



Newsletter

July, August, September 2006

At our recent Voluntary Sector Forum Maria Jarvis, Manager of Kingston Volunteer Centre, gave a presentation on the Local Area Agreement centred around volunteering.

'People Count - Helping your community through volunteering'

By working in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kingston to achieve the LAA, not only is there an opportunity to build and strengthen relationships with the Council, but also: demonstrate the real value that volunteering can bring, contribute to changes in the way services are delivered secure additional funding and other kinds of support for increasing volunteering, and strengthen the volunteering infrastructure .

Volunteering can make a real contribution to your organisation. For example, by increasing volunteering: both young and older people would be provided with opportunities to make a positive contribution to the community. Hard to reach groups (Black & Ethnic Minority & Refugees, people with disabilities or long term illness and those with few qualifications) would be able to develop their skills and receive training.

KVC wants to place more volunteers in organisations to accomplish this – the commitment from the volunteer will be an average of 100 hours a year which equates to roughly 2 hours a week. KVC is targetting in hard to reach groups to take up volunteering opportunities.

To find out more about the survey that has taken place, the importance of tracking and recording volunteer hours and the Induction Pack which provides further information, contact Pat Stanley, Outreach Worker on 020 8255 8068 or email outreach@kvc.org.uk

See Page 3 for a further report on Voluntary Sector Forum and recent changes which have taken place in Siddeley House and KVA.

Date for your diary - KVA will be holding its *Annual General Meeting* on Wednesday, 8th December at the Hawker Centre in Lower Ham Road. The formal meeting will be followed by an early Christmas get together for the voluntary sector.

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KVA Staff

KVA:

Hilary Garner, Chief Executive

Lynda Evans, Deputy Chief Executive

Jackie Bennett, Business Manager

Linda Palmer, Finance / Admin Worker

Barbara Riddell, LiNC Development Worker - Kingston

Maria Tunmer, Health & Social Care Manager

Zahida Saddiq, Community Development Worker

Kingston Furniture Re-use Development

Jim Christmas, Operations Manager

James Deane, Matthew Burge - Driver/
Warehousemen

Adrian Collins– Administrator

Superhighways Partnership Team

Kate White, Project Manager

Marcus Otite, Maher Al-Ugaily, Paul Allen, Ngozi Mayo, ICT Support Workers

Kingston Volunteer Centre

Maria Jarvis– Manager

Chris Guinness– Buddy Scheme Co-ordinator &
Supported Needs Co-ordinator

Pat Stanley– Volunteering Outreach Worker

Community Accountancy Worker

Julie Woodhouse

Partnership Worker

Jacqui Finn, South London CVS Partnership

Mission Statement

KVA exists to promote and encourage the development of Kingston's voluntary sector; and to facilitate communication between the voluntary sector and the statutory authorities and the public.

Newsletter Information

KVA's 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 local councillors. Copies are also distributed to libraries, doctors' surgeries and schools. The Newsletter provides an opportunity to promote your organisation or forthcoming events. We welcome material and comments for inclusion. Inserts can be included by prior arrangement. Insert costs are £35 for statutory bodies and £20 for voluntary organisations. The Newsletter can be put on tape if required.

If you have an amendment to our mailing list please contact Linda Palmer, lindap@kva.org.uk tel: 020 8255 3335. We are always looking for articles, news and information on matters affecting voluntary and community groups in Kingston. If you would like to submit an item to the Newsletter please contact Linda Palmer on lindap@kva.org.uk or phone 020 8255 3335.

Copy Deadlines

Autumn Edition (October/November/December): 15 Sept.
Winter Edition (January, February, March) 15th December.

Disclaimer – information contained in the Newsletter & inserts come from a wide range of sources. Opinions or statements expressed may not necessarily reflect those of KVA.

KVA aims to ensure all information is correct and up to date.



KVA Membership. Membership of KVA is open to all voluntary and community groups who are based or work in Kingston. For details of how to become a member contact Linda Palmer, email lindap@kva.org.uk

Changes at KVA & Siddeley House...

