

December
2011

Issue 57

Rushmoor Connections

The Newsletter of Rushmoor Voluntary Services

RUSHMOOR VOLUNTARY SERVICES

"MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY"!



On Sunday, 20th November over 60 RVS clients living in Rushmoor enjoyed afternoon tea at Farnborough Community Centre with the compliments of Rushmoor Voluntary Services.

Staff, Drivers and Trustees from RVS gave their time to provide afternoon tea to people who use their services. The Mayor of Rushmoor, Cllr. Alex Crawford was also present and said how important voluntary services and volunteers were to the local community and that today was an example of the difference people can make to others.



The Mayor of Rushmoor Cllr Alex Crawford with guests

Ann Hicks, the RVS Transport Organiser ensured that Accessible Mini-Buses were available so that everyone who needed transport could get to and from the event safely.

The people who attended were all clients of the many different services available to older people that are managed by RVS. These include: RVS Home Help, Dial-A-Ride and passengers from other transport services.

For many people, services like Dial-A-Ride and RVS Home Help keep people independent and in touch with the outside world. Terri Brown uses the Dial-A-Ride service and said *'Without Dial-A-Ride I would be housebound. I really value being able to get my shopping and to visit people on the bus. The drivers are really helpful and I am very grateful to everyone at RVS for treating us today!'*



Marie Jarvis, Keith Powell & Ann Hicks



The Party



Jason French

Keith Powell who uses the Home Help service said *'Today has been a really happy and social event – something I have looked forward to'* .

Marie Jarvis, Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator said *'We all wanted to tackle the isolation felt by many older people. We know that for many, Sunday is the loneliest day of the week. Our Staff, Drivers and Trustees all gave up their time to ensure everybody had a great time and were able to enjoy this pleasant Sunday afternoon. We would also like to thank Jason French, a local volunteer who brought his guitar and played music and songs for our guests'*.



Rushmoor Voluntary Services

Staff

Greg Alexander
Sue Hathaway
Viv Walker
Marie Jarvis
Joan Giles
Pam Hammond
Sue Chadwick
Ann Hicks
Tracy Bowden
Mike Frost
Suzanne Wells

Chief Executive
Development Officer
Administrative Support Manager
Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator
Placement Development Officer
RVS Home Help Operations Co-ordinator
RVS Home Help Administration Co-ordinator
Transport Organiser, Rushmoor & Hart
Service Manager - Community Access Project
Community Mental Health Worker (part time)
Administrative Support (part time)

Dial-A-Ride Drivers

Patricia Brady
Phil Brooks
Dennis Tweed

Place Court and Age Concern Driver

Elaine Horner

Volunteer Centre Gardening Project

Hazel Chant

Fleet Link/Hart Shopper

Nigel Smalley
Bob Anderson



Change of Driver for Place Court and Age Concern

Des Grumley joined the team in September 2008, driving for Place Court on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Age Concern on Fridays. This involved collecting people from their home and taking them to their Club to enjoy socialising with others and a lunch. Des was a popular driver and his passengers were always pleased to see him. After three years, Des decided it was time to take retirement. Thank you Des for all your support and we wish you a long and happy retirement.

We are pleased to welcome Elaine Horner who has taken over from Des. Elaine has many years experience driving mini-buses which includes driving for Farnham College and "Meals on Wheels".

Goodbye to Caroline Morgan

In October, we said a fond farewell to Caroline Morgan, one of the Fleet Link/Hart Shopper drivers.

Caroline joined Hart Voluntary Action in June 2004 as a driver for the Call & Go Service (now called Fleet Link and Hart Shopper). When RVS took over the service in July 2007, Caroline transferred and continued driving to ensure the passengers in Hart could get out and about.

Caroline has decided to enjoy retirement and we wish her the very best. Thank you Caroline.

We are pleased to say that Nigel and Bob will cover the hours which Caroline undertook.

More Staff News!

