

RUSHMOOR CONNECTIONS

Rushmoor Voluntary Services Newsletter



A Season of Awards

After 16 years' service, Sue Hathaway retired from RVS as the Development Officer. It was a fitting tribute that she received the Safer North Hants Community Award. This is to acknowledge her work with Mayfield Community Partnership in the ward of Cherrywood, to run the Child Safety Day each year for 11 years. In 2019 Sue co-ordinated 19 Organisations to run interactive information stands for 400+ pupils from 4 local primary schools! On top of that Sue recruited a team of volunteers and partner organisations to support the day. A valuable learning event much appreciated by Cherrywood families and professionals.



Pictured: Cllr Sue Carter, Mayor of Rushmoor; Sue Hathaway; Cllr Simon Bound, Chair of Safer North Hants

Blooming Marvellous!



Pictured: Joe Talbot; Hazel Chant, BM Support Worker; Richard Price, BM Volunteer



The RVS Supported Adult Gardening Group once again topped the bill with this year's Rushmoor in Bloom, winning Gold for the Best Community Garden and Most Unusual Planted Container and a 'Special Award' for the Best Allotment. They also won an 'Outstanding' for the 'It's Your Neighbourhoods' Category at the prestigious RHS South & Seward South East in Bloom Awards. Support workers Hazel and Suzie are proud of the Team, who are not able to access the job market for a number of reasons. Through the project we see the confidence and self-esteem of the volunteers increase. Gardening skills are gained and a lot of produce is grown on the allotment. In addition, local people who have been unable to keep their gardens tidy because of ill health, can receive a one-off clearance by the Blooming Marvellous Team. A win, win project for all.

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A Season of Awards

Rushmoor Volunteer Recognition Event 2019

On Wednesday 20th November Rushmoor Voluntary Services and Rushmoor Borough Council held the annual volunteer recognition awards. This year's theme celebrated the contribution of our young volunteers. The Mayor, Councillor Sue Carter, is also focused on support for young people in the Borough for her year in office. Nominees from 18 organisations - some representing young carers, guides and brownies and organisations who support young people - received a signed certificate of appreciation presented by the Mayor. Photos of the volunteers receiving their certificate can be found on the RVS website.

The keynote speech was given by Christine Eustace, Careers Lead at Farnborough 6th Form College. She spoke with passion of



the many young people from the college that engage in volunteering and thanked them for the 34000 hours they contributed in the last academic year!

Pictured: India-Rose Marriott, President of Students' Association, The Mayor, Councillor Sue Carter, Maya Brauns, Volunteering Officer, Christine Eustace, Farnborough 6th Form Careers Lead.

Hello from Heather

I joined the RVS team on the 12th August surrounded by boxes and computer cables, as the team had literally just moved to the Civic Offices. The Team and Trustees made me feel very welcome. I bring with me over 30 years of experience as a youth and community practitioner. More than 20 of these years I have worked and lived in Rushmoor. I am passionate about building from our strengths, creating resilient and sustainable communities. In this era of change we are seeing new ways to incorporate which gives our communities more opportunities to become financially independent. National and International models of practice are coming to **the fore: Men's Shed; Repair Cafés; Zero Waste shops and Community Allotments.**

Over the coming months I hope to get to know our 400+ member groups, providing support, training and inspiration in the places they are needed. Mostly, I look forward to learning from you so that we can share good practice with one another and keep our service relevant.

Together, the Team are forging a new future for RVS, building on the firm foundations of the past 40+ years. I am proud to be part of the Team, serving the Rushmoor voluntary sector.



Pictured: Heather Chalkley, RVS Community Development Officer

DBS Guidance

We have recently updated the arrangements for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks through Rushmoor Borough Council as we offer this service to RVS members. The changes take into account RBC's own more robust system.

