

Dulwich Helpline Herald

August 2011

Our normal office hours are Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – 020 8299 2623
Office hours for Jean Hedden are Mon to Wed – 8 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are cordially invited to our AGM
on

Monday 3rd October, 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
in

The Linbury Room
Dulwich Picture Gallery
Gallery Road, SE21

Speaker: James Barber

(Lib. Dem. Councillor for East Dulwich)

N.B. No entrance from College Road

Please note that there is **no car parking at the Gallery**, but free parking is available in the surrounding streets. Refreshments will be available after the event. **If you plan to attend, it would help us if you would please let us know. Thank you.**

PRESS RELEASE: “CHARITIES TO COLLABORATE”

Dulwich Helpline and Southwark Churches Care, two charities working with older people in Southwark, have announced their intention to **work in collaboration from the same location in Dulwich Community Hospital**. Both charities have been in existence since the early 1990s and have **extensive experience of providing support for older people**.

The idea has been under discussion since late 2010. The Trustees decided that the two charities, both of whom use volunteers to work with isolated older people in adjoining areas in Southwark, could **save money and increase the scope of what they offer** by working much more closely together and **sharing back office costs**.

The Trustees believe that the opportunities for creating viable and sustainable befriending and support services will be greatly enhanced by working together rather than separately. By

collaborating, **the two charities will have access to a combined volunteer force of 360 volunteers offering assistance to over 630 service users**.

Ted Salmon, Chairman of Dulwich Helpline and Adrian Greenwood, Chairman of Southwark Churches Care said “ We warmly welcome this initiative to work together more closely and have **every hope that the partnership will benefit the older people** who use our services now or might do so in the future”.

BACKGROUND

Dulwich Helpline was launched in 1993. Its mission is to **improve the quality of life and help to prevent physical and mental deterioration of isolated older people in south Southwark** by running volunteer projects designed to combat loneliness, provide emotional and practical support and enable older people to continue to live in their own homes.

Southwark Churches Care was set up in 1994 by the Southwark Ecumenical Borough Deans, in response to concerns of the new Community Care Act, recognising that the legislation enabling older people to remain in their own homes could also inadvertently lead to their social isolation. SCC's one-to-one **befriending scheme engages members of the local churches of all denominations in the Borough, as well as volunteers from the wider community**, in contributing their time and skills to the needs of vulnerable and potentially lonely older people living in their neighbourhoods,

Both charities offer older people **opportunities for social interaction and support** including one-to-one befriending and social groups. This has a **positive impact on feelings of wellbeing, facilitates independent living and reduces**

reliance on statutory services. At a time when the statutory services are under increasing pressure to provide services only for the most needy, **this is an important initiative which will offer services to more elderly and isolated people by using staff and volunteers more effectively.**

CONTACTS:

**Barbara Scott, Dulwich Helpline
020 8299 2623**

**Marcia Green, Southwark Churches Care
020 7252 6381**

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

Dear Friend

You will have read the press release announcing our intention to form a partnership with Southwark Churches Care. I am sure many of you will have questions about why the Trustees of both organisations think this is the right approach at the present time.

The principal reason for going into partnership is the financial uncertainty that we both face. **The funding by Southwark Social Care ends next March with little prospect of continuation in its current form.**

Fortunately **the two charities share the same objectives and can respond more effectively together than apart.** Working with volunteers, we will continue to provide befriending and other supporting services to isolated, vulnerable older people across Southwark.

The partnership will also promote independent living and physical and mental health thereby reducing the reliance on statutory services.

Dulwich Helpline and Southwark Churches Care have identified some specific benefits in working together.

- a greater range of services for some service users
- increased support and training for volunteers, staff and Trustees leading to improved morale and better service to users
- greater success from funding applications to Trusts, Foundations and Companies
- cost efficiencies in providing the service

- more service users and more volunteers and a better balance between them
- effective partnership with Southwark Council, complementing statutory services
- shared learning by both organisations, leading to continuous improvement.

Staff and Trustees have begun an initial period of **parallel working**, implementing a **joint/coordinated referral process** and locating staff and office functions at Dulwich Community Hospital, coordinating of work systems, training programmes and funding applications.

We will work towards a full organisational merger if our experience of working together makes this desirable.

Either party is free to withdraw from this partnership arrangement if they consider the desired outcomes are not being achieved.

A list of frequently asked questions is being prepared and will be available for our AGM.

Ted Salmon

CHARITY OF THE YEAR!

We have recently received the fantastic news that **Sainsbury, Dulwich has chosen Dulwich Helpline as their “Charity of the Year”.** **Sainsbury Manager, Andy Dalitis, comments:**

“We will be working in partnership to raise the profile of this charity, but also support in the two-way fundraising partnership. We look forward to working together”. A few weeks ago, Sainsbury staff and customers initially had to vote for their favourite charity which resulted in a **shortlist of Dulwich Helpline and one other charity.** Both charities were invited to do a short presentation of their work, with the eventual, and **unanimous, choice being Dulwich Helpline,** which we are delighted about!

