Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency

NEWSLETTER

November 2014

In this edition

➢ Funding News and Opportunities
➢ Volunteering Matters
➢ Voluntary and Community Sector Updates
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➢ And, finally

BDVSA IS SUPPORTED BY
Funding Opportunities

CSS Trust

The next deadline for the Braintree based CSS Trust is **31 January 2015**. An application form and guidelines are available from BDVSA. Please email or telephone the office.

BBC Children in Need – Main Grants Programme

Grants of over £10,000 are to support projects up to three years to work with children and young people up to the age of 18 who are experiencing disadvantage.

Apply using the on-line form on the Children in Need website.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008dk4b/features/cin-grants-main-index](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008dk4b/features/cin-grants-main-index)

Deadline: 15 January 2015

The Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust

The Trust’s aim is to support projects in the following areas:

- Medical research
- Older people
- Projects to help those who have fallen on hard times

The Trustees aim to support few charities, with larger grants of 35,000 and above and will consider the following activities:

- Medical care charities, care specifically aimed at benefitting older people to include Alzheimer’s, macular disease, prostate cancer and Parkinson’s disease.
- Charities in connection with older people – old age, homes and carers
- Charities for people fallen upon hard times – those with disabilities, hospices, ex-services, natural or man-made disasters, mental health and homelessness

Preference is given to supporting capital projects or project driven applications and not running costs or general operating expenses. The Trustees prefer to focus on small to medium-sized charities where grants will make a difference.

For more information:

[http://www.peeltrust.com/strategy.html](http://www.peeltrust.com/strategy.html) or email:  [secretary@peeltrust.com](mailto:secretary@peeltrust.com)

Deadline: 31 December 2014
The Heritage Lottery Fund

Grant funding focussing on the First World War – ‘Then and Now’, grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 are available. The application form is short and is suitable for everyone including first time applicants. You can apply at any time.

For full details go to: www.hlf.org.uk

Youth Strategy Group Funding

There is £500K available across the County for community/voluntary youth groups working with young people for improvements to buildings/venue. The improvements need to benefit young people aged between 13-19.

If you are interested you will need to provide a statement of what is required and how the building/young people will benefit from the work. You will also need to provide costings including three quotes to tie in with Essex County Council procurement processes.

For further information, please contact Jo Adams, Senior Youth Worker at Essex County Council, telephone 07584 262969 or email Joanne.Adams2@essex.gov.uk

Essex Community Foundation has grant programmes which are open all year round.

For full details go to: www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

The Foundation is also inviting applications to the following funds:

ECC Chairman’s Fund supports voluntary and community organisations and charitable activities that enrich the lives of young people by increasing awareness and participation in activities exploring culture and heritage. The average grant awarded is around £3,500. Applications will be accepted until 11 February.

Essex Millennium Fund supports charitable activity in the administrative county of Essex and in particular carers, community support, enhancing the environment and young people. The average grant awarded is around £3,500. Applications will be accepted until 11 February.

Applicants are encouraged NOT to leave submitting your application to 11 February!!

Successful applicants to both these funds will be invited to attend the Essex Millennium and Chairman’s Awards Evening on 14 April 2015.

The Foundations website has been updated with full details of these two funds. Please check the website – address given above.
Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund – Football Foundation

The Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund provides grants for building or refurbishing grassroots facilities, such as changing pavilions and playing surfaces for community benefit, with money provided by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England) and delivered by the Foundation. The Fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations and gives

Grants for projects that:
• Improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities.
• Sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age, or ability.
• Help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport.

Grants are available for between £10,000 and £500,000.
http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/

If you need funding advice for a specific area of work you would like to develop, please contact the BDVSA office and we can undertake a funding search for you and provide advice and guidance on making your application.

A Room with a view?

BDVSA is looking at the possibility of moving premises. We would like somewhere which is more welcoming for visitors and provides a better working environment which will enable the organisation to develop.

BDVSA has the offer of one possible location and before deciding on that we thought we would see what other premises might be available.

Do any of you, our readers, know of a small office suite that might be suitable? Are you a voluntary organisation which is also thinking of moving and like us is finding it difficult to locate suitable and affordable premises? Would sharing premises be something you would consider? If BDVSA found premises which are bigger than we need, could we sub-let an office to your organisation?

Please think about this and contact Rachel if you would like to chat about any of these ideas.

Email: ceo@bdvsa.org  Tel: 01376 550507
Volunteering Matters

Some of you may know that Jayne Tarbun left her job as Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator this month. Jayne has worked for BDVSA for 14 years developing and running the Volunteer Centre for the Braintree District. We all wish Jayne well for the future.