Office moves

Following a restructure earlier this year, Kingston Volunteer Centre has now merged with KVA, a recommendation as part of the ChangeUp programme which will strengthen the infrastructure of our organisation. To do this effectively, KVC has now moved into the ground floor office at KVA.

As a result of the above move, we are very pleased that Magic Roundabout, which has been looking for alternative premises for a while, has now relocated from Richmond Road to the old KVC Office in Siddeley House. To find out more about hours of opening, etc., please tel: 020 8974 9252.

Staff changes

We say goodbye this month to **Sanja Djeric-Kane**, the KVA LiNC Development Worker for Sutton, who is taking up a new post with Sutton CVS as Small Groups Worker.

Our Community Development Worker, **Zahida Saddiq**, is also leaving KVA at the end of July. As you can see from Pages 8 & 9, a Funding Fair in September and an Autumn training programme are planned but other aspects of the community development work we offer will be limited for the time being.

We are very sorry to lose these two members of staff who have been an important part of our staff team – we wish them well for the future.

As you will notice from the front page, **Pat Stanley** has now left Superhighways where she was the ICT Training Manager and taken up her new post with KVC. During her time with the Superhighways Project Pat met many people within the Voluntary Sector and these links will be very useful with her outreach work.

KVA Directory of Organisations update

thank you to all the groups that have returned the KVA Directory of Organisations form circulated recently. We want to know if you still wish to receive our newsletter and the information about staffing and volunteers is also very useful so please contact Linda Palmer 020 8255 3335 or email: lindap@kva.org.uk who will either email or

New Faces and New Roles at Community Furniture

Jim Christmas has now taken up the post of Operations Manager at the Community Furniture Project. Jim is keen to push the Project forward into new areas and opportunities. Exciting times are ahead!

Matthew Burge has been recruited to work alongside James Deane who continues his sterling work as Driver/Warehouse Worker.

Adrian Collins has also been recruited as Administrator and will be working 3 full days each week. This has enabled Linda Palmer, who had been seconded to the project since its inception, to return to KVA.

The project is now staffed everyday – Monday to Friday. These changes have been made possible by the commitment from the volunteers who help in the warehouse and the office.

The project still needs more volunteers - please call Kingston Volunteer Centre on 020 8255 8685 to find out more.

It is planned to have **SATURDAY OPENINGS** at the Warehouse for the general public to view and purchase furniture on the 1st & 3rd Saturday each month, starting on 5th August (and then 19th) - call 020 8942 5500 for details.

Voluntary Sector Forum In addition to the presentation featured on our front page, Cllr. Rolson Davies spoke about the changes taking place within the Voluntary Sector Unit at the Guildhall. It is planned to set up a Voluntary Sector Board and full details of this are available on the rbk website, www.rbk.kingston.gov.uk

This is an opportunity for the Voluntary Sector in Kingston to 'Have their Say' so watch out for further details.

Gillian Pennington, Voluntary Sector Unit Manager, also announced that there would be changes to the way grants were processed.

The MeWe Youth Theatre Company recently performed the critically acclaimed play by James Still, 'And Then They Came for Me', at Portcullis House, House of Commons. The event was attended by the newly appointed Mayor of Kingston, Cllr. Mary Reid, Colin Bloxham, Kingston Arts Council and Joy Iruo, manager of Kingston Connexions. The play was also performed for hundreds of school children at City Hall. This event was attended by Mayor Ken Livingstone who gave a speech in support of the work.

This is one of the first times that the play has been performed by a multi-ethnic cast. The MeWe Youth Theatre company were approached by Nic Careem who is the founder and creative director of Blue Sky Club, as he wanted to underline that the message of the play is not confined to one particular group of people or one particular time in history.

The play is based on the real life events of Anne Frank and her step sister, Eva Schloss, and is a moving portrayal of their lives. The action focuses on the months before the families were discovered in their hiding places by the Nazis and the harrowing time they spent in Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

Importantly the audience is asked to remember that many groups today are still the victims of large scale genocide. The play is a call for vigilance and shared responsibility, reminding us that what happened in the past could happen again.