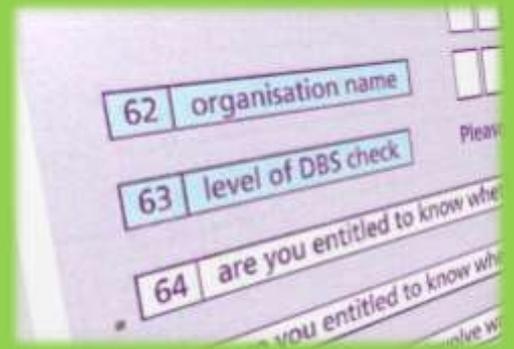
The decision to give a DBS check is balanced mainly between three laws:

- * Care Act 2014. This is the main legislation regarding safeguarding vulnerable adults.
- * Children Act 2004. This is the main legislation regarding safeguarding children.
- * Human Rights Act 1998. This includes the right of individuals to privacy.

The revised process means that if a volunteer or staff member's role does not meet the eligibility criteria for a standard or enhanced DBS check, this cannot be processed by RBC. However, individual volunteers and members of staff can go online and request a basic DBS in their own right. They will be expected to pay for this themselves although some organisations may agree to cover that cost.

The key points:

- * You must have an up-to-date role profile or job description for your volunteer or member of staff. It is important to include any personal care duties and how often the role has contact with vulnerable adults or children. We can offer templates and support to develop these documents.
- * Before completing a DBS form, send the role profile and call Rushmoor Borough Council's HR team on 01252-398484. They will advise if your role is eligible.
- * If the role is eligible, RVS will provide the DBS application form, privacy document and declaration forms.
- * For more information the full guidance is on our website here—[DBS guidance](#)



Rushmoor Voluntary Sector Forum

You are invited to attend our final VSF of the year, followed by a light lunch:

Wednesday 18th December
9.45—12.30

Civic Offices, Farnborough Road,
Farnborough GU14 7JU

Agenda includes updates on Safeguarding,
community lottery and community transport

Please RSVP support@rvs.org.uk



Do you Need Volunteers? Can we Help?

Soon after Christmas is the time when many people make their resolutions for the new year. This often includes people making a commitment to giving something back to their community. This is a great opportunity to refresh your volunteering campaign.

The Volunteer Centre at RVS can help with this in many ways. Not only can we promote your volunteering opportunities, we can assist with developing your role descriptions and creating your advertising campaign.

The central location for volunteering opportunities is the Volunteer North Hampshire database which covers Rushmoor, Hart and Basingstoke: <https://www.volunteernorthhants.org/>

Your opportunities can be promoted via our social media and our partner organisations in the North East of Hampshire.

We can assist with the initial screening of volunteers, with maintaining contact with successful candidates to support their induction and **supporting organisations to develop 'best practice' in volunteer management.**

I am also available to meet with potential volunteers to assist in finding the opportunities which best meet what they are looking for. Please contact me for further discussion and assistance.

Terry Snuggs
Volunteer Centre Coordinator
volunteering@rvs.org.uk

News from Donna Bone, CEO

Wow! So much has happened since our Summer newsletter...

Community Development Officer - Sue Hathaway retired after 16 years devoted support to our community. Although it was a wrench to leave us you will be delighted to know Sue is thoroughly enjoying her well-deserved retirement.

The team at RVS are equally delighted to welcome Heather Chalkley as our new Community Development Officer. Heather has lost no time in getting stuck in, already achieving success in securing a funding grant for one organisation, is supporting a couple of others to incorporate and playing a key role in a number of local projects.

Through Heather, RVS continue to work closely with Rushmoor Borough Council (RBC) on neighbourhood initiatives and particularly now, in response to the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation data. Welcome Heather.

Move to the Civic Offices – I am relieved to report that our move went incredibly **well and we are settled into our accommodation in the Civic Offices. We'd like to** thank the staff at RBC for making us feel so welcome and helping us to get up and running overnight.

Although we no longer have our own front door, we still welcome visitors to the **volunteer centre and invite you to pop into the Civic Offices, if you'd like to connect** with a member of the team. Feel free to call 01252 540162

Strategic Planning - RVS will begin the process of undertaking a new strategic review in the new year to develop our plans for the next few years. In order to do this we will need to understand what challenges you are facing and how we can support you to address them. We will therefore be inviting you to complete a survey in the new year and to provide your thoughts on what our priorities should be.

