



March 2021

What a challenging time it has been across Rother for the Voluntary sector. Our community groups and voluntary organisations have never been more needed or appreciated than they are right now. Please share your news with us, that includes good news, calls to action, challenges, anything you can think of. We can then share this more widely.

We at RVA want to support you as best we can, and we will be asking you questions over the coming weeks so that we can be responsive to your needs, so please keep in touch with us and let us know what issues your organisations are facing and how we can help.

Census 2021 has arrived

From 1st March 2021 to 4th May 2021 RVA will be operating as a Census Support Centre. We will be offering support and assistance with completing Census forms online and also the paper version. RVA will be offering a pre-booked appointment only service between the hours of

- Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30am-4.30pm
- Wed 9.30am-1pm
- Fri 3.00pm-8.00pm
- Census Day - Sun 21/03/21 we will open between 9.00am-6.00pm.

To book an appointment please call 01424 214524 or email office@rva.uk.com

For further information please contact our Lead Advisor for the Census Support Service, Mandi Lyons on the above number and email address or visit www.census.gov.uk.

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Laptops for learning

RVA and local schools across Rother have been working hard to distribute laptops to families and young people who need them, for information about this please contact Jackie at jackie.sauill-hunt@rva.uk.com

Space for hire

Is your organisation looking for office space in Bexhill? This could be hot desking, regular meeting room space or a small office, for short or long-term hire. If so, please email your requirements to office@rva.uk.com.

We are in the process of consulting and if may be of interest to you in the future please let us know.

RVA Network Meetings

You have told us you would like the networks to be themed and sometimes smaller so you can work with other organisations facing similar challenges. An online survey will be available shortly -please let us know what you would like more of.

RVA Project Updates

Healthy Ageing through Innovation in Rural Europe

Half-way there!

We're delighted to have already interviewed 45 people in Rye, Robertsbridge and the surrounding area – but we want to meet so many more! Rother Voluntary Action and East Sussex County Council are partners in a research project empowering older adults to say what support they need; design new services; reduce loneliness, improve health and wellbeing and help shape their community for the future.



Will you tell us about your life in Rural Rother? Use your experiences to help make it a great place to grow older!

- Help us to understand the opportunities and challenges that you face and share the ways you stay happy, healthy and independent in Rural Rother.
- Explore your health and wellbeing with a friendly, fully trained volunteer.
- Join with local people to design innovative new services. Bring your ideas to life and make your community a great place to thrive for all ages.



We'd love to hear from you! Please don't hesitate to contact with Annette on

07369 221256, or by e-mail to annette.holmes@rva.uk.com.

For more information about the project visit: www.rva.uk.com/HAIRE



I Know How



Rother Voluntary Action is working to create an integrated knowledge and coaching service to support people with cancer to remain in or return to work. We are part of a European Team that is seeking to build tools and resources that help employees, employers, job-coaches and other health care professionals to navigate the physical, emotional and practical ups and downs of a cancer diagnosis.

We're particularly working with local employers to refine and improve these tools with an aim of supporting small to medium-sized organisations to prepare, and think about the dilemmas they may face and therefore be able to better support any employee with a cancer diagnosis.

If you are an employer in Rother and would like to help us to develop these tools, please do get in touch with jackie.saul-hunt@rva.uk.com.

Making It Happen

Making it Happen is about discovering, celebrating and building on the positive things in our local neighbourhoods. We've seen fantastic community responses from people stepping up

to support others in the last year, and Making it Happen is about helping those ideas flourish.

If you would like to establish something for your community, please do get in touch with Ana or Jackie for a wide range of support.

Bexhill – ana.mesinezi@rva.uk.com

Rural Rother – jackie.saul-hunt@rva.uk.com



Hello

As a new member of the Team in 2021 I thought I would take the opportunity to introduce myself,

I am a Community Development Worker for General Infrastructure. As the title implies, it encompasses general work within RVA and includes advice to Community Groups around funding and set up; signposting where appropriate and I am currently leading on our Training offer to you.

You will have seen our Training Survey which we developed so that we can better understand your needs going forward into 2021. If you missed the survey, we will always welcome your ideas, just email us. There has been a great response, thank you. Being so new in post I am completing as much training as I can so that I am well placed to advise you. However, we have a very knowledgeable Team and as such we will work together to assist you.



New for 2021 – Rother Food Partnership

The desire to create a Food Partnership for Rother, and across East Sussex is driven by a belief that food is an essential part of the solution to some of our society's greatest challenges including obesity, ill health related to diet, food poverty and food waste, as well as climate change and loss of biodiversity.

This project, commissioned by East Sussex County Council, and hosted by Rother Voluntary Action, aims to bring together all those working in the production and sale of food in the local area, as well as those working to support those who need a little extra help accessing the food and diet they require.

Food systems are complex, but successful food partnerships elsewhere have evidenced the value of cross-sector networking, idea sharing and working in the development of a healthy, sustainable and more equitable food system for all.

At this early stage we are looking to talk with anyone involved in the food system within Rother to understand their experience and begin the process of identifying how collaboration may help to address challenges and identify opportunities for making the local food system better.



If you are interested in sharing your perspective, then we would love to hear from you. Please email lindsay.macfarlane@rva.uk.com.



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