MeWe is a busy and successful youth charity based in Kingston. Its charitable aims are to educate and uplift young people through performing arts and cultural based education. Equally important is the aim of celebrating diversity and encouraging positive integration of young people. Since registering as a charity in 2003, the organisation has delivered a range of enjoyable and effective youth projects, all working towards the goals of raising achievement, challenging disadvantage and inspiring creativity. Many of the themes are drawn from the African and Afro-Caribbean community and the organisation is run by qualified teachers from that community.

If you would like more information about MeWe please call 020 8391 2214 or look them up on the web: www.mewe.org.uk.

The Hogsmill Action Group (The HAG)

is a group of volunteers, lead by Royal Borough of Kingston Council. The group aims to preserve and maintain the Hogsmill River and its walk. It comprises around 160 volunteers who are Kingston residents.

Among the most popular activities the Council organises with HAG are:

clean-ups, guided walks, and vegetation maintenance.

Currently being organised is 'The Big Clean Up' event on 17th September. It aims to mobilise volunteers to clean-up all over Britain, raise awareness of the importance of the environment and promote community volunteering as a positive action. For further information check the following link:

www.itv.com/bigcleanup.

Carlos, Community Environment Officer is looking for volunteers to help with the Kingston clean up.

Further information about the Hogsmill visit: www.kingston.gov.uk/hogsmill.htm or call Carlos Queremel Tel: 020 8547 5347.

Jigsaw4u Children's Grief Support Group

Jigsaw4u is a children's charity that offers support for children and families who have been bereaved of a parent, sibling, or someone significant in their lives.

The Grief Support Programme is a seven week support group where parents, children and young people can meet others in similar situations, and share experiences and feelings.

The next round of Grief Support groups will start in Oct 2006.

If your family could benefit from the service that Jigsaw4u offers, please phone Claire Powell for further details - 020 8687 1384.

Volunteers needed - would you be interested in doing something really useful, personally rewarding and also fun? Could you become a Buddy to a child or young person who has suffered the death of someone close to them?

You would be offered a full training programme with ongoing support and work together with trained staff. Please phone Claire Powell for further details - 020 8687 1384.

Kingston Association for the Blind

Kingston upon Thames Association for the Blind have recently appointed two new workers, Della Murphy and Tricia Bamford.

Della and Tricia are charged with developing new and existing services as well as raising awareness of the needs of Blind and Visually Impaired People in the Royal Borough of Kingston.

Kingston is lucky to have well established clubs and activities, but it is apparent that there are a number of gaps in the level of support and services provided.

KAB have set up home in a cosy office in New Malden and are busy researching, updating and collating news and information to improve access and services at all levels.

Our website has already been updated and can be viewed on

www.kingstonassociationforblind.org

It includes the directory of services 'Who Shall Eye Contact?' as well as other useful links and information.

The first KAB Newsletter has been distributed to members and organisations and like all KAB publications is available on tape.

This is an exciting time for KAB and, as the warmer weather approaches our walking, running and tandem buddies are flexing muscles, ready to enjoy the delights of Summer.

Our regular clubs are flourishing thanks to the efforts of a dedicated number of volunteers. Other leisure options and IT support are also being developed alongside existing provision. Our 'Eye Buddy' scheme goes from strength to strength and continues to be managed by Jackie Gould.

As time goes on, resources in the office are increasing with a cupboard full of 'Talking Books' as well as holiday and event information, together with helpful benefit advice.

If you want to know more, contact Tricia or Della on 020-8605-0060 or e.mail kingstonassoc@btconnect.com

News

Age Discrimination

On 1st October 2006 the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 will come in to force. The regulations will cover the whole life of the employment relationship from recruitment, terms and conditions and promotion to termination and references.

The new law will cover all paid employees, whether contract, agency temps, casual workers. It will also include unpaid volunteers who are volunteering as part of a course.

The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 will cover age discrimination in the workplace and in education and training.

Retirement

Currently there is no retirement age. There is a state pension age which for women is 60 and 65 for men. The new law will not affect state pension age and employees do not have to retire at this age. Nor will it affect voluntary recruitment. A person can still choose to retire under the age of 65 if they want to. The new law will introduce a new default retirement age for men and women of 65. Employers cannot force employees to retire under the age of 65.

