FREE one day training event

Thursday 8th November,
9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Romsey

'Keeping Your Volunteers' is relevant and inspiring. It will help you to understand the many factors that influence communication and motivation.

The event includes free lunch and refreshments, and an A4 booklet packed with information and ideas.

Feedback received by TVCS for previous 'Keeping Your Volunteers' events:

- "Everything was covered. If it wasn't, I would have asked!"
- "Very good discussion sessions, hints and tips."
- "Excellent all round ... far exceeded expectations."
- "A really inspiring day!"

For more information, including programme and learning outcomes, ask **Dawn Elson** (contact details on back of magazine).



COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS

SUCCESSFUL FUNDING BID PROVIDES OUTINGS FOR ISOLATED OLDER PEOPLE

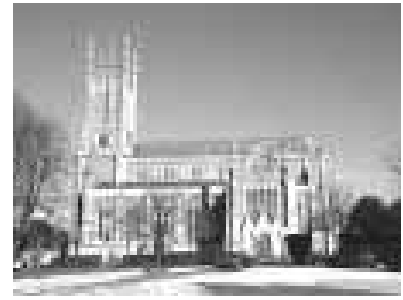
Romsey Good Neighbours (RGN) are running minibus trips to the New Forest this summer, thanks to a £1,000 grant from the Peter Barker-Mill Memorial Charity. RGN have thanked TVCS, in particular Greg Alexander, for his guidance leading to the successful bid.

John White, RGN's Publicity and Information Officer, told us, "This grant is paying for twelve minibus outings and refreshments, hopefully making a memorable half day out for around 140 isolated elderly people over the season. We were unaware of where to apply for the funds, but TVCS identified a trust fund that matched our needs. We are indebted to TVCS and the Peter Barker-Mill Memorial Charity for helping us to provide this treat."

John himself will drive the minibus, having qualified as a MIDAS driver on a TVCS course some years ago. And the minibus ...



... is hired from TVCS!



St Mary's Church Luncheon Club for OAPs

St Mary's Church Andover is to commence a Luncheon Club on Monday 2nd July 2007. The meal will start with soft drinks, then by the main course, followed by a sweet with tea or coffee, and will be served in the Church Centre. Direction signs will be in place.

The meal will start at 12 noon and finish by 1.30pm. There will be no charge for the meal and it is planned to run the club on a fortnightly Monday calendar. They also propose to provide a pick-up and return home service for members. If you are interested in joining the Club please telephone either Doug Elliott on 01264 350002 or Jane Parker on 01264 362800 for more information including their pick-up service.

FOR THE BEREAVED

Grieving for a lost one is healthy and necessary, but it is often a painful process. Who can you talk to about what you are experiencing emotionally? On a practical level, how can you cope with the normal day to day things you need to do?

The Andover branch of Cruse Bereavement Care is open from 10:00 to 11:00 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month for anyone who would like to call in for advice and support.

At their centre at Union House, in Union Street, you can share your feelings over a cup of tea/coffee. Information on practical matters is on hand, and skilled counsellors can offer private time to discuss your worries if you need further support.



For help and information, call their helpline at 01264 336006.

OTHER NEWS

**Working with children and YP?
Want to know about the new joined-up
approach?
FREE CONFERENCE IN ROMSEY
11th July 6.30-9.30 p.m.**

Hampshire County Council is making big changes in the way it works with children and young people. The focus is on joined up local working, managed through a Locality Team based in each one of the districts in Hampshire.

There will be an emphasis on working in partnership with the voluntary sector.

Hampshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (HCVYS) has organised a conference so that local voluntary sector workers and volunteers can hear about the plans first hand.

It will take place at Crosfield Hall, Romsey, on Wednesday 11th July, starting at 6.30 p.m.

- Free refreshments and networking
- What's happening in the localities
- Common Assessment Framework overview
- Information on how to access training
- Integrated Youth Support Services explained
- Group discussion and feedback

Please tell HCVYS if you plan to attend: 01962 843543 or 07967 180572

Or email events@hcvys.plus.com

More information on their website

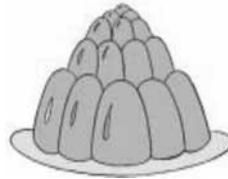
www.hcvys.info

Looking for a meeting room in Andover?



The Junction has more than eight rooms available for hire on weekdays. For more details on the facilities, including photos and descriptions of the rooms, visit www.roomsformeetings.net, and follow the links through South East > Hampshire > Andover > The Junction. At this website you can complete a form with your requirements, which is forwarded to The Junction.

