

Local Community Connections



Much of what HARCVS and our member charities do focuses on bringing people together.

We host networks, forums and workshops where local knowledge, ideas and support are shared. These are positive, lively exchanges between people passionate to improve life for people in Harrogate district.

There is a growing body of evidence that shows that helping people to stay connected with their communities makes a positive difference and social isolation can affect health and wellbeing.

Many solutions are best delivered at a very local level and our projects, member charities and their volunteer teams have a vital role to play, running activities from play groups to lunch clubs for older people at community hubs.

Over the last year HARCVS has been working as a partner in two exciting new projects - THE LOCAL FUND for the Harrogate District and Ripon Together.

THE LOCAL FUND is important to grow local giving and to provide a dedicated, sustainable fund for smaller local charities - a fund which understands the local context and local needs.

Ripon Together is for people who live or work in the city, who care about its future and want to make a difference. Partners are identifying events and opportunities to create funds to invest in Ripon.

You can read more about our local community connections in the following pages and we hope to connect with you soon!

Harrogate & Ripon Centres for
Voluntary Service Newsletter
Spring 2018



@HARCVS



Download this newsletter at
www.harcvs.org.uk/news



Where to Turn

Free online

Harrogate District

Community Information Directory

www.harcvs.org.uk/WhereToTurn

Welcome to Care in Action

Our HARCVS Newsletter is published 3 times during the year.

You don't need to miss out on any opportunities or community news in between editions as you can sign up to receive our **weekly e-bulletins**.

The e-bulletins are packed full of the latest news, training, resources, local services and events.

'This is a brilliant bulletin - your newsletters spark off so many ideas.'

Sign up at www.harcvs.org.uk/newsletter-subscribe

Share Your News

Editorial contributions for possible inclusion in 'Care in Action' are welcomed from all local voluntary and community organisations.

They should be between 50 and 500 words in length and contributors should bear in mind the non-political nature of HARCVS. The editor reserves the right to edit contributions as necessary without reference to the contributor. The views expressed in this publication, whether attributed or not, do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of HARCVS. To the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this newsletter is correct at the time of going to print. HARCVS cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. The inclusion of an event or article does not constitute a recommendation.

Deadline date for the next Summer 2018 edition is Tuesday 19 June 2018

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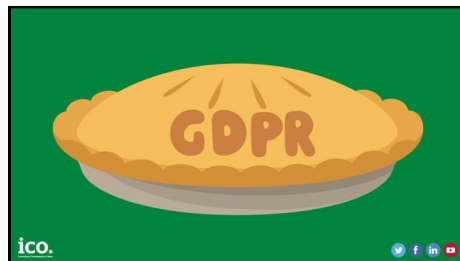
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If you would like Care in Action to be available in other formats or languages, please let us know.



Your Data - Your Choice

On 25 May 2018, the way that organisations must treat your personal data is changing (GDPR - General Data Protection Regulations).



If this newsletter has been sent to you by HARCVS by email or post we will be getting in touch with you soon to check if you wish to carry on receiving your copy and you are happy for HARCVS to hold your contact details for this specific purpose.

In the meantime, if you receive a paper copy and would be happy to receive by email in future, please email cvs@harcvs.org.uk to let us know.

If you are involved with a charity or group which holds personal data you will find information and guidance to help get your organisation ready for GDPR in our weekly e-bulletins. We also signpost to local affordable training and online resources.

There is a lot of helpful information and advice at www.ico.org.uk including the essential 12 Steps.



Follow us @HARCVS for the latest voluntary and community sector news and we'll follow you back and retweet your events and updates to over 3,600 followers.

If you would like to find out more about using social media to support your voluntary organisation why not come to one of our regular **FREE** social media surgeries www.socialmediasurgery.com/surgeries/harrogate-2

Support and Impact - What our Members Say

'A place to share ideas and be supported'

Thank you for sharing your views of our HARCVS service in our annual survey. We are again very encouraged by your feedback this year.

We were pleased to learn that 98% of respondents were satisfied with the support received from HARCVS, consistent with last year. You found us friendly, helpful and knowledgeable and our services easy to access.

75% of respondents would speak highly of HARCVS without being asked and we were rated highly for being 'in touch', and providing a 'good quality' and 'trusted' service.

From April 2017, HARCVS was no longer funded to provide funding and development support services which meant there was a change to the impact we made. However, compared to 2016, there was an increase in respondents reporting that our work had made a positive impact to their organisation in all of the following areas: better informed; increased skills; improved opportunities to network; opportunities for partnership working and increased involvement and influence in local decision making.

The responses received and suggestions made will help us as we continue to review our services in 2018.

You said..

"I think HARCVS is a vital central point for charities and community services. It is a friendly and supportive local service".

"Please carry on doing what you do as it provides an extremely valuable service to the whole community."

You said..