This new law now affects the upper age limit for redundancy and statutory sick pay. There are some very useful websites:

www.dti.gov.uk
www.acas.org.uk
www.agepositive.gov.uk
www.cipd.co.uk

which will provide you with more information regarding this new law.

Criminal Records Bureau checks

The cost of the CRB checks was increased in April 2006: £31 for the standard disclosure and £36 for the enhanced disclosure. POVA First checks and disclosures will remain free of charge in respect of volunteers see www.crb.org.uk.

Two organisations willing to help with CRB checks are:
Crime Concern: tracymadgwick@crimeconcern.org.uk Fax: 01793 863555 and
Assuramed Healthcare www.assuramed.com tel: 024 76 630 678.

Assuramed make charges for CRB check, but also provides free information on policies, procedures and advice where checks come back with convictions.

CRB Checks through RBK

As members of the 'Children's Network', voluntary and community groups are able to use RBK as an umbrella group to access CRB checks for staff and volunteers who work directly with children and young people. The service is free and the only fee payable is that to the CRB for checks undertaken on paid volunteers and/or staff. A number of groups are already using this facility.

If you would like to know how to either become a member of the Children's Network or access this service, please contact Patricia Turner on 020 8547 6024 or email at patricia.turner@rbk.kingston.gov.uk



Funding & Charity Bill Update

The **Heritage Lottery Fund** is the UK's leading funder of our diverse heritage and the only heritage organisation that operates across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and funds the entire spread of heritage – including buildings, museums, natural heritage and the heritage of cultural traditions and language.

Learn five fast facts about the work we do

We help groups and organisations of all sizes with projects that:

- encourage more people to be involved in and make decisions about their heritage
- conserve and enhance the UK's diverse heritage
- ensure that everyone can learn about, have access to and enjoy their heritage.

We aim to support work designed to care for the heritage and to help people to experience and enjoy it. For example:

- Building repairs and conservation work
- Buying items, land or buildings which are important to our heritage
- Making it easier for people to gain access to their heritage
- Increasing learning about recording and conserving our heritage
- Widening participation among people of all ages and backgrounds - especially people from communities who have not been involved in heritage before

Since 1994, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded £3.3 billion to more than 18,000 projects across the UK. Last year, four out of five of our grants were for amounts of less than £50,000, many going to small community groups. Our biggest ever grant was £26 million to restore the historic Kennett and Avon canal which runs between Reading and Bristol.

For more information on applying for a grant from HLF go to www.hlf.org.uk

Stop Press: Tackling Guns & Knives Crime

The Home Office is making available £250,000 to help communities tackle gun and knife crime.

Don't delay - apply by 4th August - visit www.connected.gov.uk to download application

Money for Breathing Places

Breathing Places has a simple purpose: to inspire you and your community to create and care for green places where you live: neighbourhood parks, school grounds and workplaces. These places encourage wildlife and places for people to relax and enjoy watching nature.

The Breathing Places grants programme from the Big Lottery Fund has been developed in partnership with the BBC to provide amounts of between £300 and £10,000 for small groups around the UK who are inspired by the Breathing Places campaign. Phase One, open now, is for voluntary or community sector organisations working at a local level (or parish/town councils). See BBC info at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/>, or BLF application details via <http://digbig.com/4jfpd> (note: requires cookies).

Charity law debated in the Commons

The Charities Bill finally reached its second reading stage in the House of Commons on 26th June. This debate gives a good view of the MPs and political parties concerns and likely actions in the remaining stages. The Hansard record of the debate can be read at <http://digbig.com/4kqks>.

The Conservatives started off by challenging the ending of the presumption of public benefit in relation to charities dealing with poverty, education or religion, and appeared quite negative about the legislation, but then presented some constructive suggestions. These included wanting a suitors fund so charities didn't have to use charitable money to take cases to the new tribunal challenging the Charity Commission.

