

## BCP Goes Back to School

In BCP's offices there is very much a back to school feel. Sparkly new stationery, new plimsolls, a feeling of dread when you realise you have double physics last thing on Friday and painting the school playground in readiness for the new term. The last one at least is a reality as BCP staff took a day out to practise what we preach with a team-build challenge at Coldean Primary School. Read all about our adventures with rockets, Big Brother, rainbows, fish, paint and The Universe on page 2.

On page 3 we review our eclectic mix of networking events over the year. If you were wondering why we have been advertising sessions on cleaner fish, internet dating and Google footprints, find out here. What did they achieve and what did you think? If you disagree with our choices, or need other information please let us know so that we can ensure that next year's programme of events meets your needs as well as providing some entertainment.

BCP is proudly celebrating 10 years of positive impact in the city of Brighton and Hove at our AGM and networking event on the 19th October. As an agent of progressive activity and change within the city, we are in fact celebrating the many achievements of our partners and members. This event will be a celebration of you, with a little time to pat ourselves on the back so we don't feel left out of the feel good stuff. We will mark some of these successes, including awarding successful companies with the CommunityMark and will then help members to develop practical ideas to build on that success.

We note some of our members' good news stories in the news section and there are lots of forthcoming events to consider, particularly for those of you who are interested in social enterprise.



*BCP Back at School  
Right from the top:  
Painting a Universe for Coldean Primary School  
The Rainbow Takes Shape parts I and II  
The BCP Team - The Pot of Gold at the Foot of the Rainbow!*



# BCP TEAM OFFERS THE UNIVERSE TO COLDEAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Students at Coldean Primary School received a bright start to the new school year when they arrived back from their summer break to find their playground had had a make-over.

The first day of September saw BCP staff and trustees abandoning their work stations and using more practical skills to transform the dull concrete school courtyard into an entertaining, colourful and multi-themed play area as part of a "Cares" team-building challenge, which BCP project manages in Brighton & Hove.

Head teacher Margaret Burdsey, who is keen to attract more local children to come to the school said

"These days we do not have sufficient budgets to deliver all the creative visions our students and teachers have for the school. The support we have received from BCP and the businesses that donated the materials is overwhelming and so valuable - we could never have achieved this task on our own"

Margaret praised the project "We didn't realise just how much of a transformation would take place, I am absolutely delighted with the outcome of this challenge - the children will love it!"

Margaret still has many other ideas for the school and would welcome further support from more challenges.

Coldean students ages 7-11, produced drawings to guide the volunteers on what they would like their playground to look like. The final result included a 'mood wall' of expressive faces, and painted stepping stone shapes leading from all entrances to a bright rainbow. A nautical theme lines another wall and a spectacular galaxy scene can be seen from the main Coldean Road. New benches were hand-made by BCP's trustee Alan Bealby including one which was transformed into a Big Brother style seat.

Cares is a national programme which brokers team building events for businesses to help with local community challenges. In Brighton & Hove there are 20 member organisations including Gold members The Argus, Amex, Legal and General, EdF Energy and 4Delivery. They use regular community challenges, to



*The BCP staff team, with Trustee Alan Bealby present their day's work*

give something back to their community and as a strategic staff development opportunity.

Charlie Allsebrook, BCP Cares Co-ordinator said "We organise hundreds of these events every year for our members and felt that it was important for us to practise what we preach. We can now give better advice on future challenges having gone through the experience ourselves."

Thea Allison, Director of BCP commented "The whole team enjoyed the day and we felt real satisfaction and pride at how much we managed to achieve together for the benefit of the students and staff of Coldean. We took 10 minutes at the end of the day to test drive some of the play aspects of the new playground and hope that the children will enjoy it as much as we did."

BCP & Coldean Primary School would like to thank Brewers and Travis Perkins for the generous donations of paint and materials which made the challenge possible.