"Always very helpful and prompt with advice and information – above and beyond what one might expect"

"In the VCS generally we would be at a loss and much the poorer without the advocacy of the CVS"

"The newsletters and bulletins are very useful and vital to my group to keep us in touch with what is going on in our area"

Find out how HARCVS could help you



Regular **HARCVS Introduction Sessions** help connect new colleagues from both statutory and voluntary organisations. Councillors, church representatives, health, social care and housing professionals all become more aware of local voluntary sector services and how to refer their clients.

'Concise and up-to-date local knowledge. Enables me to answer questions about how someone may either help or be helped.'

Intro Sessions are free and informal and last an hour. They are for new members of your team or for anyone who would like to find out more about what is happening locally.

25 April in Harrogate and 19 June in Ripon

Book your free place

www.harcvs.eventbrite.co.uk

Working Together for Better Services

Harrogate District Children & Young People's Emotional Health & Wellbeing Partnership

At the February meeting we had an interesting presentation on the dark web and e-safety, updates on the 2017 Refresh of the Local Transformation Plan, the work of the Healthy Child Service and work to support the needs of local young people on the autism spectrum.

In November there was an update on local CAMHS, including the Eating Disorders service and new Crisis Resolution Home Treatment. We also discussed the support for NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Young People and those in Home Education.

As usual there was a positive, lively exchange between people passionate to improve life for local young people. Information is shared to help identify gaps in services and improve awareness of local support and activities, so young people receive the right service at the right time and appropriate referrals are made.

The Partnership has played an important role for many years to improve collaborative working with a more joined up approach by colleagues in the voluntary and community sector, statutory sector and schools.

"This is such a good quality forum and much needed to share and join together."

"One of the best meetings I've ever attended in terms of content and relevance to life and death situations that young people continue to suffer."

Sign up to receive HARCVS bi-monthly **Children, Young People and Families information updates** with the latest news, funding and resources to support local families
www.harcvs.org.uk/newsletter-subscribe



Compass BUZZ has launched a new service called **BUZZ US** for young people across North Yorkshire aged 11-18 years to help support any mental health and wellbeing issues.

By texting the service on 07520 631168 they are able to receive confidential advice, support and signposting from a wellbeing worker within one day via text.

The service is open Mon – Thurs 9am-5pm and Fri 9am-4.30pm (excl Bank Holidays). Please contact 01609 777662 or freephone 0800 008 7452 for further information on the service.

HARCVS Networks bring people together to exchange information and ideas to improve services, encourage collaborative working and share good practice.
www.harcvs.org.uk/Voice-Influence

Working Together for Better Services

Harrogate District VCS Chief Officers and Chairs Group



'I value meetings for networking, information sharing, awareness raising, responding to local issues, understanding of national agendas.'

We had a busy meeting in February sharing latest developments about new projects to help people in our local communities, opportunities for joint training, funding and developing community spaces.

There was an update on THE LOCAL FUND which launched on 31 January and opportunities and experiences were shared on the topic of business and team volunteering. Many organisations were facing challenges and uncertainties around future funding. The review of wellbeing and prevention services by North Yorkshire County Council is a challenging time with long established and valued local services vulnerable in the competitive process. With potentially significantly less investment in the District there would be an impact on individuals in need, volunteers and organisations. The Group needs to work together to flag up the impact on local communities.

A network of over 80 decision makers share news, views, the challenges of managing change, opportunities for funding and working together

www.harcvs.org.uk/chiefofficerschairsgroup

Connecting Ripon



'Connecting Ripon plays a vital role for us in the sharing of knowledge, ideas and support. Working together is something that all our organisations can benefit from.'

At our February meeting, kindly hosted by Ripon YMCA, Network members from 19 organisations came together for a positive exchange of news, illustrating the amazing amount of community action taking place and the increasing number of connections being made between members. Just one example is the team at Jennyruth Workshops who recently have been linking with Lister House, Ripon library volunteers, the Wednesday Welcome Centre in Masham, Open Country and the fabulous Ripon Community Poppy Project.

Many members of our Network were out and about in the city for 'Sights, Sounds and Stories', taking the opportunity to be part of a fantastic annual partnership event which celebrates how much Ripon has to offer residents and visitors.

Connecting Ripon is open to anyone wanting to work together with others to make a positive contribution to community life. A monthly feature in the Ripon Gazette highlights the work of members.

www.harcvs.org.uk/ConnectingRipon

Celebrating Volunteering



Get Set for...
Volunteering



Congratulations to our **Get Set For Volunteering** course members who completed their sessions in February. During the course they've found out what volunteering involves and about local opportunities which match their skills and interests. There's been time to ask questions and to understand that everyone has a lot to contribute in our local community. We look forward to hearing their volunteering stories!

Winter Wonderland Winners



Harrogate and District Sooptimists organise an annual charity shop Christmas window competition which is a great way to celebrate and put a spotlight on the work of volunteers in charity shops.



