

July 2011

Newsletter

The Newsletter for Kingston's
Voluntary & Community Sector



What Will the Grants Review Mean for Your Voluntary Group?

The Grants Review and the Voluntary Sector Strategy have been given the go ahead by Royal Borough of Kingston's Senior Leadership Team on 21 June. The next stage is to flesh them out and bring project teams together, which will include voluntary and community sector representation.

These are two of the seven localism plans for Kingston. The others are as follows:

- One Norbiton, Working Together
- Neighbourhood Community Plans
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Social Enterprise Development
- Business Community Sector Development

The first major opportunity in the forthcoming consultation round for organisations to take part in will be at the;

Voluntary Sector Forum

Tuesday 26 July 2011, 12.00 to 3.00
Hawker Centre, Lower Ham Road, Kingston

Everyone who cares about the role and contribution of the voluntary and community sector in Kingston should attend to ensure their voices are heard.

Please contact Polly Healy at KVA to confirm your attendance on 020 8255 3335 or email admin@kva.org.uk

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KVC Newsletter
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Voluntary Sector in the Market Place

KVA is working with Councillor Stephen Brister to develop a new initiative, 'Voluntary Sector in the Market Place', which will increase the profile of Kingston's voluntary and charitable organisations.

Councillor Brister said:

"Voluntary Sector in the Market Place' is an initiative to improve the profile of Kingston's voluntary and charitable organisations and subsequently to increase their revenue and numbers of volunteers. The proposal is to hold a fair for Kingston's voluntary and charitable organisations in the Ancient Market Place. Each organisation will have a stall advertising the work they do and the way people can get involved. The fair will be held on a weekend during the spring or summer months taking advantage of higher footfall, longer days and better weather to maximise stall holders opportunities for

interacting with the public. From the outset, it will be a priority to engage sponsors, strategic partners and the local media to make the most of this marketing opportunity for our voluntary sector."

We would like to find out what interest there is for this idea from local voluntary and community organisations.

If your organisation would be interested in taking part, you would like to be kept informed of developments or give us your feedback on the idea, please contact Polly Healy at KVA on 020 8255 3335 or admin@kva.org.uk

Kingston-i – Are You Listed?

Since the Kingston-i website launched in April, more than 800 people have used it to look for information and to search for services, organisations and events to help keep them independent, healthy and well.

The website continues to develop and we are now able to give service providers a login to the site so they can amend their own entries, add events and keep information on their services up-to-date. You can list events such as open days, AGMs, exhibitions and performances. Listing events and services on Kingston-i is free.

Kingston-i also enables your clients to rate and review your services. This rating and the reviews are displayed alongside your entry on the site and website visitors are

able to search by ratings – services that are rated higher will display first in search results. This function is a great way of showing off what you do well, encourage the people who use your service to leave a review for you. To get a login for Kingston-i, or if you would like some training for your organisation on using the site please get in touch.



Chris Wingrove, Kingston-i Project Manager, kingstoni@kva.org.uk
www.kingston-i.org.uk
 Kingston-i Helpline 020 8123 6885

What are Your Environmental Priorities for Kingston?

Kingston Council is inviting everyone living or working in Kingston, to contribute to choosing the priority environmental messages we, as a whole borough, should be focusing on during the next three years.

The idea behind this is to bring together the capacity, knowledge and resources from different groups across our community - including businesses, schools, places of worship, community groups and individuals. This will help to prioritise, plan and act together as 'One Kingston' to address the environmental challenges our society is currently confronting, including climate change.

Take part in the consultation to say what your environmental priorities are by completing the online questionnaire at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/rbk-climate

It should take no more than 6 minutes to complete.

The consultation period has been extended the end of September 2011.



Campaign to Save the Surrey Comet

The Surrey Comet, the local newspaper covering Kingston, Surbiton, Tolworth, Chessington, New Malden and surrounding areas, is under threat of cuts from its owner Newsquest. The cuts would see a reduction in both the number of journalists working on the paper and the number of pages in the paper. This could seriously undermine the newspapers ability to cover issues that matter to the local community.

A campaign, which includes a petition, has been started to oppose the cuts. A number of local organisations, residents and politicians have already expressed their concerns about the proposed cuts.

