

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2006

The last six months have been so hectic we haven't noticed the passing of spring and now we are in June, and like the flowers planted in the Autumn are now coming into bloom, many of our plans are coming to fruition.

First a thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have put in so much effort and passed on some excellent ideas on the way forward.

Our aims since the very first club started was acceptance, education, inclusion and moving on into the wider world.

Over the past seven years we have been pushing Disability Awareness in every way possible on a very limited budget and have the opportunity of training and experience in public speaking, drama workshops and IT and admin experience. The numbers we have been able to help have to some extent been limited by the numbers referred to us. In this respect both Hampshire and Croydon lag behind West Sussex. This despite writing to Voluntary Organisations and Charities involved with young disabled.

As a result of the close cooperation we have with Workability colleagues we are looking forward to considerably expanding our volunteers in the Horsham, Crawley and Haywards Heath areas and as a result of Pam Skilton's efforts we are now able to offer I.T. Training and Life Skills at our new base in Crawley.

Jo Hooper who works closely with Cordelia Smith in the Croydon Area is in negotiations with Croydon Volunteer Association to recruit new trainees in that area.

Training

Our last training session in March was at Alton and was attended by new volunteers from Hampshire and Surrey. This session was hosted by Ross Smith, supported by Esi Hardy and Laura Dymock.

The next training session will be at East Wittering on 8th June followed by an additional session at Crawley on 4th July. The sessions will probably include a drama workshop induction.

Photographs of some of our speakers are now on our website. If you have not yet been included, please speak to Jacky Boyce to make sure we have all the information needed.

The charity received funding for a Certificate for Volunteering in East Hampshire and two members of the committee attended the presentation.

We were happy to be asked by BBC (South) if they could attend one of our School Presentations and thanks to the support of Head Teacher, Peter Johnson and pupils of Birdham C of E Primary School we had the pleasure of seeing Ross and Esi captivating the young audience and fielding the questions that flowed with confidence and humour on The Politics Show.

Rotary International

We have now been invited to speak at several meetings in Sussex and Peter Pine has admirably undertaken this on our behalf. Peter is a willing and witty Speaker with vast experience of disability in his repertoire and well able to promote our cause.

Fundraising News

Our efforts with Fundraising are continuing to reap rewards. The Local Network Fund approved our application, which will enable us to present another Drama event in the Horsham/Crawley area in the next few months. The West Sussex Youth Service helped us once more with another grant for 2006, as has Eastleigh Borough Council.

In April, we submitted an application to the West Sussex Learning Partnership, for a last minute grant and were very surprised to find that we had been granted the full amount. The grant will provide training to young people under 25 years of age who are disabled or disadvantaged and live in West Sussex.

Training is to be carried out at the Chichester College by the end of July. Candidates are urgently sought to take advantage of this opportunity.

Volunteering England provided £1500 to enable the charity to apply for the "Investing in Volunteers" Certification.

The introductory session for the process, will take place at Head Office on Monday 5th June.

A grant application of rather larger proportions is now being processed by BBC Children in Need. The procedure involves an initial telephone interview, to be held imminently – more news on this next time!

Pam Skilton and Jacky Boyce were scheduled to take part in a 15-mile charity walk on 21st May, organised by the Lions Club. Unfortunately Jacky had an accident and broke her foot and was unable to take part.

Pam's partner accompanied her and they successfully completed the 15-mile route around Langstone Harbour, despite dreadful weather conditions.

Special thanks also goes to Roger Croft from Barclays Bank in Havant who jogged and walked the entire route, raising money for our charity - "Thank you Roger!" All in all, we believe the walk has raised approx. £550 for the SVA.

STOP PRESS

The Chichester Disability Awareness Week will be held in the 2nd week in October 9-13th. Disability Day in Horsham will be on the 1st November at the Millennium Hall.

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