We would also like to welcome Suzanne Wells to our team. Suzanne has been working as a volunteer in our Volunteer Centre since May 2010, supporting Marie Jarvis, the Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator. Suzanne continues in that role as a volunteer (Mondays), but since mid-August she has become an employee working for RVS as an Administrative Support Worker (Tuesdays and Fridays). Suzanne obviously enjoys working with us! We enjoy having Suzanne on our team!

MiDAS Training

If anyone is interested in attending a MiDAS Training course to gain their MiDAS Certificate (Mini-Bus Driver Awareness Scheme), please contact Viv on 01252 540162 or email viv@rvs.org.uk.

The dates for early next year are:

Wednesday, 11th and Thursday, 12th January 2012—Full course

Wednesday, 8th February 2012—Refresher

Wednesday, 7th and Thursday, 8th March—Full course

Costs:

RVS members: £50 (non accessible)
 £65 (accessible)
 £30 (refresher non accessible)
 £45 (refresher accessible)

Non members: £60 (non accessible)
 £75 (accessible)
 £35 (refresher non accessible)
 £50 (refresher accessible)

Accessible training enables the driver to use the tail lift and take wheelchair passengers.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING HAMPSHIRE PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

**HAMPSHIRE INFORMATION CENTRE
VISIT US AT FARNBOROUGH LIBRARY OR TELEPHONE HANTS DIRECT ON
0845 603 5638**

R.V.S Information

Volunteers add millions to the Rushmoor economy!



Rushmoor Voluntary Services has identified that there are at least **1744** volunteers working in the borough, contributing an estimated **£2,803,166** to the local economy annually.

In July 2011, Rushmoor Volunteer Centre asked its members how many volunteers they employed. 58 organisations responded, including large charities, community and voluntary organisations and small community based projects. From our questionnaire, it was identified that the number of volunteers involved in the work of those 58 Rushmoor based organisations was: **1744!**

Using a nationally recognised formula, we calculated that the work of these 1744 volunteers contributes £2,803,166 to the Rushmoor economy annually.

What do Volunteers in Rushmoor do?

Conservation Work	Older People's Social Clubs	Committees & Trustees
Mini-Bus Driving	Mentors and Buddies	Charity Shops
Support for Disabled People	Educational support	Scouts, Guides & Brownies
Health and Carers Support	Homework Clubs	I.T. Support
Faith Groups and Churches	Sport Coaching	Neighbourhood Support
Animal Welfare	Admin & Office Work	Homeless People
Drugs, Alcohol & Addictions	Parent Support	General Interest Societies

Greg Alexander, RVS Chief Executive said, *'Our survey has shown how important volunteering is to the local area, not only for the people and causes that it supports but also the economic contribution made. We are very proud of the work and time given by so many volunteers who are demonstrating that BIG SOCIETY is alive and well in Rushmoor'*.

Andrew Lloyd, Rushmoor Borough Council Chief Executive added *'I commend RVS for undertaking this research which continues the enormous contribution volunteers make to our community and environment'*.

About Rushmoor Volunteer Centre

One of the aims of our Volunteer Centre is to recruit local people and place them into voluntary work within the many community groups and charities that thrive in the borough.

Rushmoor Volunteer Centre acts as broker between organisations looking for new volunteers and members of the public looking to undertake voluntary work. This is done through face to face meetings, enquiries received through a volunteering database and telephone and email enquiries. Using these methods, the centre placed 225 people into voluntary work during 2010/11.

The figure we have calculated is based on a small sample of local organisations. When you consider that there are probably over 500 voluntary organisations, community groups and charities operating in Rushmoor you begin to realise the massive contribution made by local volunteers in our area.