Volunteers' Week is an annual event which celebrates the contribution made by millions of volunteers across the UK.

From showcasing the different volunteering roles on offer, taster sessions and team challenges with new partners, to volunteer recruitment events, awards ceremonies and launching new volunteering campaigns, events take place throughout the country. Everyone is invited to join this national celebration of volunteers and volunteering.

Here in Harrogate District, Volunteers' Week sees the launch of the Volunteering Oscars, now in its 11th year, and the promotion of opportunities listed in our HARCVS Volunteering Directory. If you're planning events please let us know so we can help spread the word and please make sure all your volunteering opportunities are added to our Directory before the end of May. If you're not already signed up to the Directory to recruit volunteers you can find out more at www.harcvs.org.uk/InvolvingVolunteers/recruiting-volunteers or give us a call on 01423 504074.

HARCVS promotes volunteering with:

- ⇒ Promotional postcards for our Directory
- ⇒ Booklets of local opportunities
- ⇒ Twitter and Facebook
- ⇒ Pop up stand at local events
- ⇒ Partnerships with local organisations
- ⇒ Two monthly columns in the local press

Strong Local Connections

HARCVS Volunteers Managers Network



We facilitate this Network which meets 4 times a year. The meetings are free and informal and are an opportunity to meet other Volunteer Managers from the local area and to discuss any problems you have encountered in your role. They are also an opportunity to ask questions about using our Volunteering Directory.

At the December meeting, Andrew Marsden from Brearleys Solicitors ran a session on **Volunteers and the Law**. Andrew covered Volunteer Agreements, Volunteers and their vehicles, Liability, Risk Assessments and much more.

In June we'll be holding an informal workshop looking at the **Guidelines for using our Volunteering Directory**, top tips on how to make your opportunity listing more attractive to potential volunteers and answering any questions you may have. We'll also be looking for your feedback and suggestions to help improve the recruitment experience for both Volunteer Managers and volunteers.

Next meetings:

Wednesday 14 March, 1-3pm, Ripon

Thursday 14 June, 1-3pm, Harrogate

Book at www.harcvs.eventbrite.co.uk

Sights, Sounds and Stories



Successful local relationships are really important for local voluntary and community action. HARCVS can help charitable groups enjoy better relationships with their volunteers, local businesses and other charities working in the District, through our networks and workshops, newsletters, Directories, resources and social media surgeries.

We enjoyed being out and about in Ripon in March for 'Sights, Sounds and Stories' celebrating the role volunteering plays in making Ripon, and our District such a positive place. There are many great local community events throughout the year and our HARCVS Volunteering Directory can help recruit the vital volunteers needed for events to run safely and smoothly.

HARCVS email updates for Volunteer Managers contain news about national policies which affect volunteering, local events, training, tips, how-to guides and more.

www.harcvs.org.uk/newsletter-subscribe

Book all HARCVS workshops and networks at:

www.harcvs.eventbrite.co.uk

See and Be Seen in your Community



Following very positive feedback from the first event we will be running another **“See and Be Seen”** workshop later in the year, looking at how local groups and organisations can raise their profile in cost effective ways, using their local connections and tapping into a variety of simple to use marketing tools.

“Great workshop, thanks! Helped consolidate my thoughts/plans.”

The next workshop takes place on **Thursday 18 October** from 9.30am to 12 noon at Harrogate Community House.

The cost is only £15 for HARCVS members.

We are also hoping to repeat the popular **Employer Supported Volunteering** workshop in the autumn, looking at how voluntary and community groups can develop positive relationships with businesses to access volunteers. Watch this space for dates.

All workshops can be booked online at: www.harcvs.eventbrite.co.uk

HARCVS Members also benefit from free volunteer role advertising; free job adverts (viewed by over 1,000 people each month); the opportunity to promote events on our website and e-bulletins.

There are also opportunities for charities and community groups to ‘Be Seen’ in our community by contributing to our two HARCVS monthly columns in the local press, submitting a News Story via our website or being a ‘Member in the Spotlight’ in this Newsletter.

We are keen to highlight the fantastic work of our HARCVS member organisations, the difference you make in the community, the challenges you

face and your opportunities for partnership working and volunteering, to over 1,000 readers. This newsletter features Citizens Advice - read about their work on pages 18—19.

Where to Turn

A good way to be seen in your community is to be listed in our Harrogate District Community Information Directory.

Make sure your charity, support group and regular community activities are included in ‘Where To Turn’ and please update your details.

This helps people find the support they need.

You can add a record and request a form to update your listing at

www.harcvs.org.uk/WhereToTurn

Be Seen at Harrogate Community House!

New financial year, new plans From April there is availability for offices of various sizes to rent at Harrogate Community House.