For more information on Cares contact  
Charlie Allsebrook at BCP on 01273 770075,  
[Charlie.Allsebrook@bhbc.org.uk](mailto:Charlie.Allsebrook@bhbc.org.uk)

# Cleaner Fish to Google Footprints: Networking BCP-style

Staging networking events which inspire collaboration and mutual respect, and which foster a spirit of adventure and fun has become a core aspect of BCP's role. It's a complex remit and the resulting programme this year has led to a few raised eyebrows and some stunning events.

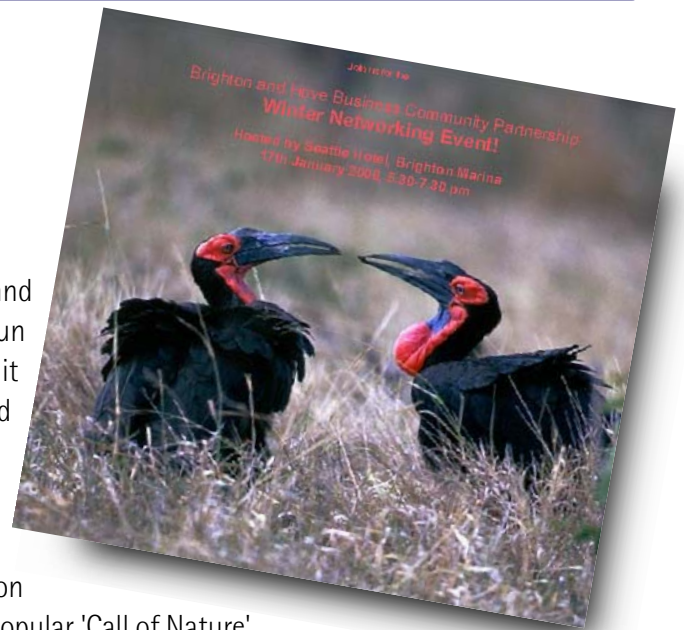
Even within the team some of the suggestions have challenged our spirit of adventure. How do you respond to an eager suggestion that a networking event could be based on tapeworms? We decided to go with the flow and staged our popular 'Call of Nature' networking event in January with 120 participants. Tapeworms ceded place to cute little cleaner fish, which provided a perfect example of the rules of inter-species collaboration in the animal kingdom and what they can teach our partnerships in Brighton and Hove.

A series of meetings with different themes to help participants develop new ideas about how they might work, and who they might work with followed. February's ProHelp meeting on "Google Footprints" explored how case studies illustrating an organisation's links within the community can increase the 'good news' factor of its results' page in a Google search. A format for producing such case studies was developed, and BCP invited participants to send in their stories for use on our website. In May, participants turned up warily but with open minds to hear about research on "love online". We took the example of on-line dating to show how an organisation can make a profile, outlining its best features and what it hopes to gain from a partnership. The participants' pioneering attitude was rewarded by a lively and informative session during which new profiles were developed and new partnerships forged.

Feedback from our events suggested that members wanted even more chances to network and meet across sectors. We have responded to this with a monthly series of planning workshops. These smaller events enable members to develop or revisit their partnership strategy, make plans, showcase their work and build new relationships. They are proving extremely popular and effective and we would encourage all members to sign up.

In our next event we have invited Susanne Barthelmes of All Sorted! Consulting to help participants develop appropriate systems and tools to manage their partnerships. Our AGM and 10th anniversary celebration will celebrate our progress over the last 10 years and help members to move their partnerships forward into the next 10 years with a practical call to action. See the events page for more details.

All of us at BCP aim to continuously meet the needs and expectations of our members so please get in touch if you have any requests or comments. Call us on 01273 770075, or email [Oliver.Maxwell@bhbc.org.uk](mailto:Oliver.Maxwell@bhbc.org.uk).