Send your messages of support and sign the petition at

www.savethesurreycomet.blogspot.com

Kingston Welcare Open Day and AGM

Thursday 21 July, 9.00-2.30

Welcare House, 55/57 Canbury Park Road, Kingston

Kingston WelCare works directly with Kingston families to improve their lives in a variety of ways and works strategically with the Local Authority to provide a Christian-based perspective on the needs of families in the Borough. They are holding an Open Day and AGM on Thursday 21 July. The AGM will start 12.30pm and will include a presentation on "WelCare's Future – beyond 2012". Drop in to find out what Welcare is doing now for families and what they hope to do in the future.

Welcare is looking for new Management Committee members and are particularly interested in people with human resources or public relations expertise. If you are interested, then their Open Day would be a good opportunity to find out more. Alternatively contact them on 020 8546 3258 or admin@welcarekingston.org.uk

The Voluntary and Community Sector in Health – Implications of the Proposed NHS Reforms

The Government's proposed reforms to the health and social care system include clear aspirations for the voluntary and community sector as a provider of health services, a source of support for commissioning and a partner in tackling health inequalities. However, the reforms also present a number of challenges and risks.

The report 'The Voluntary and Community Sector in Health: Implications of the Proposed NHS Reforms' considers the main opportunities and challenges facing the sector. It discusses what needs to happen to ensure the sector can flourish in the new system and what it needs to do to grasp new opportunities.

Based on a joint project between the King's Fund and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, this paper includes a number of recommendations, aimed at national policy-makers, local bodies and the voluntary and community sector itself, to ensure that the sector can grasp this opportunity to participate fully in the new health and social care system.

The report calls for:

- a requirement for commissioning consortia and Health and Wellbeing Boards to involve and engage with the sector, to ensure that needs are met and health inequalities are tackled
- support for commissioners to better understand, and work with, the sector
- the development of new and innovative funding mechanisms to ensure the sector can compete on a level playing field with private and NHS providers
- the voluntary and community sector to take a strategic approach to the future by addressing its development needs, urgently tackling the need to better articulate its value and overcoming issues of internal fragmentation.

As the reform agenda moves into its next stage, the report aims to stimulate further debate about the potential of the sector in its role not just as a provider of health services but also in supporting commissioners and as a partner in tackling health inequalities.

The full report can be found on www.kingsfund.org.uk

A Review of Health Services in South West London

Local doctors, nurses and therapists from across South West London, as well as patient representatives, will work together over the next few months to review health services in South West London. They are calling the review Better Services Better Value. Clinicians are keen to talk to local people, their existing patients, community and voluntary groups about this review. At this early stage, they are including patient representatives on the clinical discussion groups. Doctors and health professionals

want patient and public involvement to drive the review and we will work to engage as many people as possible and get thorough involvement from a representative cross-section of the local population.

If you or a group you work with would like to get involved in this review please email betterservices@swlondon.nhs.uk

Health Services and the Compact

The Compact is the agreement between government and the voluntary and community sector which sets out key principles and establishes a way of working that improves their relationship for mutual advantage. It considers areas such as involvement in policy design and consultation, funding arrangements (including grants and contracts), promoting equality, ensuring better involvement in service design and delivery, and strengthening independence.

The Department of Health has an active programme of engagement with the voluntary and community sector, and supports the principles of the Compact in much of its work. Compact Voice is a standing member of DH's 'sounding board', and has provided advice and guidance on a

number of policy proposals and developments to ensure that Compact principles are upheld.

The Compact for Health between KPCT and KVA, on behalf of the Voluntary Sector in Kingston was established in 2002. For a number of years, KVA was working with health colleagues towards an effective framework for partnership under the Compact principles. Due to changes in KPCT and health services over recent years, it has been difficult to sustain implementation of the Compact and the Compact document has been 'shelved' as inactive. KVA is now keen to engage new partners for health in collaborative work, to re-establish our local Compact as a joint initiative with the local authority.

Compact Voice Responds to NHS Listening Exercise

Compact Voice has responded to the Department of Health listening exercise on the proposed modernisation of the NHS. They found the proposed reforms focus heavily on partnership working, a concept which is at the heart of the Compact. They believe that ensuring local Compacts play a vital role in the new proposed health structures is essential, and certain key aspects of the Bill should recognise and make reference to the principles of the Compact.