If you would like to know more about volunteering in Rushmoor, please contact Marie Jarvis on 01252 540162 or email rushmoorvolunteers@rvs.org.uk. To find volunteering opportunities in our area visit 'do it' website: www.do-it.org.uk.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following groups who have become members of RVS over the last few months:

- 8th Farnborough Air Scouts**
- Aldershot Boys & Girls Youth Football Club**
- Anchor Homes—Abbeywood Care Home**
- Community Matters Partnership**
- Gremlin Dance**
- Hyde In Touch**
- Musketeers Community Arts**
- Oak Farm Pre-School**
- Royal Aldershot Club**
- South Farnborough Infant School**
- The Clear Stone Trust**
- Three Counties Depression Alliance**
- Twenty-Four Chapter Ministries**

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

We also welcome the following groups who have recently become an associate member of RVS:

- 100th Elvetham Heath Scout Group**
- All Saints & St. Michael's Churches Youth Group**
(Parish of Crondall & Ewshott)
- Boys Brigade, Mid-South England Battalion**
- Freelands Croft Nursing Home**
- Oakwood Community Playgroup**

Rushmoor Voluntary Services

exists to serve all the communities of Farnborough and Aldershot

Another Blooming Marvellous Success!

ALDRSHOT LIBRARY GETS A GARDEN MAKE-OVER

They've done it again! The Blooming Marvellous volunteers have risen to their biggest challenge yet; transforming a drab piece of grass at Aldershot Library into a beautiful, fully accessible learning garden for the local community to use and enjoy.

It all began this time last year with a request from the Library to brighten up the garden at the front and turn it into an outdoor learning space. They wanted somewhere for 'story time' and to hold workshops, raised beds to provide opportunities for people with mobility difficulties, mini-beast habitats and planting for diversity and all year round interest as well as a place to relax with a good book!

With donations from the TAG fund and local IT company, CSC, and Blooming Marvellous champion, Dilys Toomey, the volunteers got to work. They surveyed the plot, researched the materials, came up with individual ideas and designs and presented the Library with two options. The favoured one has now been built and will be maintained by Library volunteers with a bit of help from our newly established Thursday morning volunteers.

It was opened to the public on Friday, 18th November by Councillor Roland Dibbs (Deputy Leader of the Council) at a ceremony attended by representatives of all those partners who worked with us to make the project possible - Rushmoor Voluntary Services, Rushmoor Borough Council, Hampshire Highways, Hampshire Libraries and Amey. Without these and further donations of materials from PG Gibbs Ltd and Veolia we couldn't have made this vision a reality. Blooming Marvellous would like to thank everybody who contributed to the success of this project.

Do go along and take a peek - it's a great place to watch the world go by!

Joan Giles—Placement Development Officer

In delivering this project on time and within budget, 23 Blooming Mavellous volunteers:

- * Moved over 10 tons of aggregates
- * Moved 10 tonnes of topsoil
- * Planted over 450 plants, including 200 bulbs
- * Spent £1,500 on materials
- * Gave over 400 hours of their time back to their local community

Please see page 7 for the Library "make-over" pictures.

Blooming Marvellous



Before



After



During



Christmas came early to RVS



We were delighted to take delivery of two mini-buses to update our fleet of community buses. The buses, which are five years old, are in excellent condition. They replace two of our oldest buses which, after years of good service have gone into retirement!



Heronwood Autumn Tidy Up



A very productive event took place on Tuesday, 27th September in Heronwood, when volunteers from Parkside supported the very first Autumn Tidy Up in the area. The event was organised by Rushmoor Borough Council, Rushmoor Voluntary Services and Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership. The aim was to carry out a litter pick along the canal towpath before the official opening of the new section of the path. A very welcome refreshment stop was organised by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership who carry out a huge amount of work which includes conservation work along the canal. They have a team of volunteers who support the work they undertake on a regular basis.



Blackwater Valley Stroke Support Group

If you or someone you know has had a stroke, you will understand the impact it can have on daily life, from mobility problems and communication difficulties to emotional changes. You're not alone. Come along to your local stroke support group and meet other people affected by stroke. You will be able to share your experiences and tips for dealing with stroke, as well as enjoying a range of activities.

Who is this group for? Stroke survivors, Carers, Friends or family members

How does it work? We are a self funded group run by volunteers. If you or someone you know could benefit from our support, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you. Or, come along to one of our meetings where you'll receive a warm welcome and find out more about us. As we are a self funded group, there is a small charge to cover our meeting room hire and refreshments.

