

Is our information in the right places?

We want to make sure that our recently revamped information leaflets are in the right places to reach the people who need us. We are constantly looking into where carers can find our details. If you know of somewhere we are not represented, that would be of benefit, please let us know.

Crossroads Care services

Aiming High for children

Our Aiming High services, providing home respite or short breaks away from home for disabled children and young people, are now well underway. Since April, the Aiming High Team has been extending the services that Crossroads Care already operated from Worthing. Co-ordinator, Julie Jones, said, 'Our Aiming High Services are free



until March 2011. We can give up to four hours a fortnight to provide home respite or short breaks for children and young people and we can also accompany families out for the day as an extra pair of hands.

The level of interest we have received in this service so far is very encouraging. Please get in touch if you or someone you know would benefit from the service.'

Night Sitting Service

Do not forget, if you are a carer, or know of a carer, who is experiencing disturbed nights and therefore getting very little sleep, Crossroads Care's Night Sitting Service can help. Staff can be on hand for up to 10 hours one night per week..

Emergency Respite Service

Crossroads Care West Sussex is very pleased to be able to let you know that funding for the Emergency Respite Service we provide will continue from West Sussex County Council until March 2011. The service will remain free. If you are not already registered with us for the service, please do so through our contact details below.

Do you know of an unpaid carer who would benefit from the support our services give? Please pass on our contact details and we will be happy to see how we can help.

Crossroads Care West Sussex:

Tele Cottage, Horsemere Green Lane, Climping, West Sussex BN17 5QZ

01903 790270

email: admin@westsxcrossroads.org

website: www.crossroadscarewestsussex.org

Registered in England No. 6682652 Charity Registration 1127236
Registered Office: 127 Comptons Lane, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 6NZ



Crossroads Care West Sussex receives funding from West Sussex County Council

CROSS ROADS CARE

West Sussex

NEWS

Summer 2010

from the people carers turn to

It has been a busy time since our last newsletter. Not only do we have a new national Government, the weather has improved considerably and our TVs have been taken over by major sporting events. Closer to home we are pleased to say that the merger of all the former West Sussex Crossroads schemes has been completed with the move of all our staff into one office.

This edition of Crossroads Care West Sussex News gives you details on this and everything else that has been happening around our organisation.

Crossroads Care West Sussex on the move

Staff from the three offices at Bognor, Horsham and Worthing have moved to one new office at Climping. Crossroads Care West Sussex can now be found at:- Tele Cottage, Horsemere Green Lane, Climping, BN17 5QZ, telephone number 01903 790270. All postal correspondence and phone calls should be made to this address.



Chief executive officer, Eric Geddes, said, 'Bringing the whole organisation together under one roof at last has been long awaited. We are all now looking forward to improving our services to our customers from our new base in Climping.'

New offices, new structure

Bringing all staff together has come at the same time as a major new structuring for Crossroads Care West Sussex staff. As CEO, Eric Geddes leads the Senior Managers' Team consisting of Tracey Hole, Operations Manager (heading up all care provision), Michele Burnett, Central Services Manager (responsible for human resources, training, administration and dealing with compliance matters) and Colin Hawes, Finance Manager.

Co-ordinators, Jody Ablitt Larney, Tina Hopkins, Annette Jones and Julie Jones.

The Central Services Team led by Michele consists of Adele Howard (human resources and training), Debbie Knights (payroll and statistics), Wendy Wells (general administration) and Carol Yeend (finance).

Please remember that all members of staff can help with any enquiry.

The Operations' Team led by Tracey comprises of our four Care

Crossroads Care West Sussex goes online

As we said in our last newsletter, we have been developing our own website to make it easier to find out about our services online. www.crossroadscarewestsussex.org is now up and running and is the site to visit for the latest news on our organisation.

Crossroads Care West Sussex joined forces with IT students at the University of Chichester to develop the website. The business/business and IT degree students found that the project gave them an opportunity to develop a website in a real business context, which formed an important part of their courses. The students who took part in the project – Kat Rogers, Harriet McDaniel and Helen Wake – are second year students at the University. Helen is working with us during the summer to launch the website and provide aftercare.