Respondents to both that consultation and through additional engagement have

enabled them to understand how important the principles of the Compact, and those local groups who work in collaboration with key organisations to take them forward, were to delivering better outcomes within the community. Many expressed concern that the lack of reference to the Compact in some of the proposed reforms undermined its status, which seemingly worked in opposition to the continued relevance it was given by the Coalition Government. You can read the full response on www.compactvoice.org

Interim Health and Well Being Board for Kingston

Meetings of the Board this year will take place on 21 July, 22 September and 20 October, at 6.30 pm at the Guildhall, Kingston. Up to 20 minutes is available at

the start of the meeting for questions from members of the public who are also able to contribute to discussion during the meeting, at the Chair's discretion.

Child Poverty Update



The seminar on Child Poverty held on the 18th May brought together 27 people from a variety of voluntary and community organisations, local schools and staff from Kingston Council. It was a great opportunity to find out more about the One Kingston Strategy on Child Poverty (which will soon be available on the RBK website) and to share examples of good practice in our work. The focus was on Free School Meals, the Pupil Premium and the costs of sending children to school, such as school uniform. Jo Walker from the Schools Food Trust in Sheffield gave us examples of how councils and the voluntary sector in different parts of the UK have increased the take-up of Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium.

KVA Discussion Forum on Child Poverty

Following the seminar, we have set up a discussion forum on Child Poverty on the KVA website

www.kva.org.uk/discussion

This provides a space for anyone working in or interested in the issue of Child Poverty in Kingston to share their views and keep in touch with what is happening locally. The forum will be a chance to ask questions and to share good practice with colleagues locally. All the presentations from the seminar are now on the discussion forum.

We will be starting discussion threads on the main topics that emerged from the seminar, which include:

- Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium

- Help with the costs of sending children to school: school uniform, school trips etc.
- Help for families with English as an Additional Language

Helping families claim what they are entitled to

Earlier this year, we set up e-training sessions on benefits run by the Child Poverty Action Group. Unfortunately, the CPAG have run out of funding for this project. They are applying for more funding and will let us know if it becomes available.

In the meantime, there is an advice service called Turn2us. The website is **www.turn2us.org.uk** and the Helpline is in 0808 802 2000. The Helpline is open from Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm. The service is run by Elizabeth Finn Care and is available across the UK. It can be used both by advisers and clients. There is a Benefits Checker to ensure that people are receiving all the benefits that they are entitled to. There is also a Grants Search, which has details of thousands of charitable funds. The website is fairly easy to navigate.

Advice on sources of support for tackling Child Poverty

Voluntary organisations are often one of the first points of contact for families who are struggling financially. If you missed the last seminar and would like to find out more about help available in Kingston, please get in touch with Judith Naylor at KVA on cwd@kva.org.uk or 020 8255 3555.

Celebrating 40 years of Volunteering in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Go Kingston 2012 Volunteering

Go Kingston 2012, Kingston's commitment to support the upcoming Cultural Olympiad, was launched on 2 June at an event in the grounds of All Saints Church in central Kingston. KVC would like to thank the Royal Borough of Kingston and all its partners, including International Youth Arts Festival, John Lewis, Kingston College and Kingston Carnival for their support, as well as anyone who came along on the day to find out more.



The Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Councillor Patrick Codd, attended the launch where he presented prizes to the winners of the competition to design the Go Kingston 2012 logo. The overall winner of the competition was 17 year old Sasan Allahverdi, a student at Kingston College. Sasan's logo (above) features an abstract representation of two of Kingston's most famous landmarks, the river and the 'falling down telephone box' sculpture in Old London Road.

If you missed the launch event, it is still possible to get involved, either as a volunteer or if your organisation is planning any cultural, sports or leisure events in 2012.



If you want to volunteer, there is no minimum time commitment – you simply volunteer for the events that interest you. To join the GK2012 Team, complete the registration form on the KVC website at www.kvc.org.uk/our-projects/gk2012-team

Anyone organising an event in the voluntary, sports, community or statutory sector in the borough of Kingston will be able to register and make a request for volunteers providing the event meets the basic requirements e.g. in health and safety. A partnership with GK2012 is expected to result in more successful and effective events, due to the increased support from a volunteer workforce. Around 20 potential volunteers have already registered their interest and we expect this number to increase significantly as 2012 approaches.

For more information about GK2012 please contact Hedley Featherstone at Kingston Volunteer Centre on 020 8255 8685 or email GK2012@kvc.org.uk

Good Practice Project

When are volunteers not volunteers?

(The answer is when they are considered to be employees in the eyes of the law)

This was one of the questions considered on the recent Volunteers and the Law training course.