The Bill now goes to Committee of MPs from all major parties, where it is examined in detail and amendments can be added over a number of sessions. This was timetabled to finish by 13th July. As the summer recess isn't due to start until 25th July, there is a possibility that the Third Reading (final stage) won't have to wait until parliament returns in the autumn. Visit www.publications.parliament.uk/pa or www.charity-commission.gov.uk

Training

Governance Training

KVA can now plan, organise and deliver management committee training using the Code of Governance. We can organise sessions in the following areas of governance:

Duties and responsibilities of trustees

Learning objectives: participants should be able to describe the main duties and responsibilities of trustees.

The role of the board

Learning objectives: participants should be able to describe the key roles of the board in governing the organisation.

Governing or managing?

Learning objectives: Participants should be able to list the complementary roles of the board and staff/volunteers and describe the areas of overlap.

Understanding your stakeholders

Learning objectives: participants should be able to: list the organisation's stake holders; describe how the board communicates with each one and involves them in their decision-making; and agree an action plan for improving the relationship.

Thinking creatively

Learning objectives: participants should be able to think creatively about the organisation they govern and its place in the world, keeping their motivation, passion and contribution to the board alive.

Building an inclusive and diverse board

Learning objectives: participants should be able to: draw up a board profile containing ideal skills, knowledge and experience; carry out an audit of the current board membership; and create an action plan for recruiting board members.

Your role on the board

Learning objectives: participants should be able to plan individual development, training or support needs.

If you would like further information on what each area covers and how long each session lasts or to arrange training for your organisation please contact us on 020 8255 3335 or at communitydevelopment@kva.org.uk

Funding Fair

Thursday, 21st September 2006

10.45am - 2pm

**United Reformed Church,
Eden Street,
Kingston KT1 1HZ**

Programme:

10.45am Refreshments & Welcome

11am Funding Presentations:

The BiG Lottery

Awards for All

Heritage Lottery Fund

Local Network Fund

1.15pm Lunch & Networking

You will also have the chance to search for thousands of Funders on funderfinder and open4communities

Information from various funders will be displayed on a stand.

To book a place or for further information please contact us on
Tel: 0208 255 3335 or Email:
communitydevelopment@kva.org.uk

Action Learning Sets for Managers

One Action Learning Set for Managers is already underway across the South London sub region. If you are a VCS Manager and are interested in meeting in a small group to share work related issues in a supportive and confidential environment, then contact rachel.fryatt@lsc.gov.uk

A **Social Enterprise Seminar** is being held in the Training Room of the Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston on Friday, 22 September. The seminar will run from 1 - 4pm but lunch and an opportunity for networking will be available from 12 noon. Please let Linda Palmer know if you wish to attend on 020 8255 3335 or email : lindap@kva.org.uk





Kingston ePublish training day, April 06

Online ICT training opportunities

Superhighways has online ICT training licences covering the Microsoft Office applications at 3 levels - beginners, intermediate and advanced and for all versions of Office from 2000 - 2003.

Licences cost £30 each (or £100 for 5). This could be a good opportunity for you to meet the ICT training needs of staff and volunteers, as well as your clients and users, where appropriate.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact maherugaily@superhighways.org.uk.

Setting up a Website

Back in April, seven Kingston voluntary and community organisations set up a website using the Kingston ePublish online tool.

This offers an easy way to set up a free site with a range of functionality such as a calendar for events and a place to post documents. For further info see www.kingstonepublish.org.uk.

We now have spaces left for the afternoon session of our next Kingston ePublish website training day on Weds 8th August, running from 1.30 - 4pm at the Access Learning Centre.

If you would like to book onto this session, please contact maherugaily@superhighways.org.uk or phone 0208 255 8040.

Planning for the Autumn 2006 Training Programme

Planning for the Autumn Training Programme is now underway. We are hoping to run training days in the following areas from September 2006 onwards:

Child Protection
Marketing Skills
Emergency First Aid
Assertiveness
Community Research

Project Management
Business Planning
New to Fundraising
How to Write a Funding Application
Managing your Time Effectively

Above is a short selection of training courses KVA can arrange. We would appreciate your suggestions and comments on your organisation's training needs, both to ensure your group accesses relevant training courses and also to help KVA develop new training opportunities.

Your views are important to KVA in organising the Autumn Training Programme, so please contact us on 020 8255 3335 or at communitydevelopment@kva.org.uk

Training brochures giving full details and booking forms will be sent out nearer the time.