If your charity is interested and would like to know more please contact reception on 01423 503700 email reception@harrogatecommunityhouse.org www.harrogatecommunityhouse.org

Awards, Grants & an Anniversary



On 5 July 2018, the NHS will celebrate its 70th birthday. NHS England is working with a wide array of partners to mark this major milestone.

The 70th birthday is a great opportunity for voluntary organisations to shout about the fantastic work they do to support the health and care system, thank staff and volunteers and share their vision for the future NHS.



Visit www.nhs70.nhs.uk or search #NHS70 on Twitter.



Friends of the Elderly provide grants to older people who are living on low incomes, with savings of less than £4,000.

There are currently three types of grants available:

Home essentials – to cover the cost of replacing everyday items, small home repairs and mobility adaptations.

Digital connection – can be used towards the cost of equipment, such as tablets and smartphones, as well as broadband costs.

Financial support – to help with unexpected bills and large costs, such as utility bills or moving fees. Applications need to be made through a referring agent, such as local health or social care teams, Citizens Advice, or other charities.

www.fote.org.uk/our-charity-work/grants/



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The QAVS is the highest award possible for volunteer groups in the UK. Any exceptional group doing volunteer work for more than 3 years which provide a social, economic or environmental service to the local community can be nominated. The deadline for 2019 submissions is **14 September 2018**. Visit <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk>

If you're thinking about making a nomination why not book a place on our HARCVS Awards workshop '**And the Nominations Are ...**' on 22 March to hear from our expert panel.

Visit www.harcvs.eventbrite.co.uk

Grants available for home adaptations

Harrogate Borough Council is offering grants of up to £30,000 for people who need to adapt their homes to benefit a disabled resident. The money is available once an assessment has been carried out by an occupational therapist.

The grant can be used for a range of adaptations which include stair lifts, wet floor shower rooms, external ramps and through-floor lifts.

The adaptations are designed to make it easier for a person to get in, out and around their home, to prepare and cook food or to improve an existing heating system.

Many people will find that they do not need to contribute towards any improvements although some applications for financial help will be means tested.

The aim is to enable people to leave hospital sooner if their home is suitably adapted, to prevent hospital admissions in the first place and to reduce slips, trips and falls. There is a client handbook available on the Council's website

www.harrogate.gov.uk/grants

Lift off for THE LOCAL FUND



An update from
the partners -
HARCVS,
Harrogate Borough
Council and Two
Ridings Community
Foundation

So it took a bit longer that we'd hoped and involved considerably more work than we anticipated but ...

We have launched!

January saw the official launch event for THE LOCAL FUND, and we were absolutely delighted with the turnout at the event at the Old Swan Hotel. It seems that the concept really has captured the imagination of everyone in our local communities and we hope that we can use this momentum as a springboard to grow the fund, and in turn the level of grant-making. This has been a genuinely positive partnership and to be able to launch THE LOCAL FUND with £385,000 in the pot, thanks to Harrogate Borough Council and particularly the Harry Bolland Trust, has given us a flying start. With these two donations we not only have sufficient funds to award over £40,000 in grants in 2018 but also through the donation of the Harry Bolland Trust we have the beginnings of a long term fund. The ambition of the partnership has always been to promise to support local charitable activity not just in 2018 but forever. However to do this we need to press on with our fundraising efforts, with the challenging aim of having sufficient funds in to award £100,000 per year in grants by 2020. Thanks to the Harrogate Advertiser and Ripon Gazette we received some fantastic coverage in the local press.

But...

...the hard work starts here!



The team are attending follow-up meetings with various people and organisations who have pledged their support, but we need more. We are particularly interested in forming relationships with Professional Advisers (such as lawyers, accountants, financial advisors etc). They may be able to help to promote THE LOCAL FUND to their own clients as a cost-effective and tax-efficient way for them to plan local charitable giving. We have an information pack specifically for those professional advisors, so please get in touch if you are able to facilitate any introductions.

Friends of THE LOCAL FUND

We are proposing to host an inaugural early evening meeting for Friends on **Tuesday 24 April**. We plan to hold a discussion on how the Friends group should work in practice, hear from people who have already done work to help promote the fund, and tell you more about the proposed Harrogate District Lottery. Subject to receiving the appropriate licence, this Lottery will be providing money each year for THE LOCAL FUND, as well as other local good causes. The support of the Friends will be vital to the success of the fund.



Growing Local Giving

Supporting the grant-making

THE LOCAL FUND will open for applications on April 3rd (immediately after Easter) and we'll share all the details on how to apply for the first round of grants via our regular HARCVS e bulletins.

Two Ridings Community Foundation will be responsible for distributing the grants, and as well as help with developing and growing THE LOCAL FUND, they also need volunteers to help deliver the grant-making. There are two specific roles:

- **Application assessor.** This involves reviewing applications, contacting the applicants to find out more information, and making recommendations on the suitability of the project.
- **Decision-making panel member.** There are roles for various types of representatives for the panel, including Friends of the Local Fund, and we want to ensure that the whole Harrogate district is represented.