The session dealt with the complexities of ensuring your volunteers remain just that and showed real cases that had gone to court because volunteers had a grievance against their organisation. We also looked at the Equality Act 2010, CRB and data protection, where legal implications affect volunteers.

25 people attended the half-day course and whilst it was challenging and sometimes complex, the feedback was very positive.

"Really enjoyed the session, and have lots to discuss with my manager"

"Very informative and worthwhile attending"

The other course we ran was "Recruiting the Right Volunteer Team" which focussed on creating the right recruitment message and more innovative ways of marketing.

12 organisations were represented; here are some of their comments:

"Excellent course, got me thinking more creatively"

"Very useful training to supplement knowledge and support provided by my organisation"

These courses were very successful and over-subscribed, so we will be looking to run similar courses again as part of Kingston Voluntary Action's Autumn Training Programme. If you have any suggestions for other topics relating to volunteer management that you would like to be covered, please contact Pat Stanley at outreach@kvc.org.uk

Volunteer Co-ordinators' Forum - What are boundaries and why do we need professional boundaries in volunteer roles?

Wednesday 13th July 10.00-12.30

Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston

Perhaps one of the most difficult and sensitive issues to deal with as a volunteer coordinator, is how to deal with volunteers who have problems with boundaries. At this free forum we will look at why we need boundaries and what boundaries are appropriate in different volunteering scenarios.

Sometimes managing volunteers can be challenging and it is certainly very different to managing paid staff. These forums provide a way of networking and

exchanging ideas with others in a similar position.

To book your place on this seminar, contact Pat Stanley at KVC on outreach@kvc.org.uk

If you have any ideas for future Volunteer Co-ordinators Forums, please contact us with your suggestions.

Has your organisation had its health check?

20 local organisations have completed the London Volunteer Management Health Check, with others signed up and waiting to go through the process. Another 70 have received support via advice or attending a training session or Volunteer Co-ordinator Forums.

The Health Check is not about ticking boxes. It is about improving the quality of your volunteer management and putting you in a better position to demonstrate your commitment both to prospective volunteers and future funders.

Volunteers will become more important to organisations as funding cuts bite and organisations who are well organised in recruiting, motivating and managing their volunteers will be best placed to cope with this.

One of the organisations we have been working with is International Youth Arts Festival. This is what Cassidy Johnson, IYAF, Volunteer Coordinator had to say:

“Over the last two months the International

Youth Arts Festival has completed the Health Check to show our organisation has good practice in relation to volunteers

KVC has assisted the charity in making it more volunteer friendly and helped us to define policies and procedures that support both the volunteers and protect our charity.

Therefore we would recommend all local organisations with volunteers contact Kingston Volunteer Centre because the support they have to offer is invaluable”.



To arrange your health check, contact Pat Stanley, Volunteer Good Practice Project outreach@kvc.org.uk

Buddy Scheme Secures Funding

The Buddy Scheme has recently had both its funding streams renewed following a period of uncertainty. This exciting news allows us to push forward with getting new partnerships set up and growing the project to reach more people with learning disabilities.

This excellent and transformative service is in high demand around the borough. The value it can bring to the lives of often isolated people is immeasurable.

Our scheme finds volunteer befrienders for people with a learning disability aged 14 and upwards.



For more information contact Richard Craig on 020 8255 8068 or email buddiescheme@kvc.org.uk.

Crisis Response Team Needs More Volunteers

The Incident Support Team has changed its name to Crisis Response Team CRT (changed by Kingston Council to fit with other organisations in London). More importantly, following a review of the operation of a Rest Centre after the Madingley House fire last summer, it has been decided to increase the size of the team. We now need 20-30 new volunteers to join the existing team.

KVC provides members of the Crisis Response Team to give support to the Royal Borough of Kingston council in helping to set up and run Rest Centres for members of the public forced to leave their homes due to an emergency. Each centre requires 6-8 people per 6 hour shift. Annual training is

provided by The British Red Cross and one or two exercises are run per year.

Generally membership of this team requires only occasional routine activity over the year but with the potential for short notice action in an emergency therefore most of the team members are people who do other regular voluntary work and have offered to undertake this relatively low demand second role.

Anyone wishing more information please contact the team volunteer co-ordinator Douglas Craik at ist@kvc.org.uk

Changes to the Vetting and Barring Scheme

The safeguarding regime is changing but we are all waiting to hear exactly how. Currently being debated in Parliament is the Protection of Freedoms Bill 2010-11. Unless the bill is seriously revised before being passed, there are some developments we can expect to see.