Meanwhile, Dave Wheal joins BDVSA as interim Volunteer Centre Co-ordinator pending the recruitment of a permanent post holder. Dave is making his way around the District and getting to know as many groups as he can. Keep sending us your volunteering opportunities- we want to keep Dave on his toes!

The Do-it website, where volunteering opportunities are listed, is undergoing big changes this autumn/winter. A new website is in the process of being implemented which will be much more inter-active than the old site. It is expected that the new site will be fully functional by Mid-December.

BDVSA has also started a Youth Volunteering Project, working with young people aged between 16-24. The aim of the project is to work with young people helping them develop self-confidence and employability skills. At the same time, the young people will have the opportunity to contribute to their community. BDVSA is one of 8 volunteer centres in Essex developing this work and we need your help.

- Are you a voluntary organisation which would like to help these young people by creating volunteering opportunities which they could participate in?
- Do you know of young people who would benefit from undertaking some voluntary work?

If you can answer yes to one or both of these questions, please contact Dave. He will give you full details of the project and the ways you can help. The volunteering opportunities do not need to be long-term or permanent. We are looking for placements of a few hours so that the young people can experience working with different organisations/groups of people.

BDVSA's next exciting development is the creation of a Time Bank in the Braintree District. A Time Bank is volunteering with a twist. It is neighbourly help and support with safeguards. It’s a great way to be part of the community, plus offer skills or spare time to help others. You can also request help in return. When joining the Time Bank members are given an account. Then each time a member gives time to help another member, time credits are ‘deposited’ into the account. The credits can then be ‘withdrawn’ when there is something a member would like done. Everyone has something to offer, whether they are qualified in a trade or they are a good listener. Maybe you know how to help set up a computer or perhaps you could pick up some shopping.

Everyone’s time is valued equally: 1 hour = 1 time credit.
It's free and open to everyone regardless of age, ability, skills or situation.

For more information about how to become a member
Email: timebank@braintree.gov.uk  Tel: 01376 552525
Volunteering Opportunities in the District

Special Constables with Essex Police - The special constabulary is a force of trained volunteers who work with and support their local police. ‘Specials’, as special constables are known, come from all walks of life - they are teachers, taxi drivers, accountants and secretaries, or any number of other careers - and they all volunteer a minimum of four hours a week to their local police force, forming a vital link between the regular (full-time) police and the local community.

Community Visitor of Care Homes – Get to know the people living in the care home, their families and the staff who support them. Time to chat and listen.

Park Run Volunteers – Volunteer will fulfil one of several roles required to be filled every Saturday meeting at the Great Notley Park Event.

Photography Club Volunteer at Mencap – A weekly group for adults with learning disabilities visiting places of interest around the District in their mini bus capturing the changing seasons.

Friday Circle Club is looking for new members and volunteers – to join in and help with the running of the club. The club for retired people, which has been running for over 50 years, meets weekly at the Constitutional Club in Braintree at 1.45pm for refreshments, social activities and occasional outings. If you are looking for company on Friday afternoons why not consider it?

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE BDVSA OFFICE

Host families needed over Christmas - International students across the country are likely to spend the festivities alone on a closed-down University campus. HOST arranges for volunteer hosts to invite a student from 24th until 27th December. If you would like to invite an international student to stay for a few days at Christmas or any other time of the year, please contact HOST on 020 7739 6292 or hosts@hostuk.org

Does your organisation need help?

Moon Beever Solicitors based at Great Notley together with their London Office close their offices for one day every other year and spend the day volunteering their services to the local community.

Two years ago they worked with a youth project in North London painting the centre and making a garden for the child care area, and would like to do something along the same lines in April 2015 (no confirmed date as yet) in the Braintree area.

They have approximately 65 staff aged from 18 to 78 so need something for all ages and abilities, they will supply some materials such as paint and plants so should not take up to many resources’ from the people they are volunteering for.

Contact Kathleen Barr email kbarr@moonbeever.com or Tel 0207 400 7770
**Voluntary and Community Sector Updates**

**Essex Compact**

A small working group of active champions are currently reviewing the current code of Practice on Funding and Procurement to bring it up to date and reflect the commissioning approach that is being adopted in Essex.

The Compact Steering Group is also leading work on the adoption of the Voluntary Sector Framework and is liaising with statutory sector partners to ensure that the framework underpins Compact compliance within statutory organisations in Essex.

The membership register is being updated so keep an eye out for an email asking members to confirm membership and update any compact Champion details.