We appreciate that many Friends will be closely associated with charities and community groups in the district who may apply for grants from THE LOCAL FUND; please be assured that this does not prevent you from doing either of these voluntary roles. We would of course, not ask you to assess any projects for an organisation you are involved with, and would ask you to abstain on any relevant decisions as a panel member on the same basis.

Find out more....

For information about THE LOCAL FUND, to join the Friends, to donate or to volunteer

Email: info@trcf.org.uk

Tel: 01904 435277

Website: www.trcf.org.uk/tlffharrogate

Twitter: @TLFHarrogateDis

The vital role of trustees

"Good governance in charities is fundamental to their success. It enables and supports a charity's compliance with the law and relevant regulations. It also promotes a culture where everything works towards fulfilling the charity's vision."

(Charity Governance Code 2017)

Safeguarding the vision, mission and values of the organisation whilst balancing the books will always require hard choices to be made, so it would be misleading to say that being a trustee is easy. However when good people roll their sleeves up and get involved great things can and do happen, which make a huge difference to people's lives.

Becoming a trustee can seem a daunting prospect and the start of 2018 has seen charities in the headlines once again, this time coming under fire for failings in their safeguarding policies. A charity the size and scale of OXFAM may seem to have little in common with the much smaller voluntary and community groups we are familiar with locally. However whether operating at an international, national or local level all charities have a duty to safeguard their beneficiaries, volunteers and staff. The principle of a board of voluntary trustees taking on this responsibility is a long established and important feature of our sector.

So if you really want to make a difference in your community becoming a trustee and supporting the essential "behind the scenes" work of a charity or community group can be very rewarding and interesting. Being a trustee gives you the chance to be involved in a team, to build your knowledge and understanding of vital local services, to contribute your skills and to learn from others. There is training and support available from a variety of sources and locally our **Chief Officers and Chairs Group** (see page 5) provides the opportunity for key decision makers to get involved and share good practice and challenges they are facing.

Being a HARCVS trustee - what is it like?



HARCVS exists to serve its member charities and our Board of trustees is largely made up of representatives from our members who steer the overall direction of HARCVS.

We are always keen to encourage new people on to the Board. It is important to ensure that what we are doing reflects the needs of our local voluntary and community sector. As we work across the Harrogate district, we are keen to reflect this on our Board and particularly welcome trustees from Knaresborough, Ripon and rural areas in our district.

Our Board currently meets six times per year on weekday evenings, in Harrogate and Ripon.

Two of our trustees share their experiences of being a HARCVS trustee and the reasons why you should consider giving it a go!

Jackie Snape

My paid role is as Chief Executive of a local charity and within that role I have gained a lot of skills and knowledge that I feel I should use in a voluntary capacity as well as in my day to day work.

Before joining the Board of HARCVS I had been a trustee with three other organisations, all with very different aims and objectives.

I was interested in HARCVS as I was, and still am, very supportive of the local voice, I like the idea of a local organisation supporting local ground roots charities to get on and deliver services to local people.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Board of HARCVS. When I joined it was just Harrogate CVS and the merger with Ripon CVS brought about new and exciting opportunities. I was privileged to be appointed Chair in 2015 when the previous Chair, Tony Collins, left. I learned a tremendous amount from Tony and thank him for that valuable insight.

I wouldn't say that it has been without its challenges, but that is true for every part of the voluntary sector. As a trustee there can be times when you have to make some difficult decisions, but you are never alone in that.

I have been so fortunate that my fellow trustees are committed to the organisation and very supportive of its values. We have a great staff team, which have been through

some substantial changes, with a strong leader in Karen.



I am sorry to be leaving the Board of HARCVS, but strongly believe that every charity needs churn on its Board. The days when you were a trustee for life are over and that is as it should be. For anyone thinking of becoming a trustee my advice would be to do it! Trusteeship is sometimes considered the perfect volunteering opportunity for busy people as the commitment is usually 4/6 meetings a year, of course your commitment is not limited to meetings!

Challenging, enjoyable and thought provoking

You will meet new people, you will have new experiences and if you are looking to find out more about management and strategy in the voluntary sector then this is a great opportunity.

I will very much miss everyone at HARCVS when I stand down in the autumn and I will be looking for an opportunity to join another trustee board – I really do enjoy being a trustee that much!

Lindsay Mitchell

Being a trustee – what's it like?!

Challenging, enjoyable and thought provoking.

Why did I become a trustee?

Not sure really Perhaps to give something back to an organisation which our own member organisation (Arthritis Care Harrogate Branch) had found very helpful and extremely informative. Also to learn about what else was going on in the local area and who better to be involved with ...? And always when you do these things, to learn something new and be challenged!

What did I have to give?