The most important of these include:

- the merging of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to form a streamlined new body providing a proportionate barring and criminal records checking service
- a large reduction in the number of positions requiring checks to just those working most closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults
- portability of Criminal Records Checks between jobs
- an end to the requirement for those working or volunteering with vulnerable groups to register with the Vetting and

Barring Scheme and then be continuously monitored by the ISA

- stopping employers who knowingly request criminal records checks on individuals who are not entitled to them

There will also be a system for continuous updating of CRBs. This should save a lot of time and make things easier for organisations which currently have to do repeated checks which can take months to come through. However, using this service will incur an additional cost. As yet we do not know how much.

The Protection of Freedoms Act should be passed at the end of this year, and the provisions will start to come into effect from 2012. There is not much more information as yet, so it is difficult to prepare, but you can keep up to date with developments at www.direct.gov.uk and www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk.

South London Sustainable Funding Conference

South London CVS Partnership, of which Kingston Voluntary Action is a member, is looking to hold a funding conference in the autumn for groups from across the South London region.

We would like groups' input into the planning of this event to ensure that it is useful for as many of our local organisations as possible, so would be grateful if you could let us have your opinions on the following:

It is likely to take place in central London - would you be willing to travel to attend?

The event will feature funders, but we would like to know if you would be interested in

finding out about other funding sources, such as:

- social impact bonds
- donations
- contracts
- selling goods and services
- loans/social investment

Let us know your thoughts either by contacting Sanja Kane at training@kva.org.uk or completing the brief survey on the KVA website

www.kva.org.uk/survey

Zurich Community Trust Local Grants Programme

The programme is intended to support groups or charities that work with disadvantaged people in order to help them achieve a more fulfilling and independent future, moving from dependence to independence.

Grants between £500 and £2,000 are offered for projects addressing: addiction, bereavement, carers, disability, domestic violence, homelessness, learning difficulties, physical, mental and emotional health issues, poverty, social exclusion, special needs education, voluntary sector services.

**[www.zurich.co.uk/
zurichcommunitytrust](http://www.zurich.co.uk/zurichcommunitytrust)**

Mrs Smith and Mount Trust Grant

Administered by Potheary William Weld Solicitors, grants are offered to registered charities with an annual income of less than £500,000, assisting disadvantaged people towards greater independence or a better quality of life.

The Trust is currently focusing on the following priority areas:

- mental health.
- learning disability
- homelessness.
- health in the community

Deadline: 30 September 2011

www.pwwsolicitors.co.uk

KBC Trust Grants for Youth Projects

Applications are requested for grants of up to £2,000 for youth projects in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Please contact Paul Cox for further information
zottecox@aol.com

For more funding opportunities, visit the Funding section of the KVA website **www.kva.org.uk** Alternatively, contact Zahida Saddiq, Community Development Manager who can assist with fundraising 020 8255 3335,
zahidas@kva.org.uk

Digital Storytelling

Superhighways recently attended a Digital Story Telling seminar led by Sounddelivery **www.sounddelivery.org.uk**.

A digital story (also known as an audio slideshow) is an extremely effective way for an organisation to showcase their work. It is also much easier to get a professional end product compared to putting together your own video. In essence, you use a series of images/photos and add an accompanying soundtrack with voiceovers, music, background noise as appropriate. It can also be used as an alternative to PowerPoint too.

How could you use this technique with your organisation?

- Illustrating impact to funder
- Attracting new volunteers
- Engaging with additional communities

Here are some tools which can help you put together a digital story:

Image editing

- Picnik www.picnik.com
- Photoshop Express online www.photoshop.com/tools
- Microsoft Photo Editor (find in the Microsoft Office Tools folder on a Windows PC)
- Gimp www.gimp.org

Audio sources

- Freesound www.freesound.org
- Soundsnap www.soundsnap.com

Audio recorders/editors

- Audacity <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>
- Frerecorder 4 www.applian.com/freecorder4/help.php#audio

Slideshow creators

- Windows Movie Maker (find in Windows Start/Programs)
- Soundslides www.soundslides.com
- Microsoft PhotoStory - search for the download on the Microsoft website

Video platforms

- Vimeo www.vimeo.com
- YouTube www.youtube.com

Go to www.vimeo.com and search for 'sounddelivery' to see examples of digital stories from national charities to grassroots groups.