Health & Social Care

Social Enterprise for Health & Social Care

The Department of Health has set up a new Social Enterprise Unit to help create new ways of providing choice in health and social care.

At the Third Sector Summit, Care Services Minister Ivan Lewis said: "The voluntary and community sector work very hard in the community and are well placed to understand what people need. They can help us fulfil our White Paper commitment to improve the quality of services, making them more flexible and available closer to home" The new unit will encourage social enterprises to involve staff and service users in designing and delivering services tailored to meet people's needs and also achieve greater value for money. "Getting the third sector more involved in providing services will bring wider benefits by recycling proceeds back in to the community."

Jonathan Bland, Chief Executive of the Social Enterprise Coalition said: "The Coalition is delighted that DH has set up its Social Enterprise Unit to give doctors, nurses and other health professionals a helping hand in making the transition into social enterprise. We are committed to working closely with DH together to maximise the opportunities for social enterprise in the healthcare market."

To help with this a Social Enterprise Fund will be established from April 2007 to help with set-up costs.

A Sure Start to Later Life: Ending Inequalities for Older People

A recent report by the Social Exclusion Unit suggests that the approach of Sure Start in galvanising communities and re-shaping children's services can work just as well for older people, particularly in tackling those most excluded. The Sure Start to later life approach would use the same methods as the children's model to improve access, bringing together services around older people.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) are piloting the Sure Start for older people approach calling it the 'Link-Age Plus' programme. This model will be evaluated and the findings disseminated to allow other local partnerships to establish similar approaches in their areas.

The report can be found on the website; www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk

Health Overview And Scrutiny

Local authorities have powers to review and scrutinise the operation of health systems in their area and make reports and recommendations to NHS bodies on the outcome of scrutiny exercises.

The aim of health scrutiny and overview is to act as a lever **to improve the health of local people in its widest sense**. It is about looking at the whole health system not just services provided, commissioned or managed by the NHS.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel membership comprises of local Councillors with advisory members representing the Patient and Public Involvement Forum and various other partner agencies.

Some of the topics currently under scrutiny are:

- The impact of KPCT Financial Recovery Plan on local health services.
- The provision of community based health services on the Surbiton Hospital site.
- Kingston Hospital Trust application for foundation status.
- Development of Practice Based Commissioning.
- And, any Patient Forum Issues

The Panel meetings are held in public and the next meeting will take place in the Guildhall on Monday 24th July at 7.30pm.

'Freedom Travel Passes'

The brand new leaflet 'Freedom Travel Passes' is out now. The Freedom Pass allows free travel on London's public transport for disabled people and people with enduring mental health needs or substance misuse problems. The leaflet, which includes an application form, tells you:

- Who can get a Freedom Pass
- How to apply for a Pass

This leaflet is also available on audiotape, on computer disc, in large print, in Braille and in other languages on request.

To get your copy, please contact:

RBK Customer Services

Telephone: 020 8547 6008

Minicom: 020 8547 5819

Email: cust.serv@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

Qualifying the Workforce

A one-day conference took place in May for Kingston's voluntary and private sector health and social care providers. It was organised jointly by RBK Community Care Services and Skills for Care (part of the Sector Skills Council).

The purpose of the day was to showcase workforce development and training opportunities on offer for people in Kingston and to launch the new Induction to Work in Adult Social Care and the Skills for Care Common Induction Standards.

There was information about all aspects of training, from basic skills for care training to developing a career pathway through National Vocational Qualifications. There was also information about the range of funding available to support health and social care staff to meet national minimum standards and achieve qualifications in Health and Social Care.

For information about training and funding opportunities see the Skills for Care website: www.skillsforcare.org.uk

£3m DH grant to shape the future of social care ...

Skills for Care has received £3m from the Department of Health to launch phase two of a programme to shape the future social care workforce.

The New Types of Worker programme is currently identifying how roles need to adapt to deliver the health and social care reforms outlined in the White Paper, "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say."

More information about the programme is on the Skills for Care website as above.

What does Workforce Development mean to you?