- For this particular role experience of working amongst a small group of volunteers seeking to provide something to meet the needs of individuals in the community – in my case those with a long-term condition which can be painful and isolating.
- Experience of involvement with the health service in its various forms - as a patient but also working closely to support our own members
- My own professional experience of running a small business and providing consultancy services.

What do I love about the role?

- The constant challenges (eg new issues arise such as in funding, legislation or the changing context for our work)
- Working as a team with other trustees and with the wonderful staff – learning from others is a key feature

- Never a dull moment!
- Being involved in the local community – great for me as I had a UK-wide job and previously had spent little time in the town where I actually lived!



Why do it?

- Why not? You'll learn about yourself, about working with others from all different backgrounds and about the range of needs and services in our local area. You will also find out about local politics (perhaps more than you want to know) and what is happening on the ground in our community.
- It's actually not that time consuming – well some trustee roles are but HARCVS with its great staff means that trustees can concentrate on the bigger picture and decision making.
- It's a great way to learn and develop skills. Whatever your age and background, you won't be bored as a trustee and you are bound to develop knowledge, experience and skills that no course could possibly hope to offer you in a supportive environment and with great colleagues!

So why am I stopping?

Because it is necessary to keep the Board up-to-date and refreshed and to get new ideas and people involved. A good Board has a time limit on the length of time an individual can serve so that change brings fresh ideas and expertise. Why not do it?!

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a trustee with HARCVS please contact Jackie Snape (Chair) or Karen Weaver (CEO) via cvs@harcvs.org.uk

Ripon Together in 2018 -



RIPON TOGETHER

Ripon Together was established in 2016 as a Community Interest Company bringing together all the key partners concerned with the City. These organisations are:

- **Blow Your Horn**
- **Harrogate & Ripon Centres for Voluntary Service**
- **Ripon City Council**
- **Ripon Cathedral**
- **Ripon Chamber of Trade**
- **Ripon Civic Society**
- **Visit Ripon**

Following a really well attended and productive open meeting in early February the partnership is now finalising plans to support a series of events and activities in the city during 2018 which will bring people from all sectors together for the benefit of the community. These include

Yorkshire Day

The City Council is finalising the plans for the official Civic Event, when mayors from across the county will make their way to Ripon on Wednesday 1 August. The event will include a reception at the Ripon Spa Hotel, a procession via the Market Square to the Cathedral where a service will take place, followed by lunch in a marquee in the garden at Minster House. There may also be an evening event for the general public.

Other plans being developed are a Yorkshire market / display on the Market Place, children's activities (possibly in the Spa Gardens), food and drink stalls and a White Rose City Trail.

The team will also reference other events taking place that week such as the St Wilfrid's Procession, and other organisations such as the Festivals committee. Stephen Craggs is to be the project leader for other events on Wednesday 1 August, together with Chris Hughes and involving Canon Ailsa Newby on behalf of the Cathedral.

End of World War 1 commemorations

Cllr Stuart Martin has instigated a very exciting poppy knitting project which is well underway and you can find more info via their Facebook page 'Ripon Community Poppy Project.'

The Cathedral is hosting an event in partnership with the Wilfred Owen Association on Wednesday 18 March which will start the events of 2018. A statue of Wilfred Owen is also due to be located somewhere in the City.

It is hoped to develop a further project to honour the 251 names from the First World War on the Ripon War Memorial, which could also be linked to gathering information

from descendants and involving schools and Care Homes. Karen Weaver is currently looking into possible sources of funding support before getting a group together to take this forward in conjunction with Dean John.



Christmas 2018

Two groups have formed to look at organising events for Christmas 2018: late Night Opening on Wednesday 13 December and a Christmas Market (date and venue yet to be agreed).

- Planning Projects to Make a Difference



Ripon Together also hopes to set up a team of 6 – 8 people to help provide the support and co-ordination role of Ripon Together.

Tasks could include fundraising, administration, communications (including social media, publicity, website) and project management. There may be smaller task groups set up too to take on specific tasks. There is plenty of opportunity to get involved.

Lavender Alley Project

Ripon Together has received £590 grant funding from Harrogate Borough Council towards a project to improve the appearance of Lavender Alley in the City. The funding is to pay for interpretation panels rather than planting / cleaning and the funding criteria must be adhered to.

Ripon Together is hoping to partner up with the Guides to carry out a clean-up and planting of the alley, with advice from Ripon in Bloom.

This is to be a pilot project to test out how Ripon Together can help support environmental projects around the city and Stuart Gill is the project leader.

However it is also planned to use Yorkshire Day as the impetus for getting city centre businesses to clean up their own premises and frontage.



The Ripon Together board will continue to meet on a monthly basis and, in addition to supporting the above initiatives, the immediate priority is to get a website set up to share details of meetings, future plans and so on. In the meantime you can like Ripon Together on Facebook or follow them on twitter.

Finally don't forget that the Ripon Together CIC is made of individual members and membership only costs £1.