We meet on Mondays from 10.00 a.m to 12 noon at Farnborough Community Centre.

Contact: Lesley Gaudin on 01276 682901 or email: lesley.gaudin@googlemail.com

Website: stroke.org.uk



Special Event Volunteering

Not everyone can make a commitment to ongoing volunteering, but might enjoy giving time on a one-off basis, getting involved in sports events, festivals and fundraisers, helping as a steward or marshal, or setting up and taking down the paraphernalia of an event.

It's an attractive opportunity, volunteering in a fun atmosphere, enjoying the camaraderie of a group effort, while making a difference to the cultural life of your community or helping to raise funds for a worthwhile cause.

Hampshire Volunteer Centres are able to register and promote one-off volunteering opportunities for your special events. All we ask is a reasonable amount of notice to be able to promote the role properly.

Most of the Hampshire Volunteer Centres now register Special Event Volunteers, who can be alerted about forthcoming event opportunities. Typical opportunities are carnivals, sponsored walks and cycling events, arts festivals, open days and steam railway specials.

If you need extra pairs of hands for your event, do get in touch with your local Volunteer Centre for a registration form. We can then promote the role on the national volunteering website www.do-it.org.uk, where all the volunteer centres upload their opportunities, and through all our other means of publicity.

Contact the Hampshire Volunteer Centre Enquiry line for further information 0844 499 4088, or your local Volunteer Centre, Rushmoor Volunteer Centre, Tel: 01252 540162 or Email: rushmoorvolunteers@rvc.org.uk. Marie Jarvis, the Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator will be pleased to help you.



What's on in 2012?



Here are some events taking place next year, which might interest you:

Rushmoor Voluntary Sector Forum

Wednesday, 21st March

Wednesday, 27th June

Rushmoor Borough Council offices, Committee Room 1

Volunteers on Show

Thursday, 31st May and Friday, 1st June

Princes Mead Shopping Centre, Farnborough

(If you would like information about this event, please contact Marie Jarvis, Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator—contact details can be found above)

Volunteer Recognition Event

Thursday, 7th June

Organising a Street Party in 2012?

Are you planning a local street event to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year and doing this for the first time, or did your street party for the Royal Wedding this year spark your enthusiasm to do it bigger and better in 2012? Then there are a number of web-sites you can look at to give you practical advice and ideas:



Streets Alive, a not-for-profit group based in Bristol have been helping local groups set up street parties for the last 10 years, have a web-site called www.streetparty.org.uk with a lot of useful tips on how to organise a successful, inclusive and fun event. Here are a selection:

- * Start planning at least 3—4 months in advance
- * Ask everyone in the street to your first planning meeting
- * Think about how you may need to approach your elderly neighbours to get them involved. Face-to-face contact might be better (*Street Alive's report Older People and Neighbouring: The Role of Street Parties in Promoting Community Cohesion* offers useful guidance).
- * Include activities for teenagers
- * Give everyone something to do

If you would like to close the street to traffic for the duration of the event, then you will need to complete a simple form which is available to download from your local authority web-site (www.rushmoor.gov.uk) or via the links at the following Hantsweb page <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/trafficmanagement/public-events/street-party-advice.htm>

Please check the recommended road closure application deadlines to submit a form to your district or borough authority. As long as this is not a public event and does not involve more than 500 people getting together, the red tape is being kept to a minimum.

How your local CVS Community Development worker can help:

- * Put you in touch with the relevant officers in your local authority
- * Help with fundraising advice for your event
- * Guidance on how to run a committee
- * If you are planning a larger event where insurance will be required, then help with signposting to insurance advice and providers
- * Ideas on which community groups to contact to ensure that information about your event is widely publicised or groups who might be able to help with activities and entertainment at your event.