**Other News**

A review of the Social Value Act is taking place. The Act requires people who commission or buy public services to consider securing added economic, social or environmental benefits to their local area. Currently the Act applies to service contracts above a threshold set by the EU. The review is considering:

- if the Act should be extended to cover contracts for goods and works as well as services
- how it might be extended in a way that continues to support small business and voluntary, charity and social enterprise organisations to bid for public contracts

The review team aims to report on findings in early 2015.

**The Essex Alliance**

The Alliance met on 12 November at Weeley Council Offices. Members of the Alliance were updated with the work of the steering group and the forums. It is just one year since the Alliance was formed and its work as the network of networks is progressing well. The chairman of the Alliance, Phil Martin, is standing down as he is changing his job. Paul Feasey, Vice-chair of the Alliance will be acting chair, pending the start of the election process in January 2015.

The Alliance also listened to a presentation from The Essex Community Rehabilitation Company Ltd – formerly Probation. This organisation was formed as part of the Government’s Transforming Rehabilitation work which has resulted in the development of 21 rehabilitation companies across the country delivering a probation service, alongside the National Probation Service.

**Good Practice Tip**

Remember to check the Charity Commission website regularly to see which information and guidance leaflets on governance and all matters affecting trustees have been updated.
NAVCA Survey of Charities and Voluntary Organisations 2014

The biggest survey of charities and voluntary organisations of the year has been launched by a coalition of charities to find out more about the help charities need. The survey’s findings will be used to lobby key decision makers and funders about the support charities and voluntary organisations need.

Please join us and take part in this survey. By taking part you will be helping make sure that funders and decision makers know more about your needs. The survey has 20 questions and can be completed in 15 minutes.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LJP8KWK

Do you have a nomination for the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Safety Award?

Nick Alston, Police & Crime Commissioner for Essex, is inviting nominations for individuals, volunteers and groups across the county who have made an Outstanding Contribution to Community Safety.

The new award aims to recognise those people or teams who go the extra mile. This could include volunteers who support and protect vulnerable people or to frontline public servants who go above and beyond to deliver an outstanding service to their community.

Full details, including how to make a nomination, can be seen here:

The deadline for nominations is 5pm on Thursday 11th December.

Do the people you support watch Freeview television through an aerial?

The arrival of 4G mobile phone services in Essex may cause problems with Freeview TV services, leading to a loss of sound, blocky images or loss of some or all TV channels. Those watching via a cable or satellite are unlikely to experience problems.

at800 is the organisation that has been set up to help overcome any problems and may have already sent a postcard to those households which may be affected, warning viewers that Freeview TV reception could be disrupted. Some of these households may be entitled to receive an at800 filter free of charge.

For further information go to www.at800.tv or call 0333 31 31 800 or 0808 13 13 800
Get Ready for Winter

Keep warm, keep well

There’s a common misconception that cold only becomes a killer when frost sets in and there’s snow on the ground. However, for some people the impacts can be felt long before the temperature drops to freezing. For the most vulnerable keeping yourself and your home warm is perhaps the single most important thing you can do to keep you safe over the winter.

Winter is also the season when coughs, colds and other illnesses seem to multiply. That puts hospitals and doctors under more pressure. You can help by following the advice of health professionals on managing irritating minor illnesses and what to do when something more serious happens.

Help your community in snow and ice

When cold weather hits, there may be people in your community who are left vulnerable. You may be able to help your neighbours in a few simple ways.

Checking on vulnerable neighbours

If the weather is cold, take a few minutes to check on neighbours and relatives who are elderly or unwell and see if they need anything. This can be particularly important if the individual is unable to leave their home.

Winter can be a lonely time for older people, so neighbours can play a really important role helping them feel they are not alone.

You may be able to help neighbours with their shopping, or by offering them a lift somewhere, or it might just be as simple as introducing yourself and having a cup of tea and a chat.

If you are still concerned about the neighbour’s well-being contact Essex Social Care on 0845 603 7630

Clearing snow and ice from pavements and footpaths

The Snow Code provides guidance for clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces.

Don’t be put off clearing paths because you’re afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. Don’t believe the myths - it’s unlikely you’ll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully.

Tips on Snow Clearance can be found at

Introduction from the Fire Service Community Safety Support Officer

My name is Charlotte Stephens and I am a Community Safety Support Officer for the Fire Service. The areas that I cover include Braintree and Uttlesford.

My role in the Fire Service is to engage with the local community and deliver home fire safety advice, advice about smoke alarms, information points such as stalls in local areas/events as well as other areas. I have attended many events in the Uttlesford area including housing events, fire safety talks in sheltered accommodation, fairs and fetes.