If you live, work or volunteer in Ripon, want to support Ripon Together to achieve positive change in the city and would like to get involved please e mail for an application form via info@ripontogogether.com



@RiponTogether



/RiponTogether

Connecting Knaresborough



Around 60 people took part in a Knaresborough Charity and Community Event hosted by the Mayor of Knaresborough, Councillor David Goode one Saturday morning in January. The purpose of the event was to bring reps from local charities and community groups together to share best practice and look at how to solve challenges in the town around recruiting and supporting volunteers, accessing funding and organising events.

Councillor Goode has chosen to support volunteering during his year of office and has identified that there could be stronger links between groups in the town, thus helping to share good practice, solve problems and avoid re-inventing the wheel. With a great quote he counselled that “boiling the sea is not feasible” but he is optimistic that much more could be done to work together.

Karen, our HARCVS Chief Exec, attended to provide some background on challenges facing the voluntary sector generally and to explain the support available to local voluntary organisations via HARCVS. Ensuring that your organisation is listed in the online Where to Turn directory is a good place to start, and using the volunteering directory to advertise volunteering opportunities is also a straightforward and free of charge option. Ian Savage from Two Ridings Community Foundation presented information on their role in helping the sector access funding, and introduced THE LOCAL FUND.

Councillor Goode was delighted with the turnout to the meeting as a great start to encouraging more collaboration. He is currently working on developing a project plan based on output from the workshop and would welcome other local groups getting involved.

He said *“Having read the input from the workshop and taken into account a number of comments made to me by representatives of local groups, one of the next steps will be to undertake a Knaresborough Voluntary Sector audit of help, support, services, events etc which are available locally. The aim here will be to raise awareness of the ways in which residents can identify and access help and support available in the area and secondly to try to identify gaps in the local offerings such that over time work can be done across organisations with a view to developing offers to fill these gaps.”*



HARCVS is delighted to be supporting this local initiative and we'll share information on the next steps via our regular e-bulletins. Sign up at www.harcvs.org.uk/newsletter-subscribe



/kboromayor

www.knaresboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

HELP - Oaks, Acorns & Open Doors



HELP is nearly half way through its pilot social group 'Oaks and Acorns' being funded by a grant from 'A Life Less Lonely', a fund managed by The Two Ridings Community Foundation to help tackle social isolation amongst older people.

As the name suggests, it brings together two different generations - clients from HELP's Opening Doors service (the 'Oaks') and children from Woodlands Day nursery (the 'Acorns') to meet interact, engage and, most of all, have fun. So far, the group has made a Christmas tree, enjoyed a pet handling session and shared their knowledge of objects from the past and present in our 'What is it?' session. Proof indeed that you're never too old, or too young, to learn things and make new friends.

Our **Opening Doors** events programme for 2018 is well under way with members having already enjoyed afternoon tea and entertainment at Ashville College and a board games afternoon at Covance.

Future outings include a trip to Murgatroyds Fish & Chip Shop, a visit to Stephen Smiths Garden Centre and a Cream Tea and Dance at Spofforth Village Hall. If you, or someone you know, are interested in getting out and about with the help of a volunteer, or joining group outings, please contact the Opening Doors team on 01423 813090.



Time for Lunch

Did you know that HELP runs three lunch clubs for older people in the more rural parts of our District?

Volunteers with the Ripon & Rural Wellbeing Service hold lunch clubs in Grantley, Masham and Kirkby Malzeard, with all three offering local over 65s the opportunity to enjoy a hot meal and a chance to socialise.

The Grantley lunch club is held at Fountains CofE Primary School every other Wednesday during term time and there are places available for new members. Anyone struggling with transport to and from the lunch clubs can use the HELP voluntary car driving service.

For more information on any of the lunch clubs or Ripon & Rural driving service, please contact Julie Proudler on 01765 645902.

Spring into action!

The **Help at Home** gardening season begins in late April. If you, or anyone you know, requires an annual garden tidy ready for the summer ahead, please contact the team on 01423 813096. It's never too early to get on the waiting list!



For more information about any of our HELP services visit www.helpharrogate.org.uk or contact the team in Harrogate on 01423 813090 or in Ripon on 01765 645915.

HARCVS Members in the Spotlight

Craven and Harrogate Districts Citizens Advice



Imagine that you are faced with a family who are about to be evicted because they cannot make their rent payments. Imagine you are able to provide information and assistance to prevent the eviction and to help them access ongoing financial help with their rent. Next you might see someone who has been made redundant whilst they have been off work on maternity leave. You help them work out whether or not they have been treated fairly under the Equality Act. You advise them on what options they might have to remedy the situation.

There isn't a typical day in the life of a volunteer adviser at Craven and Harrogate Districts Citizens Advice. This is what keeps the volunteers coming back, this and the knowledge that the work they do really makes a difference.