KVA will be holding a facilitated workshop/seminar in the autumn to engage local voluntary and community organisations in discussions around Workforce Development (WfD) in the Voluntary and Community Sector.

The aim is to consider how KVA can help the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to put WfD issues on their agenda; to help the VCS in Kingston clearly identify their workforce development needs.

Our endeavour is to bring individual workers' skills up to date and ensure that voluntary sector employers are driving towards a well trained, committed and contented workforce.

Skills for Care are funding the workshop; the workshop date is yet to be arranged.

Sense is the largest specialist organisation in the UK working and campaigning with people with deaf blindness and associated disabilities.

It provides advice, information, support and services for deafblind people, their families, carers, and the professionals who work with them.

Sense works in partnership with local authorities and other organisations to identify, assess and support deafblind people in their area and offers specialist input into training, service development and provision.

It also has a network of branches run, by and for deafblind people and their families, providing support and activities in the local area and acting as a voice for deafblind people, families and carers.

The Sense South East branch is located in Coombe Road, Kingston. A new outreach worker is working locally to engage with partner organisations and promote the work of the charity in Kingston.

To find out more contact:

Sam Bissett, Outreach Worker on 0208 541 1147 or Email sam.bissett@sense.org.uk or website www.sense.org.uk

The 'Drinkaware Trust' ... is a new independent charitable Trust aimed at positively changing the UK's drinking culture and tackling alcohol-related harm.

The DrinkawareTrust voluntarily funded by the alcohol industry to be up and running later this year, is an initiative born from the Government's 'Choosing Health' White Paper and Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

For the first time the Trust will bring together, industry, charities, lobby groups, medical professionals and experts in the field to address alcohol misuse and promote sensible drinking across the UK. Work by the Trust, includes educational campaigns to promote sensible drinking among the general public, project aid for local and national initiatives, and the running and evaluation of pilot programmes to tackle alcohol related harm.

The alcohol industry has pledged £12 million to the charity over the next three years to fund the Trust's activities.

The website contains all kinds of useful information about alcohol and drinking, from fascinating facts to practical tips, to suit all kinds of people and occasions. www.drinkaware.co.uk

Notice Board

Get Stuffed!!

Does your organisation do regular mail-outs?

The Get Stuffed Team can save you the work of sticking, stamping and stuffing! Your mail-outs will become much more of a planned process, and will be done efficiently by our expert team!

This very newsletter has been mailed out to you thanks to the excellent work of the Get Stuffed Team.

Simon Montague-Taylor of Mind in Kingston said:

'On four occasions the 'Get Stuffed' team has assisted with the Mind in Kingston newsletter mail-out. They have proved to be a reliable, punctual and professional team. I would recommend them to any group that needs an experienced outfit for mail-outs.'

To book the team for your next mail-out please call Chris Guinness Tel: 020 8255 8068.

Kingston Toy Library is now open

Every Friday 10-12 the Kingston Toy Library will be open at the Friends Meeting House, Eden Street. It has a wide selection of toys, many suitable for children with special needs.

A crèche is available for children under 3. Enquiries to Roma Lear 020 8398 6565.

Stop unwanted Junk Mail

If you are tired of receiving lots of unwanted junk mail at home or at work sign up to the mail preference service www.mpsonline.org.uk.

If you are on this register then companies cannot legally send you junk mail.

Recycle inkjet and toner cartridges

Send them to Cartridge & Mobile Recycling Centre PO Box 796 Peterborough PE1 5ZU and help donate to NCH. www.gtreycling.com or email Trevor@gtreycling.com

Tools Needed

Tools with a Mission is a charity that sends reconditioned tools overseas to help communities become self-reliant and financially independent. They need sewing machines, gardening tools, DIY equipment - visit the website for a full list of items they require and how to donate unwanted tools and machinery: www.twam.co.uk

Recycling computers

If you have a computer that is slightly out of date, but still in working order you may be able to donate it to Computer Aid International at www.computer-aid.org. They recycle unwanted PCs for use in developing countries. Other places to try are www.itforcharities.co.uk and www.wastewatch.org, and www.icer.org.uk recycle electronics.