If there is anything that you think I could be a part of or I can be of any service to your organisation then please feel free to email me or phone me on the following contact details

Phone: 07525889218/01376576823
Email: charlotte.stephens@essex-fire.gov.uk

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Essex Police would like to invite you to join Essex Community Messaging (ECM)

Essex Community Messaging will;

**Keep** you informed about the kind of policing and community safety issues which affect you

**Choose** to receive this information via email, text or voice message

**Select** what information you would like to receive – based on where you live, work, go to school or college or socialise, or on issues in which you may have a particular interest to you

**Take** an active part in supporting your community whilst keeping up to date with what’s going on around you.

**Sign up** for free at [www.essex.police.uk/ecm](http://www.essex.police.uk/ecm) to receive accurate and up-to-date information, crime prevention advice and notifications from Essex Police, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)
## TRAINING - Voluntary Sector Training

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>9th Dec</td>
<td>Volunteer Recruitment (Accredited)</td>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Jan</td>
<td>Presentation Skills – Getting Your Message Heard to Achieve the Results You Desire</td>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Feb</td>
<td>Promoting your Organisation using Facebook and Twitter</td>
<td>Dunmow</td>
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<td>Volunteers and the Law - Payments and Perks and Safety and Security</td>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
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<td>Working with Priority Groups – Building in Equality of Opportunity</td>
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<td>25th Feb</td>
<td>Moving into Management</td>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
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<td>5th Mar</td>
<td>Becoming More Assertive</td>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
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<td>10th Mar</td>
<td>Writing for the Web</td>
<td>Dunmow</td>
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<td>Supporting, Developing and Managing Volunteers (Accredited)</td>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Mar</td>
<td>Introduction to Employment Law including new updates</td>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
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</table>

Book your place now online at [www.voluntarysectortraining.org.uk](http://www.voluntarysectortraining.org.uk)

What training would you like to see offered by Voluntary Sector Training?

As an incentive for completing their 2014 Training Needs Survey a £25.00 M&S voucher will be offered to one lucky person selected at random.

Survey closes 12th December

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/33CB3PJ](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/33CB3PJ)

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**Essex Connects Online Directory Data Protection Renewal**

We are currently checking we have up to date details listed on the website.

If you have received an email “Data Protection Renewal” and not replied yet please do so as soon as possible.

Alternatively look at your organisation’s listing on [www.essexconnects.org.uk](http://www.essexconnects.org.uk) and confirm to Gwen by email at [admin@bdvsa.org](mailto:admin@bdvsa.org) that all is correct
## CHRISTMAS EVENTS – BRAINTREE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alec Hunter Academy</td>
<td>29th November</td>
<td>Christmas Shopping Day 11am – 1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braintree Museum</td>
<td>30th November</td>
<td>Christmas at The Museum looking back at Christmas in past times</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Crafts with Braintree Area Forum</td>
<td>3rd December 2 -7pm</td>
<td>Craft Fayre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braintree Museum</td>
<td>3rd December 6.30-8.30pm</td>
<td>Christmas Door Wreath Making Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braintree Museum</td>
<td>4th December 4-7pm</td>
<td>Late Night Shopping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Notley Children’s Centre</td>
<td>12th December 10-11.30am</td>
<td>Christmas Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braintree Museum</td>
<td>6th December 11am – 1pm</td>
<td>A Very Polish Christmas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braintree Museum</td>
<td>13th December 11am - midday</td>
<td>A Very British Christmas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braintree &amp; Bocking Community Association</td>
<td>13th December 8pm</td>
<td>Country and Western Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seesaw Children’s Centre</td>
<td>15th December 10 – 11.30am</td>
<td>Christmas Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braintree District Mencap</td>
<td>16th December 7-10pm</td>
<td>Christmas with Elvis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carousel Children’s Centre</td>
<td>18th December 10.30 -12 noon</td>
<td>Christmas Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of the Flitch Way</td>
<td>21st December 11.30am – 3pm</td>
<td>Santa visiting the Railway Carriage at Rayne Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braintree Museum</td>
<td>20th December 11am - Midday</td>
<td>The Wishing Tree</td>
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# CHRISTMAS EVENTS – WITHAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Santa’s Grotto at the Old Pottery Kiln Pub run by the Rotary Club of Witham</td>
<td>Witham Rotary Senior Citizens Christmas Party at Witham Town Hall</td>
<td>25th – 30th November 4- 7pm Money raised will go to Farleigh Hospice</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Mary’s Church Kelvedon</td>
<td>St Mary’s Church Kelvedon</td>
<td>2nd Witham Boys Brigade at Witham United Reform Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th &amp; 7th December 12 noon – 5pm</td>
<td>St Mary’s Church Kelvedon</td>
<td>7th December 6.30pm Thanksgiving and Commissioning Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Tree Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witham Area Forum at Witham Public Hall</td>
<td>All Saints Church Feering</td>
<td>11th December 3-5.30pm Festive Fun Free Christmas Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th December 3-5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witham Rotary’s Santa and Sleigh</td>
<td>Witham Rotary’s Santa and Sleigh</td>
<td>Christmas with the BIG Sing</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 6th &amp; 8th Newlands Precinct</td>
<td>December 11th &amp; 12th Morrisons</td>
<td>December 13th 7pm</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Witham Public Hall (Ticket Event)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Witham Singers Christmas Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 14th 4pm</td>
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<td>Witham Public Hall (Ticket Event)</td>
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# CHRISTMAS EVENTS – HALSTEAD