If anyone is interested in being supported to produce a digital story for their organisation, please email katewhite@superhighways.org.uk

Social Media/Networks Training Needs

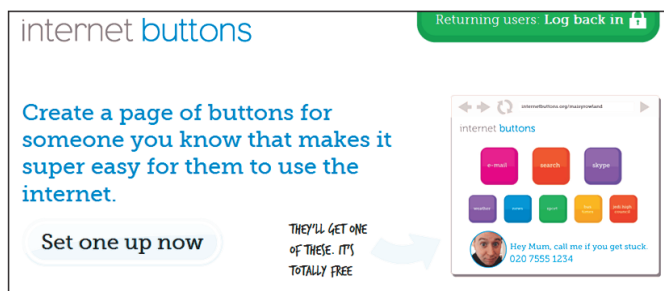
If you would like to see some training in the next KVA training programme on the use of social media/networks by voluntary and community groups e.g. Facebook, YouTube, Twitter etc, please email katewhite@superhighways.org.uk

Useful and Clever Online Tools

Superhighways have put together details of some online tools that could be useful for your organisation.

Internet Buttons

Internet Buttons allows you to set up a web page of buttons which link to other websites or services. The site has been developed by UK Online Centres, We Are What We Do and the Nominet Trust with the idea of getting people up and running online as quickly as possible while they continue to learn more about how the internet works. It could therefore be very useful for Internet beginners including older people.



Internet Buttons recently won the award for Innovation at the recent Technology 4 Good awards www.technology4goodawards.org.uk

www.internetbuttons.org

Event Brite

Event Brite is an online event administration tool which is free to use if your event is free to attend. It allows online bookings, automates confirmation and reminders emails, produces sign in sheets and reports including export to Excel.



You can customise information collected on booking and either send a link by email or embed it in your web page. Superhighways have been using this for recent training and it has made the booking process so much more efficient.

www.eventbrite.com

Issuu



Issuu is a digital publishing platform that allows organisations to publish magazines, newsletters and reports online.

The site is free to use and offers the following benefits:

- Increasing the potential audience for your publication
- Creating an online version of your publication that can be flicked through like a printed magazine (KVA puts this newsletter on the KVA website in this format)
- Allowing you to publish online even if you do not have your own website

www.issuu.com

To be kept up to date with tools like the above, sign up to the London ICT e-bulletin at www.lasa.org.uk/lasa/mailling-lists. We also have a range of factsheets and guides at www.superhighways.org.uk/files

Kingston Orchard Project

Kingston Orchard Project is an urban agroforestry project involving local communities in growing seeds, plants, fruits, vegetables, fruit trees and bushes. It aims to build sustainability in the face of climate change and improve the well-being of people in the urban environment through practical action on the land.

The project started on the Knollmead Allotments site in Tolworth in April 2010. The allotment land was designed as a forest garden suited to temperate climates. In June 2010 we became a Capital Growth space (the campaign to create 2012 new community food growing spaces across London by the end of 2012) and on 31st of January their team kindly came and helped with our fruit trees planting session.

Kingston Orchard Project has received a lot of support from Kingston Voluntary Action to develop the Project. Initially I met with Zahida Saddiq, Community Development Manager who supported us in developing aims and objectives for the Project. Then she referred me onto the various other projects within KVA which helped us fulfil our developmental needs, e.g. website design, finance management, future planning of the Project, policies and procedures and funding.

I would like to say a big thank you to KVA's Information & Communications Co-ordinator Justine Harvey for all her help and support in developing our website (using the Voice system) and IT policies, especially during the busy time around RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011.

Our next step is to seek external funding to ensure that we are following all the relevant legislation and to strengthen the organisation through training and developing close links with a number of organisations and institutions to ensure a

maximisation of potential from the land. We are developing new activities in order to ensure financial sustainability for example, as well as growing edibles, we are creating a nursery for propagating new plants and trees that we can sell locally to support our project in the future.

We are partnering with YMCA South West London who have now set up a YMCA Surbiton Capital Growth space and Sunray Residents' Association using their premises for the Gardening Club every Wednesday and thus bringing together all local community in order to grow food the easy way.



We need more local residents to get involved in this project. Regular working parties in the orchard are held every Sunday from 2pm to 4pm. We also need volunteers to help with local transport, events, some IT related tasks, marketing and fundraising.

