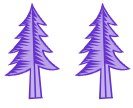
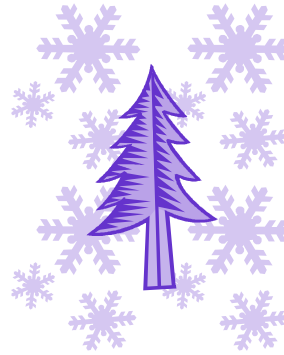




Developing Communities



Project News



South Downs Council for Voluntary Service

Winter 2007

This is the newsletter for the Developing Communities Project, which aims to support individuals in Lewes District to have a voice by providing training, support and a platform to empower community involvement

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Now launched!

The Developing Communities team is pleased to announce the What drives you wild? campaign is now officially launched. Please do contact us if you would like a What drives you wild? postcard to complete and return or log onto the campaign website www.whatdrivesyouwild.co.uk

See **page 3** for more details and for other 'wild' news...

Tis the season to be jolly? Stress? Isolation? Lack of support? What drives you wild at Christmas time?

'Wild' outing. Check out responses to What drives you wild?'s first official outing!

The Developing Communities Project team would like to wish you a very **Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year**

issue

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Large print version available on request.
For an electronic version, please ask to join our e-mail list.



We welcome you to **contact us**

Tel 01273 483832
Email developingcommunities@southdownscvs.org.uk
Address South Downs Council for Voluntary Service
66 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1XG



Developing Communities Project Update



**By Pam Mitchell,
Developing Communities Manager**

Is this wild news?

In this issue of the newsletter, you will find information about the new 'What drives you wild?' campaign. This campaign has been launched because so many people said they would like us to devise a way for them to get the things that bug them off their chests. WDW? postcards are being distributed around Lewes District. We would appreciate anyone who could help us with this. After all, we are only going to learn what people think if they have the opportunity to tell us! And, just launched, is a campaign website, so people can provide more detailed opinions, please visit www.whatdrivesyouwild.co.uk



It is hoped that the issues the campaign raises will be able to be taken forward in a series of Question Time type events. These events will comprise of a panel of people who can make a difference and will provide an opportunity to discuss how things can be moved forward. Thus the "What drives you wild?" campaign could be followed by the "..... and what can we do about it?" initiative.



We would like to ask people to promote the campaign and take the postcards to meetings and events. The results will be communicated

via the website, so you will be able to use our findings to inform your own work. We are interested in hearing what drives people wild. Are you?

If you would like a postcard to complete or to distribute a few postcards, please get in touch with Pam or Janice on 01273 483832 or developingcommunities@southdownscvs.org.uk

Are you making a difference? Then we want to hear your story

Are you part of a small group that has come together to create change in society?

Are you an individual who, through your own experience of facing difficulties and short-comings in society, has become more active in the community to make a difference for others?

We would like to hear from individuals to tell their personal story of tackling issues in society, overcoming barriers, finding a voice and engaging with others to create change.

Such valuable stories as these can be featured in a future issue of this newsletter to give inspiration to others as well as to increase awareness to members of the public, other community groups and statutory; of the complexities and magnitude of difficulties individuals are facing in today's society, and how there are still many ongoing problems that are only improved through individuals doing something about it.



If you would like to tell your story, please contact the Developing Communities team.



wild?



wild?



wild?

This section is our new initiative that provides an opportunity for individuals in Lewes District to have their say about issues affecting their lives

Tis the season to be jolly?



Christmas is often the most difficult time of year for many people. Whether it is feelings of frustration, stress, isolation, lack of support or if there is something else you would like to express, tell us...

...**What drives you wild at Christmas time?**

'Wild'outing

What drives you wild? recently succeeded in it's first outing at a Youth Awareness Event at Ringmer Community College. Here is a selection of the young people's responses...

What drives me wild is...negative media on young people or teenagers.

What drives me wild is...I think there should be better day jobs for younger people; more people should help the environment instead of leaving it to other people.

What drives me wild is...bullies.

What drives me wild is...that men have a higher status than women and how they can earn more money even if they have exactly the same job.

What drives me wild is...the lack of facilities for young people.

What drives me wild is...when you get into trouble for things you didn't do.

What drives me wild is...there's no public transport buses etc. There are buses but they only come at 8.15 every morning. Also, they say there are buses but they never come.

There's no bus shelter for rainy days.

Thankyou.

NB. Some of the responses are from young people who reside outside of Lewes District however, they undertake their education in Lewes District and the issues raised are relevant



Get your voice heard!

And here are more responses from other individuals in Lewes District...

What drives me wild is...brand new state of the art buildings still appear not to take advice about access and disability issues from the people who have experience of it.

Zena, Seaford.

What drives me wild is...lack of attention to the need for social contact for elderly people particularly those on their own. Public transport and integration is particularly bad. Low pensions should go to all, not just means tested and clawed back from wealthier through the tax system.

Janet, Lewes.



How to tell us

what drives you wild

You can tell us what drives you wild in a number of ways:

By email

developingcommunities@southdownscvs.org.uk

By completing a WDYW? Postcard

available from the Developing Communities Project team and various public places across Lewes District (e.g. libraries, youth centres, community centres)

By the website

www.whatdrivesyouwild.co.uk

where you can download a WDYW? Response Form available online.