Community Buses – The last element of the team to join us at our new premises were our fleet of mini-buses. Since suffering significant vandalism earlier in the year, we are extremely grateful to Farnborough International Limited for their very generous support in accommodating the buses in a vacant car park until the new space was available.



The keys/buses can now be collected via the Reception and returned via the rear car park at the Civic Offices.

Safeguarding Adults – I also recently attended a Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board training session for Safeguarding Leads and was surprised with the unanticipated knowledge that I left with. In summary, they reported that in a given month, 52% of the 900 referrals received required no further action and there is a concern that a serious safeguarding issue may be overlooked in the sheer volume of contacts.

I wonder if we have been hoisted by our own petard in Hampshire? We have become so well trained and informed in our responsibilities under the Care Act that we are reporting very efficiently and therefore – hopefully – preventing many other abuses from taking place. In reality, however, there are only five professionals to process all the safeguarding issues reported to MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) so their request is that we apply a three point assessment before reporting:

Is the adult at risk

- Needing care and support?
- Experiencing or at risk of abuse?
- Unable to protect themselves?



As safeguarding is fundamentally important to get right, we will be inviting a speaker to provide an update to us at the Voluntary Sector Forum in the near future. In the meantime, if you have any questions about reporting, please call the professionals advice line on 01962-847214.

Brexit – Many organisations I have spoken to say they feel unable to prepare for Brexit despite the Government advising us to do so. They report not knowing how their organisations will be affected until it happens. For this reason, I attended some really useful training – thank you Action Hampshire, Surrey Community Action and Enterprise M3 – which highlighted some implications which may be overlooked.

One key message is that Brexit is only the beginning; the time taken to achieve it is **likely to run into years... Others include:**

Approximately 87% of health/care workers will be affected and it is anticipated that we will experience a degree of recession. Both of these scenarios are likely to increase the pressure on the voluntary sector via food banks, advice and information services, health & wellbeing support.

Some organisations are already reporting on the difficulty to recruit good staff in our sector due to high costs locally and the competition from London weighting: this could increase.

Some practical tips included checking where your cloud data is stored (UK or EU?), investigating the original source of your community grant funding (European Social Fund?) and ensuring that your pension provider is registered in the UK and is GDPR compliant.

Further information is available via <https://publications.ncvo.org.uk/no-deal-brexit-and-voluntary-sector/download-guide/> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/five-ways-civil-society-organisations-can-prepare-for-eu-exit>



New Shuttle Bus - One of many advantages of being based in the Civic Offices is the ease with which we are able to work closer with partner organisations and local Councillors.

One such project is a new shuttle bus service to support members of our local community.

The changes in delivering appointments at Voyager Family Health GP Practice means that some patients have difficulty in travelling to the surgeries. RVS are delighted to be able to respond to this by running a shuttle bus between the GP practices on the Farnborough Road and in Southwood.

We have worked alongside local Councillors, the North East Hants & Farnham Clinical Commissioning Group and Voyager Family Health to achieve this.



A Voyager Family Health GP, patient and shuttle bus driver on launch day, 2nd December.

Increasing Resilience

Following on from the successful 'Be Well Connected' event hosted by our colleagues at Hart Voluntary Action in October, it is hoped to offer some additional training to the local voluntary sector, in the Spring. The training will focus on addressing some of the current wellbeing and resiliency challenges the sector is experiencing.

More details to follow.



Before then, however, we will be celebrating Christmas and on behalf of the Trustees and Team at RVS, I wish you all a very happy one.

Donna





Important dates for your Diary!



Rushmoor Voluntary Sector Forum

Wednesday 18th December 2019
 Wednesday 18th March 2020
 Wednesday 24th June 2020
 Wednesday 23rd September 2020
 (including RVS AGM)
 Wednesday 16th December 2020

Has your Club/Group got some exciting news which you would like to share with others?
 Would you like to let people know about your organisation?
 Why not use the RVS monthly bulletin to promote what you do?

Please send any articles and photos to: cdo@rvs.org.uk

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

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