For further information please contact Anna Kwilecka 07940405578 or e-mail kingstonorchard@gmail.com or visit our website www.kingstonorchard.org.uk



Help to build Kingston's Housing Strategy

Royal Borough of Kingston would very much like to hear your views on the Housing Strategy. It has been prepared on behalf of the Kingston Strategic Housing Partnership and will be the subject of a broad consultation in the period up to 29 July. The aim is formally to adopt it at the end of September.

The key elements of the Strategy are

- To plan for more new housing, of all tenures, in suitable locations in Kingston and of the right size and quality; there will be a particular emphasis on new affordable housing using the new Affordable Rent Model. This will be achieved while protecting and enhancing the character of the Borough
- To bring all Council homes up to the Decent Homes Standard by 2016 and talk to residents about the long term future of some of the larger housing estates
- To provide private owners with the advice and assistance they need to make their homes energy efficient

- To support a thriving private rental sector in Kingston, which provides accommodation for all income groups and which is well managed
- To provide co-ordinated advice and services to people who are having difficulty with their housing and to prevent and minimise homelessness
- To exploit opportunities to improve other aspects of quality of life in the borough, for example, health or educational attainment, through improving housing provision.

The draft strategy can be viewed at www.kingston.gov.uk/housing_strategy
You can give your views in an online survey or send your comments to Heather Davies at heather.davies@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

Diary Dates

Date & Time	Event	Venue
Tues 12 July 1.15- 5.00	Better Services Better Value - Stakeholder Involvement Event	Sutton Salvation Army
Wed 13 July 9.30-12.00	KVC Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum	Richard Mayo Centre
Thurs 14 July 5.15-9.00	Better Services Better Value - Stakeholder Involvement Event	Antoinette Hotel, Surbiton
Tues 26 July 12.00-3.00	Voluntary Sector Forum - Localism	Hawker Centre

Mission Statement

KVA leads community engagement, creating opportunities for organisations and individuals to become empowered to reach their full potential so they make a difference in their communities.

Kingston Voluntary Action 020 8255 3335

Hilary Garner	Chief Executive
Lynda Evans	Deputy Chief Executive
Keith Morton	Business Manager
Maria Tunmer	Health & Social Care Manager
Zahida Saddiq	Community Development Team Manager
Sanja Kane	Workforce Development & Training Co-ordinator
Justine Harvey	Information & Communications Co-ordinator
Judith Naylor	Children & Young People First Project Worker
Mafaz Ansari	Community Accountant
Polly Healy	Administrator
Debra McCarthy	LINK Administrator
Chris Wingrove	Kingston-i Project Manager

Next Edition: October 2011

Deadline for Copy: 16 September 2011

Newsletter Information

The Newsletter is distributed free of charge four times a year, to all known voluntary organisations in the Borough, key personnel in the statutory sector as well as to local councillors, libraries, doctors' surgeries and schools.

The Newsletter, along with the KVA website, provides opportunities to promote voluntary and community organisations and events. If you would like to submit details of inclusion, please contact Justine Harvey, Information & Communications Co-ordinator communications@kva.org.uk.

Inserts can be sent with the newsletter by prior arrangement. Please contact Polly Healy

Kingston Community Furniture 020 8942 5500

Adrian Collins	Project Manager
James Deane	Operations Manager
Sean Murray	Business Manager

Kingston Eco-op 020 8942 5503

Bart Ricketts	Eco-Op Project Co-ordinator
Nicola Farrington	Kingston Workstart
Chris Williamson	Workshop Supervisor
Sue Illsley	Support Worker
John Legate	Bike Mechanic
Sam Carey	Support Worker

Superhighways 020 8255 8040

Kate White	Manager
Colin Cregan	ICT Support Worker
Maher Al-Ugaily	ICT Support Worker
Yaarub Aisa	ICT Support Worker
Sue Quilter	Admin Worker

Kingston Volunteer Centre 020 8255 8685

Maria Jarvis	Manager
Richard Craig	Buddy Scheme Co-ordinator
Pat Stanley	Volunteer Good Practice Advisor
Hedley Featherstone	Good Sports Project Co-ordinator

admin@kva.org.uk for costs and deadlines. If you would like to amend the contact details or you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please also contact Polly.

The current and back issues of the Newsletter are available in PDF format on the KVA website.

Membership of KVA

Membership is open to all voluntary and community groups who are based or work in Kingston. For details of how to become a member contact Polly Healy, admin@kva.org.uk