GROUP VACANCIES

Bridge Group: meets fortnightly on a **Thursday afternoon from 2pm- 4pm** and is held in a sheltered housing unit in SE22. Their



next meeting will be on the 1st September and all levels are welcomed.

Book Club: meets **monthly on a Tuesday afternoon 1-30pm-3pm.** Members are able to take as many books as they want, to read at home, and discuss what they have read at the next meeting. This group also meets at the **same venue as the Bridge Group.**

Refreshments are served at both meetings. If anyone is interested in joining either of these groups then please call **Sandra on 020 8299 0011.**

EXCITING NEW GROUPS!

We have no less than **FIVE NEW GROUPS** starting in the Autumn in collaboration with **Dulwich College, James Allen's Girls' School, Kingsdale School and Charter School! (Volunteers and Users – see enclosed leaflet - we are offering you a chance to be part of our exciting Intergenerational Programme - enjoy an afternoon with the students and help enrich their wider education!)**

COMMUNICATING WITH VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the dozen or so Volunteers who attended the recent Volunteers' Forum to **discuss ideas and opinions on how to move forward with the Volunteering element of our work – it was most helpful and we will endeavour to respond to the suggestions which arose. Volunteers are, after all, the life blood of our organisation and without them, and our service users, we simply wouldn't exist!**

Likewise, despite our best efforts, we do, for a variety of reasons, sometimes lose contact with our Volunteers, so if this may be you reading this, please do get in touch and let us know how you are, whether you may have moved, or whether perhaps your circumstances or availability may have changed. You can email, telephone or write to Jean Hedden, Volunteer Coordinator on 020 8299 4594 or at jean@dulwich-helpline.org.uk. Look forward to hearing from you.

UNWANTED GIFTS?

If you have any new or nearly-new items that we could use as raffle prizes, could we have them please! Many thanks.

POLICE SURGERY – VILLAGE WARD

Your dedicated **Safer Neighbourhood** team is here to make a difference in your community. If you have concerns about day-to-day crime and disorder issues, please go along to their **next "Surgery" which will be in the Cadet Hut, Green Dale, SE22 (off East Dulwich Grove) on Tuesday 16th August, 7.30 p.m. until 8.30 p.m.** The Safer Neighbourhood team can be reached on **020 8721 2446 or 07920 233913.** **Please check that the above "Surgery" is taking place before going along as "operation commitments" may result in it being cancelled. Other dates could be planned as well.**

SILK TIES!

A large consignment of **brand new pure silk ties** has been generously donated to us by one of our volunteers. The ties are **navy blue with tiny red and pale blue polka dots – very smart!** **If you would like one, we are selling them for the very reasonable price of £6 including post and packing.**

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 6 p.m.

The vibrant **James Allen Community Orchestra** will be performing a concert in the **Holst Hall** at **James Allen's Girls' School, East Dulwich Grove, SE22.**



The programme will feature **Elgar's Cello Concerto (Soloist: Paul Brunner) and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4.** Tickets priced at £7 (£5 concessions) are available by sending a cheque (payable to JAGS) and stamped-addressed envelope to **"Music Dept, JAGS, East Dulwich Grove, London SE22 8TE".**


SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

6.00 – 8.30 p.m.

SUNSET SOIREE!

**Howletts Meade
48 College Road, Dulwich**



Enjoy a late summer's evening in this **stunning two-acre garden**. Wander in the **orchard** to strains of **live jazz** from  Sip a **glass of Pimms** beneath the **magnificent mature trees**, stroll round the **fascinating bog garden** or sample **tasty canapés** by the **natural swimming pond** with its **beautiful blue Monet-style bridge** and **summerhouse**.

Tickets (to be bought in advance) cost £20, to include a "welcome drink" and canapés (generously donated by Suzanne James Catering). Please send cheque (payable to "Dulwich Helpline") and stamped-addressed envelope to our address on the bottom of this Newsletter.

SUPPORT FOR OUR WORK

Our sincere thanks go to:-

Angela Burgess and members of the East Dulwich W.I. – their "Calendar Girls-style" calendars that they produced have raised the excellent sum of **£1,633**.

Angela Burgess who organises the Dulwich Festival Fair each year at Goose Green. The popular Donkey Rides raised **£241**.

Rotary Club of Dulwich & East Peckham and all who bought tickets for their Prize Draw in June which raised **£353**. The **1st Prize (£250)**, **3rd Prize (£50)**, and **4th Prize (£10)** were all won by people who bought their tickets from Dulwich Helpline!

All who opened their gardens, helped with or attended our Dulwich Garden Safari in June. Nearly 400 people attended and almost **£3,000** was raised despite a rather rainy day!

The Dulwich Players – last month's performance of "Arcadia" raised **£121.65** from donations for Programmes.

Kingswood Community Church whose stall at the Kingswood House Fair last month raised **£110**.

FAREWELL TO FRIENDS

Since our last Herald Newsletter, we have learned that several people connected to Dulwich Helpline have sadly died. We would therefore like to mark with sadness the passing of:



**Mary Bruce
Madge Bridge
Elsie Worthington
Gladys Mitchell
Rose Howell**

We send our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Dulwich Helpline
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