Craven and Harrogate Districts Citizens Advice provides a free, independent and confidential advice service to members of the public.

The service is funded by charitable donations, grants from trusts and specific funding is awarded for project work. Currently two projects are funded targeted at people who are socially excluded and struggling on low incomes. There is also a specialist welfare benefits team and a specialist debt team. Both teams are staffed by paid staff and volunteers. North Yorkshire County Council funding contributes towards core work.

Staffed largely by volunteers, the team provides advice and assistance on a wide variety of matters such as benefit claims and appeals, employment issues, dealing with debts and problems to do with housing. There is a diverse range of volunteering roles within the organisation, some public facing (receptionists, advisers) and some more behind the scenes (IT, admin, fundraising, trustee work). All volunteers and staff undergo extensive training and ongoing development to keep upskilled and updated.

Although most of the daily work is face to face with individuals, the team also monitor trends of particular issues that recur. Research and Campaigns volunteers collect this information and use it to provide evidence for positive policy changes that improve people's lives. At the moment there is an ongoing piece of work looking at the problems with the roll out of Universal Credit.

Within the Harrogate district, Citizens Advice maintains good working links with other voluntary organisations, supported and encouraged in partnership working by the HARCVS.



Face to face drop in sessions are held at Citizens Advice offices in Harrogate, Ripon (and Skipton) and at monthly outreach sessions in Pateley Bridge and Masham.

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HARCVS Members in the Spotlight

Citizens Advice

Continued from page 18

It was following on from conversations at a HARCVS Connecting Ripon meeting that the sessions started at the Masham Community Office on the first Thursday of the month from 10am-noon. The Pateley Bride sessions take place at the Nidderdale Plus offices on the first Wednesday of the month, 10.30am – 12.30pm.

The service can also be accessed via the National Adviceline 03444 111 444, webchat and email. Appointments are offered if the issue needs more time and/or follow up work.

For information on volunteering opportunities and opening times visit www.cachd.org.uk




Audrey Burton House, Queensway
Harrogate HG1 5LX

5 Duck Hill
Ripon HG4 1BL

T: 03444 111 444 (Mon - Fri 10am – 4pm)

W: www.cachd.org.uk

 @CACHD_Campaigns

 /CitizensAdviceHarrogate

Dementia Forward



The new Dementia Forward Hub at George Armitage House in Burton Leonard offers a variety of services for families affected by dementia. A community coffee morning, every Friday from 10am to 12pm, is open to everyone. This is an opportunity to see the new building and chat to the team, or enjoy one of the guest speakers.

In their first 3 years, the number of people Dementia Forward supported trebled. Support Advisors make over 1,000 home visits in a year and the team brews over 11,000 cups of tea every year!

Debby Lennox, Community Liaison Worker said: *"During 2018, we hope to continue to work in partnership with other local groups and to be involved in the community, including taking part in the World War I Centenary events and Yorkshire Day celebrations in Ripon. We are also looking to start a walking group for people living with dementia, for which we were very grateful to receive advice from another HARCVS member charity, Open Country."*

If you would like to know more, need any advice or support or are interested in volunteering with Dementia Forward, call 01765 601224 or visit www.dementiaforward.org.uk

Take Your Turn in the Spotlight!

If you would like to feature in a future edition of Care in Action and on our HARCVS website, please let us have your news at www.harcvs.org.uk/Submit-News or email cvs@harcvs.org.uk



Harrogate and Ripon Centres
for Voluntary Service

Where to Turn

Free Online Community Directory for
the Harrogate District



Search the HARCVS Where to Turn Directory to access up to date
information about hundreds of community activities, charities and
services in the Harrogate District.

www.harcvs.org.uk/Wheretoturn

@HARCVS

Tel. 01423 504074 cvs@harcvs.org.uk

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Harrogate and Ripon Centres
for Voluntary Service

HARCVS Volunteering Directory



The new online directory of volunteering opportunities can
be searched by activity, cause, age, availability, wheelchair
access and location. Browse hundreds of different
opportunities to volunteer and find your ideal role.

www.harcvs.org.uk/Volunteer

@VolunteerHARCVS

Tel. 01423 504074 volunteer@harcvs.org.uk

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Our HARCVS free online resource for
people looking for charity services,
support groups and community
activities for themselves, someone
they care for or support.

Our HARCVS free online resource
matching local people with
volunteer roles that suit their
interests, skills, availability, location
and needs.

How to Contact HARCVS

**Harrogate & Ripon
Centres for Voluntary Service (HARCVS)**

Tel: 01423 504074

E-mail: cvs@harcvs.org.uk

www.harcvs.org.uk

Community House, 46 - 50 East Parade
Harrogate HG1 5RR

Community House, Sharow View
Allhallowgate, Ripon HG4 1LE

*Harrogate Borough Council and Ripon City Council
financially contribute to the provision of support to
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