Community Involvement Network

Forum for local groups and individuals to share information and encourage involvement in communities

Charity Trustee Networks

Support for trustees and management committee members

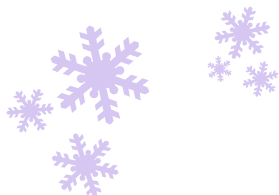
You know how good it is when you get together with people and discover that you've got something in common? You find that someone's got that CD you wanted to listen to, or someone else recommends a really good restaurant. Well, there's an organisation that enables trustees and management committee members to get together to share their experiences and ideas, and by doing so to help each other to fulfil their roles and make their charities more effective.

Charity Trustee Networks (CTN) is a national charity that supports trustees in two main ways -

Firstly, by encouraging and supporting the establishment of networks around the country for trustees to meet face to face to share their experiences, support each other and share resources that they have found useful.

Secondly, CTN's website lists resources, news and events for trustees. It has a forum for trustees, and one for Chairs, to discuss issues and invite responses on subjects that are concerning them, as well as giving them opportunities to voice their opinions through polls, surveys and consultations on subjects relevant to trustees and management committee members.

To find out more go to www.trusteenet.org.uk



CTN and South Downs CVS are currently working together to set up a network for trustees in Lewes District. If you would be interested in being involved, or know anyone who might be interested, please contact the Developing Communities Project.

Are you a trustee or are you thinking about becoming a trustee?

Would you like to know more about what being a trustee involves and feel more confident about undertaking the role?

Would you like the opportunity to meet with trustees from other organisations to exchange views and ideas?

The Developing Communities Project, in conjunction with Charity Trustee Networks, is hoping to set up a Trustee Network to support and inform Trustees across Lewes District.

We are holding our first meeting at 1pm on Tuesday 22nd January in the meeting room at the South Downs CVS offices.

Lunch will be provided.

To book a place:

Please contact the Developing Communities Project on 01273 483832, or 07768976809 (voice/text) or email developingcommunities@southdownscvs.org.uk if you are interested in attending.

NB. Attending is free however places **must** be booked in advance.

Friends, Families and Travellers Awareness event

The Developing Communities team attended the 'Reaching the Gypsy and Traveller Community' awareness event at the beginning of December, which highlighted many issues of discrimination and inequalities faced by the gypsy and traveller community. The event was hosted by Friends, Families and Travellers (FFT).

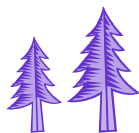
Some of the issues highlighted were:

- Not enough permanent sites for Accommodation;
- Poor site facilities;
- Lack of Access to healthcare and education;
- Cannot open a bank account due to the need for a permanent address, therefore not accessible to those living a nomadic lifestyle.



A short film was also shown focusing on the discrimination faced by Gypsy and Traveller children, including issues of bullying and physical abuse from their peers. 'Sticks and Stones' is a DVD made by East Sussex Traveller Education Service and is available for purchase for £25.

For further information on gypsy and traveller issues, call Friends, Families and Travellers on 01273 234777 or see www.gypsy-traveller.org



There are approximately 300,000 Gypsies and Travellers in the UK
Approximately 200,000 live in housing and approx. 100,000 live in caravans
The South East region has one of the highest populations of Gypsies and Travellers in the country.

Friends, Families and Travellers

Casework undertaken by FFT on behalf of Gypsies and Travellers between Apr 06 and Mar 07 included the following issues:

- evictions
- planning for private Gypsy sites
- heath issues
- site issues such as site management
- housing such as potential loss of tenancy
- education
- police such complaints of police harassment discrimination e.g. for refusal of goods and services in shops, pubs etc
- homelessness
- legal advice



Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised ethnic minorities

Due to much ethnic monitoring not including gypsies and travellers, true numbers of this group are unknown.

For equality and human rights, it is recommended that monitoring, including those done by organisations, is to include Gypsies and Irish Travellers as an ethnic minority category.

Bringing the issues to the forefront in Lewes District?

The Developing Communities Project is hoping to host an event in the new year focusing on Gypsy and Traveller issues in Lewes District.

If you would like more information, or are interested in attending, please contact the Developing Communities project team.

Alzheimer's Society

700,000 people in the UK suffer from dementia today. By 2025, it will be one million. The Alzheimer's Society runs campaigns around 'cause, care and cure'. To find out more, contact Vicky Hill, Outreach Worker, on 07872 675161 or email LewesVillagesOutreach@alzheimers.org.uk.

Lewes District Seniors' Forum

Lewes District Senior's Forum supports people who are over 50 to have a say, to help make a difference and to get involved. They hold regular meetings and are currently looking for people willing to get involved in their sub-groups.

To find out more, contact them on 07947422897 or email dgreameglen@aol.com.

Amendment

In some past issues of this newsletter, it was stated that Disability Means Business funded empowerment training ran in partnership with Headway, however the funding body is actually called Disability Equals Business. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Accessibility of information

The Developing Communities Project team aim to make our work as accessible as possible so that the highest number of people can benefit from the opportunities available and greater awareness of issues can be achieved. To this end, we would welcome your comments, whether it is to express your liking of the newsletter or to suggest some improvements...all will be appreciated!