CEO, Eric Geddes, worked alongside the team. 'The website meets our requirements perfectly and is now a vital part of our communication with customers, both current and potential, as well as with other stakeholders. The site has all our services outlined and is, we believe, very easy to navigate. We have an events page to keep everyone up to speed with what's going on. There are also links to other useful sites for carers and a route for enquiries to reach us and be handled immediately. I would like to thank Chichester University and all the team responsible for developing the site.'



Crossroads Care on Regional TV News

Back in the spring a national news story broke concerning the under spending by some Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) on services for carers. Meridian TV pursued the story and came to Crossroads Care West Sussex to set up an interview with a carer to talk about the challenges carers face.

Carer Harry Magee took part and Carer Support Worker, Anne Lacey, was on hand to look after his wife, who has dementia, during the interview.

It took a while for the item to be screened and unfortunately neither

Mr Magee nor Anne saw it as it was broadcast. Anne was told by another customer that he had seen her on the news the previous evening and an old friend of Mr Magee, who now lives in Spain, saw it and got in contact with him about it.

Anne eventually saw the recorded news item in the Bognor office.

As a footnote to this story, NHS West Sussex, (formerly the PCT) has identified where they have under spent and Crossroads Care will be talking to them about it.

Crossroads Clubs' News

The Balcombe Social Club As we go to press, the Balcombe Social Club is planning a leisurely cruise and picnic lunch on the Wey and Arun canal on 20 July. The group will travel to Loxwood to

board a barge for a trip that will last two and a half hours. The trip has been part funded by the Balcombe Christmas Tree Society which has given donations to our clubs in previous years.

The Tuesday Club, which meets at Holy Cross Church Hall, Bognor Regis, enjoyed a trip to Storrington recently where the group not only had a splendid day out with plenty of brass band music from the '30s and '40s to enjoy, they also met Dame Vera Lynn which made for a perfect day. Our picture shows the group. Club Co-ordinator, Rita Boxall, is second from the left on the front row, next to Dame Vera. Rita has written a poem to mark the day. Sadly, space did not allow for it to be printed here, but contact Rita on 07719 792765 if you would like a copy.



The Horsham Social Club, Hordern House (off Blackbridge Lane), Horsham is open on Wednesdays between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm. The club gives a day's respite for carers by providing a mixture of activities, games and crafts and a cooked midday meal in a caring environment for those being cared for. Three members of staff run the group, which is attended by between 10 - 15 members. Carers are

also welcome to stay. There is a small charge currently £15 including the meal. Carers can arrange to visit the group by contacting the co-ordinator, Helen, on 07730 136990

Neil's Club Picnics, bubbly, folk music and sunshine were the order of the day on Sunday 11 July when Rachel Whitlam and Carol Dutton organised a fundraiser - Folk in the Field - for Neil's Club. Balcombe Cricket Field was the setting for a glorious, day out attended by over 200 people with the sounds of Moveable Feasts, a 'world and roots' group, getting people up on their feet to dance.

Friends of Neil's club held a 'Wheelbarrow full of Booze' raffle which was won appropriately by someone out celebrating his birthday. There was Pimms on offer, ice creams, strawberry skewers and a silent auction was held for two tickets to an England v New Zealand rugby match at Twickenham, kindly donated by Rosemary and Graham French. There were traditional garden games and a Maypole for the children, whilst the adults chilled out on the grass.

A total of £2,200 was raised, well worth all the hard work organisers Carol, along with her husband, Pete, and Rachel put in. The event was such a success that visitors and the band were asking if there would be a repeat performance next year.

For information on all Crossroads Care West Sussex's Clubs, contact Julie Jones on 01903 790270.

Getting our messages out there

During May and June this year bus travellers in West Sussex found their tickets to ride carried an advertisement for Crossroads Care West Sussex on the reverse. It is the first time we have advertised in this way and we were very pleased with the levels of interest the campaign generated.

We also had an article, supported by an advertisement, in two Ganda

Publications - the free magazine for the Worthing area, **Essentially Worthing**, and **Caring4Sussex**, which is distributed widely in the county, free of charge. Again, enquiries have been rolling in.

If you know of free papers that you receive and read regularly, please let us know so that we can make sure we give them our news.