Alternatively, call The Junction direct on 01264 369694 and/or email Andy Hunter at a.hunter@alabare.co.uk.



Spangle Jelly is a FREE county focused recruitment website for social enterprises, the voluntary and community sector and organisations with a social focus.

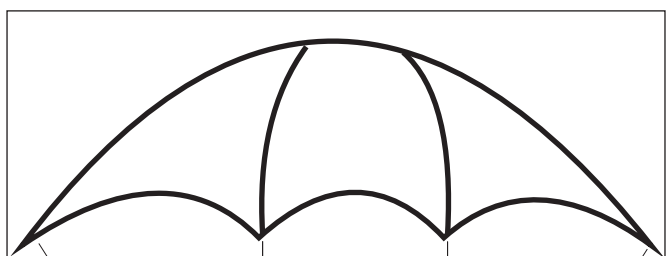
Spangle Jelly is dedicated to providing an efficient and supportive service to organisations of all sizes in reaching, attracting, recruiting and retaining the right candidates. We:

- ✧ Advertise jobs with a clear social and community focus
- ✧ Attract jobseekers from all backgrounds and sectors
- ✧ Believe in the benefits of a diverse workforce
- ✧ Work to ensure that talented people can reach their full potential
- ✧ Consider diversity to be a business imperative as fundamental as delivering high quality services in the sector
- ✧ Support jobseekers and advertisers

Please take a look at www.spanglejelly.org.uk and register with us, start posting vacancies for free - including paid, volunteer and trustee positions and watch out for useful resources including up to date employment law and HR templates and documents.

If you are looking for a new job, look no further than www.spanglejelly.org.uk for your next move!

If you would like further information call one of the Spangle Jelly team on 023 9281 8305 or email spanglejelly@learninglinks.co.uk



CHARITY SKYDIVE "The experience of a lifetime"

You can help The Suzy Lamplugh Trust to help others stay safe by taking a skydive.

It's just a hop, skip and a jump away at Salisbury Parachute Centre.

For a free information pack, call 020 7091 0014.

[Www.suzylamplugh.org](http://www.suzylamplugh.org)



Charities Act 2006 - new rules for charities

The 45 year old constitution of the Charity Commission has been brought up to date by the Charities Act 2006. They have new statutory objectives, functions and duties which affect both large and small charities.

“We welcome the Act wholeheartedly,” says the Charity Commission, “and it’s also good news for trustees. Essentially, it will set charities free from some of the previous bureaucracy.”

Examples of the changes are:

- The income threshold above which a charity must have a professional audit has been raised from £250,000 to £500,000.

- Charities with an income threshold under £5,000 will not be required to register with the Charity Commission.

A new guide, 'Charities Act 2006 - what trustees need to know', aimed at small, volunteer-led charities has been published jointly by the Office of the Third Sector and the Charity Commission. You can download this guide from the Office of the Third Sector's website at

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk. The guide can also be ordered in hard copy, free of charge. To order a copy, call 0845 015 0010 and quote URN 07/Z2. Please note that stocks are limited.

Full details on the Act can be found on the Charity Commission's website at www.charitycommission.gov.uk. Or you may contact the Charity Commission direct on 0845 300 0218.

DIARY OF EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	VENUE	FOR INFORMATION
Sunday 19th August (12 noon start)	'Walk for Inspiration'	Start at King Arthur's Hall	Kerry St John 07927 517764
Tuesday 21st August (11am - 3pm)	Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance Open Day	Thruxton Race Circuit	www.hampshireandiofairambulance.org.uk
Wednesday 5th September (9.30am - 12.30pm)	'Training - Using Word to produce posters/newsletters'	Wessex Chambers, Andover	Mary Whitworth or Zoë Bussian 01264 362600
Wednesday 3rd October	Voluntary Sector Forum	Longstock Village Hall	Dawn Elson 01264 362600
Saturday 20th October	British Red Cross Autumn Gift Fayre	North Baddesley Village Hall	Wendy 02380 730843
Wednesday 7th November	TVCS AGM	Longstock Village Hall	TVCS 01794 519998
Wednesday 12th December	Voluntary Sector Forum	Longstock Village Hall	Dawn Elson 01264 362600

If you would like to advertise your event here please email zoe.bussian@tvcs.org.uk. The deadline for the next issue is 18th September, therefore we are unable to advertise any event before this.



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