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<th>Event</th>
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<th>Venue</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Halstead Day Centre Christmas Bazaar</td>
<td>29th November 10am – 4pm</td>
<td>URC Halstead</td>
<td>29th November 10am – 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>URC Halstead Nativity Display</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halstead Town Council Switch on of Christmas Lights</td>
<td>29th November 4.30pm</td>
<td>Crossways Church Halstead</td>
<td>30th November</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Andrews Church Christingle Service</td>
<td>7th December 7.30pm</td>
<td>URC Halstead</td>
<td>14th December 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>URC Halstead Annual Torchlight Procession and Town Carol Service</td>
<td>3rd December 7pm</td>
<td>Crossways Church Halstead</td>
<td>30th November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Together Halstead Christmas Celebrations at Queen’s Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halstead Town Council and Churches Annual Torchlight Procession and</td>
<td>3rd December 6.30pm</td>
<td>URC Halstead</td>
<td>14th December 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Service</td>
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<td>Crossways Church Halstead</td>
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<tr>
<td>URC Halstead Church open for Refreshments after the Torchlight Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>URC Halstead All Age Carol Service</td>
<td>21st December 6.30pm</td>
<td>St Andrews Church</td>
<td>21st December 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halstead Baptist Church at the Parkview Site Lessons and Carols</td>
<td>21st December 6.30pm</td>
<td>Methodist Church</td>
<td>21st December 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>URC Halstead</td>
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<td>Carol Service with Refreshments and</td>
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<td>St Andrews Church</td>
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<td>Mince Pies</td>
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<td>Nine Lessons and Carols</td>
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AND FINALLY....

Ode to Joy

The Braintree Branch of Parkinson’s UK is developing an exciting new project. Funding has now been received for the group to start a fun and therapeutic singing class which will take place once a month on the fourth Thursday of every month. The singing classes will start at 3:15 pm for one hour followed by refreshments.

The Braintree Branch is now looking for a singing leader to take the classes. The fee is £50 to include travelling expenses.

If you have experience in teaching/leading singing and would like to help those with Parkinson’s Disease experience the joy singing can bring, please contact BDVSA.

Email: bdvsa@bdvsa.org or telephone 01376 550507.

Are you an Older People’s Group looking for speakers for the New Year?

The Senior Citizen Liaison Team (SCLT) provide a number of innovative safety services to older people, leaning strongly towards crime prevention and victim support – particularly in respect to scams, cons and general deception type crimes.

Their Public Presentation Team is made up of volunteers and serving employees of the police service. Their talks are free, however they would request a contribution towards their travelling expenses from Avon and Somerset where they are based as they are a charity.

For further information go to www.sclt.us or tel 07788 236804

Braintree Area Foodbank Distribution Centres have changed the opening hours for Christmas week only

Monday 22nd December - St. Andrews Centre, Halstead from 11am to 3pm
Tuesday 23rd December - Christ Church, Braintree from 10am to 12noon
Wednesday 24th December - Baptist Church, Braintree from 11am to 2pm
Wednesday 24th December - Methodist Church, Witham from 10am to 12 noon

Free, weekly 5km Parkrun at Great Notley

Meet every Saturday at 9.00 am
Find out More

About groups concerned with:

- Mental health/learning difficulties
- Physical disabilities
- Hearing/sight impairment
- A specific medical condition

BDVSA can find the right group for you

Please contact BDVSA on 01376 550507 for more information

The BDVSA Newsletter is produced and published by

BRAINTREE DISTRICT VOLUNTARY SUPPORT AGENCY

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Company limited by guarantee Registered in England No 7831270
Registered Charity No. 1147020

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Our next Newsletter will be issued in February 2015

Deadline for articles is 3rd February

These can be emailed to: admin@bdvsa.org