Please contact Sue Hathaway, Development Officer at Rushmoor Voluntary Services if you would like any support or ideas. (Tel: 01252 540162 or email: sue@rvs.org.uk)

Rushmoor Directory of Clubs and Activities for Older People

Our 'on-line' Directory has been updated and is available from our website using the address below:

<http://www.rvs.org.uk/Public%20Directory%20Nov%202011.pdf>

CEO's Bit!

RVS – Support for our members and Celebrating our Success

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Annual General Meeting. At the meeting we outlined our work over the last year. I am delighted to advise you that, in changing circumstances, the team at RVS have been able to increase our services and continue to help voluntary groups in Rushmoor to flourish and thrive.

Highlights of the last year include:

- o 225 volunteers recruited into local organisations by our Volunteer Centre
- o 184 individuals attended our training courses (First Aid, Mini-Bus Driving etc.)
- o 66 volunteers involved in our gardening project (Blooming Marvellous)
- o 370 clients receiving our Home Help Service
- o 62 gardens of older and disabled people maintained by our volunteers
- o 113 organisations attended our popular Voluntary Sector Forum
- o Our Community Transport operation continues to offer transport options for people of all ages and abilities
- o 135 clients referred to our Community Access Mental Health project

We are keen to increase the number of organisations and people we support. To find out more about our services – please visit our website: www.rvs.org.uk or contact us by phone on 01252 540162. A copy of our Annual Review and Accounts outlining all of our activities in 2010/11 is also available on our website or by calling the office.

Our Funding Forum continues to meet. This forum brings together people who have the task of finding grants and funds. We not only share information but also enable people to get to know more about what organisations are doing in the community and open the door to new partnerships. Our next meeting on 24th February 2012 will cover Tenders and Contracts with a presentation covering procurement and tender requirements. Tendering is becoming the “norm” with many statutory agencies so, the more we know, the more likely we are to win important new work and funding. If you would like to know more about our Funding Forum or attend the February meeting, please email me: greg@rvs.org.uk.

The current economic climate is making things difficult for many of us in the sector. Rushmoor Voluntary Services may be able to help you to explore new funding options, recruit new volunteers or link you to new partners in the community. If you would like to discuss any ideas you have, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Sue Hathaway.

Like many other organisations we are looking at ways to get information to you quickly. One way this can be achieved is by E-mail – this method will also help us to reduce our costs and the time spent processing documents. If you do not mind receiving information in this way and do not already receive emails from us, please send me your email address and I will arrange for you to receive updates and information from us.

Ending on a high note – I am delighted to advise you that a recent sample survey of volunteering activity in Rushmoor shows that at least 1744 volunteers are currently volunteering with 58 local organisations. Using a nationally recognised formula, we calculated that the work of these 1744 volunteers contributes £2, 803,166 to the Rushmoor economy annually (see the full page article in this newsletter). A fantastic statistic for our borough and a tremendous tribute to people who volunteer in our community!

Greg Alexander, Chief Executive



R.V.S.



The Staff and Trustees of Rushmoor Voluntary Services would like to wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas. We appreciate the positive partnership work which has been so effective over the last year and look forward to working with/supporting you in 2012.



RVS Annual Accounts and Annual Review

**Our Annual Review for 2010/11 is available from our website
<http://www.rvs.org.uk>**

**Alternatively, if you would like a copy posted to you, please
call 01252 540162**

**Once you have read this
Newsletter, please pass on to
other members and colleagues
within your club or organisation.
Many thanks.**

The views expressed in Rushmoor Connections should not necessarily be taken as RVS policy. Whilst every care is taken to provide accurate information, RVS does not undertake any liability for any error or omission. The inclusion of an insert or advertisement in Rushmoor Connections does not imply endorsement by RVS of any product or service.

Rushmoor Connections is published by Rushmoor Voluntary Services— a company limited by guarantee Registered in England & Wales, No: 3238444. Registered Charity Number 1059794

Registered Office:
The Community Centre
Meudon Avenue
Farnborough
Hampshire GU14 7LE

Phone: 01252 540162
Fax: 01252 370500
Email: sue@rvs.org.uk
Web: www.rvs.org.uk