

Welcome to our **April** e-bulletin - the place to find info, links and news on events and issues for the voluntary sector in Kennet.

Please let us know if there is information that you would like to be included in future bulletins.



Dates for your Diary:

Pewsey Children's Centre Family Drop-in Registration - Tues 21st April, VAK Offices, Pewsey
Bitesize Info - Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act - Wed 3rd June, Bouverie Hall, Pewsey
Volunteers Week - 1st to 7th June



We've joined twitter.com!
Follow our updates at
www.twitter.com/vakennet

Devizes PHAB (Charity No 282543) very small

MINIBUS DRIVER WANTED - Pewsey Area

With clean car D1 driving licence, £6.70 per hour, 8 to 10 hours a week.

Casual work for elderly and people with disabilities. For further details contact 01380-870274.

DEVIZES PHAB ANNUAL SPONSORED WHEELCHAIR PUSH & WALK

The 26th Annual Sponsored Wheelchair Push & Walk will take place on **SATURDAY 30th MAY 2009** and will again be held at the **NURSTEED CENTRE**, Nursteed Rd, Devizes, the afternoon will start with a Fancy Dress & Hat competition at 2.30pm followed by the start of the Push & Walk at 3pm.

Our special guest this year is the **Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire John Bush O.B.E.**

The event offers the opportunity for other charities, clubs etc to come and raise money for their own funds with 50% of your sponsorship being retained for a charity of your choice.


The course is approximately 2 miles with two laps being completed via Sarum Drive, Pans Lane, Southbroom Road, The Green, and Nursteed Road.

Southbrook Road, The Green, and Hurstwood Road.

The Fancy Hat and Fancy Dress Competitions are free so come and join in the fun of the day - entry is FREE.

The event is followed by a FREE tea - so come and enjoy a relaxing day out and also raise money for YOUR favourite charity

**Full details and Sponsorship Cards contact
M Braund Tel 01380 870274 or
Mrs V Waller 01380 720809**



Bitesize Information Event

Safeguarding - Vulnerable Groups Act

**Wednesday 3rd June
11:30 - 1pm
Bouverie Hall, Pewsey
Sandwich Lunch Provided**

**Speakers: Thelma Claydon
& Maggie Hall from Wiltshire Council
plus
Updates from Voluntary Action Kennet**

Contact VAK on 01672 564140 to book your place.

Futurebuilders England to launch third sector 'match-making' service

Futurebuilders England has announced it will be launching a new online match-making service for third sector organisations considering working together through merger, collaboration, or forming consortia.

The service – 'merge-maker' – will be provided via a new page on [Futurebuilders website](#), where Futurebuilders will post details of organisations interested in finding partners.

The page will be specifically for third sector organisations delivering public services in England, and is intended to help support charities to find like-minded partners.

New Standard NHS Contracts for Community and Mental Health Services

The Department of Health has published the two new standard contracts which will start to be used from 1 April by Primary Care Trusts commissioning providers from any sector. Alongside the standard contracts, DH is reinforcing with PCTs the role of grant funding for community-based organisations to encourage innovation. The standard contract has also been reviewed against the principles of the Compact. As a result, it now provides the flexibility for payment in advance for smaller contracts with an annual value of £130k or less, with organisations consisting of the equivalent of 50 full time members of staff or less. The contracts and standard guidance are available at: <http://digbig.com/4ybsb> or <http://www.dh.gov.uk>. You can also contact DH for help with using the contracts by emailing contractshelp@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

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World Mental Health Day - 10th October 2009

What will you be doing?

A variety of statutory and voluntary partners are discussing an event and activities leading up to the World Mental Health Day when we hope to have a big event. How might your organisation participate? The theme is around mental wellbeing and challenging discrimination. As organisations there may be things that need to be looked at to improve our understanding of mental wellbeing. Under our equalities and diversity policies how would we really react if someone put on their application they had had mental health issues 10 years ago? We sometimes need to challenge ourselves and our practices.

We intend to get messages out to the public to help them help themselves. In this current climate there are all kinds of issues that will be causing stress and pressure. These help cards will be in libraries and children's centres and other places where they can be picked up easily.

There will be more in the next VAK newsletter but if you have any thoughts, comments etc please contact Margaret who is Chairing this work group.

Wiltshire Involvement Network has now agreed its composition and nominations for the Core Group, which could probably be called an action management group, are being sorted from members. To join WIN, which is free, all the information is on their website [Community Voices Online - Wiltshire](#).

'**Equal chances - Better Lives**' are the outcomes of the partnership work looking at developing a Wiltshire Equalities Framework. Please [click here](#) to view the Equality Framework document.

If you have items you would like included in the next e-bulletin please contact Kirsten@voluntary-action-kennet.org.uk, or call 01672 564140.

The e-bulletin is published at the end of each month. VAK is always pleased to receive comments so that it can continually improve.

If you do not wish to receive the bulletin please email Kirsten@voluntary-action-kennet.org.uk.

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