Disclaimer

Notices of publications, events and services do not carry any endorsement by this organization and the information contained in this document does not necessarily represent the views of the editor, the Developing Communities project or any member of South Downs CVS staff.

What is the future for older people's services?

- What do you see as the changes needed in older people's services in years to come?
- What will the people who are 40/50 now want in 10-20-30 years' time?
- Will they still want tea dances? Lunch clubs? Holidays? Bingo? Drop-ins? Or will they want something different?
- Will older people's services look different in the future? How should they evolve?

What is your opinion? Will older people in the future experience the same degree of isolation?

We are hoping to participate in a project with Action in Rural Sussex, Age Concern and the Alzheimer's Society.

Accessibility in public and commercial buildings

The Developing Communities Project is interested in looking at accessibility in public/commercial buildings in Lewes District.

- Have you experienced buildings that are truly accessible?
- Have you experienced buildings that say they are accessible but don't seem to understand the meaning of the word?

How could the Developing Communities Project help to translate the accessibility model?

We are looking for people interested in this issue to come together to discuss a way forward – maybe an event, maybe a campaign, maybe some publicity.

Contact us

Contact the Developing Communities team if you would like to contribute or are interested in the above issues.

National Initiatives

This section focuses on what is happening in other regions of the UK that the Developing Communities Project could help to be developed in Lewes District; plus interesting research

The Gender Trust National Helpline launch

The Gender Trust has launched the first ever National Helpline for anyone affected by gender identity issues who are in need of support, information, and a listening ear.

You don't have to be personally affected. You may be a friend, partner, parent, employer or health professional - anyone is welcome to call.

Helpline 0845 231 0505

The line is open Mon - Fri 10am - 10pm and Sat & Sun 1pm - 10pm

For more information check out www.gendertrust.org.uk

New Standing Commission on Carers

The government has announced that a Standing Commission on Carers will be established. It proposes to ensure the voice of carers is central to the development of government policy; to look at how carers will be affected by changes in society; and to oversee the national carers' strategy due to be published next year, and monitor implementation of the strategy and the new deal for carers.

- Nearly two-thirds of lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils have been victims of homophobic bullying
- Of those, 92% (143,000) have experienced verbal homophobic bullying, 41% (64,000) physical bullying and 17% (26,000) death threats.

Taken from the School Report study www.stonewall.org.uk

Zero tolerance to homophobic bullying in schools

'Some people are gay. Get over it!' is a new suite of visually powerful materials, devised as part of Stonewall's Education for All campaign to tackle homophobia and homophobic bullying in schools. This uncompromising message, developed with secondary school students, makes it clear that schools should take a zero-tolerance approach to homophobic bullying.

This follows the recent publication of guidance for teachers: 'Preventing and Responding to Homophobic Bullying in Schools', published by the government, commissioned by Stonewall. It can be downloaded from

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/tacklingbullying/homophobicbullying/>

See www.stonewall.org.uk for more details.

Free or Reduced Cost Prescriptions

Some people automatically get free prescriptions. Certain people can get an exemption certificate to obtain free prescriptions. Also, anyone needing regular prescriptions may save money by buying a Prescription Prepayment Certificate.

The official information booklet HC11 '*Help with health costs*' provides more details for people on a low income. Your local Jobcentre Plus office, NHS hospital, pharmacist, doctor, dentist or optician may have leaflet HC11 and relevant claim forms. The leaflet HC11 is also available on the internet. Go to the Department of Health's website - www.dh.gov.uk - and search for HC11.



Training and Events



For individuals to develop their skills and increase access to community involvement

Charity Trustee Network

Meeting to set up a Trustee Network to support and inform Trustees across Lewes District (see page 4 for more details).

To book a place:

Tel 01273 483832 or

Email

developingcommunities@southdownscvs.org.uk

Thurs 22 January
1pm
South Downs
CVS, Lewes
Free but must
book in advance

Training and good practice resources

The following publications may be of interest to you in providing support to others as well as ensuring equality and good practice.

- 'Recruitment and Mental Health' from the Sainsbury Centre and the Employers' Forum.
- 'Race Equality Training in Mental Health Services in England: Does one size fit all?'

Both available for download on www.scmh.org.uk

- 'Line Managers' Resource: A practical guide for managing and supporting people with experience of mental health problems in the workplace'.

Available for download on www.shift.org.uk



Events

Watch out for details of our upcoming **Question-time** events which will be based around issues that people tell us about. You can tell us what drives you wild on www.whatdrivesyouwild.co.uk or contact us for a postcard.

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Next issue copy deadline:

Wednesday 13 March 2008

If you have anything you would like to be included in the next issue of the newsletter, whether it is your own experience of being active in the community, increasing awareness of issues of disadvantaged groups, or to let us know of relevant training opportunities, we would love to hear from you. **Copy is preferred to be received in electronic format and to be sent to:**

developingcommunities@southdownscvs.org.uk

A maximum of 200 words per article is requested where possible, unless for Your Voices section.