*BCP events given visual representation by team member Oliver Maxwell*

## HRH The Prince of Wales to announce launch of the new CommunityMark

CommunityMark\* is undergoing a transformation which will see it open up to big business as well as to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The new format will be announced by The Prince of Wales at a CSR conference in October, and will be formally launched in November.

CommunityMark is a kitemark which helps businesses to plan, evidence and celebrate their contribution to their local communities. Previously only available to SMEs the inclusion of business giants such as Marks & Spencer will give real leverage to the standard in the future. All organisations will have to evidence how their community activity is aligned to their business planning and the outcome of the activity. SMEs will complete an accessible questionnaire to evidence this and large companies will complete the Community Module of Business in the Community's Corporate Responsibility Index.

The standard was developed by Brighton and Hove Business Community Partnership working with Business in the Community, and BCP has ensured that Brighton and Hove remains ahead of the rest of the country for success in attaining the standard. In recognition of BCP's experience, its Director, Thea Allison was invited to join the steering group overseeing the review.

Thea Allison stated "The CommunityMark has always inspired SMEs to get involved and has offered evidence of the value of their community programme, to their community and to their business. It is extremely exciting that this opportunity will now be equally available to companies of all sizes and is a real boost to the innovative and forward-thinking companies that have already committed to the process"

The new standard will offer interesting opportunities for companies of all sizes. To find out more about how you might get involved contact BCP.

\*CommunityMark is an initiative of Business in the Community, the national charity which exists to offer businesses opportunities to interact with their communities.

### CommunityMark Success for Academy Internet

Academy Internet's impressive Community programme has made them the most recent company to achieve the Community Mark Award. The company was commended by the assessors for its excellent performance and the breadth of their activity. Jason Woodford, Academy Internet's Development Director explained "CommunityMark helped us really think about what we do and why we do it. The result is much more focus on doing fewer things much better so our modest resources can actually make a noticeable difference for our partners. We now have a business case for our community activities to build on the social interest which got us started in the first place"

The company's community partners include Action4 Change, BeLa, University of Brighton and Young Enterprise



### BCP to Launch New Website<sup>3</sup>

BCP has developed a new website to better reflect the developments within the organisation and the way it supports organisations to work together. The new site, designed by Nixon McInnes, who offered some free support on the project alongside funded design work, will be launched at our AGM.

Although there will be pages specifically to help third sector organisations secure support from business, and for businesses to develop community programmes, the majority of the site offers common access points for all organisations. Planning activity and sharing success, building effective networks and developing a culture of partnership working within the organisation are common needs in nurturing joint-working and increasing its effectiveness. Case studies will be an important feature to illustrate the successes facilitated by BCP and we are keen to hear and share the success stories of all our partners. The site will be accessed at our current address [www.bhbcp.org.uk](http://www.bhbcp.org.uk)

## BCP Members score high at the BHABAs

BCP members were well represented among the winners at the Brighton and Hove Business Awards on Thursday 7th September. New member P.E.T.S., which offers a high quality out of hours veterinary service, won the 'Responsible Business' award with long-standing members, Martin Searle Solicitors short-listed. Nido Marketing carried away the 'Best Place to Work' award. Academy Internet and Juice 107.2 were short-listed for the 'Business Growth' award, as were Neilson Active Holidays for the award for Best Customer Service. 'Best new Kids on the Block' was sponsored by Nixon McInnes. Congratulations to everyone.

## EBBS workshop success

Recently, EBBS in partnership with Job Centre Plus, ran two very successful business start-up workshops targeting people on benefits in the eb4U area. EBBS (East Brighton Business Support) works with local entrepreneurs and existing businesses to develop the local economy by offering a comprehensive and tailored package of business support including start up grants.

3000 residents were personally invited to explore their business ideas and find out about the skills needed to run a business and the implications for their benefits. Residents were offered the added incentive of access to a £1500 bursary to help with pre-start up costs. 33 residents responded to the mailing and 24 participated in the workshop. To date 4 bursaries have been awarded.

"The workshop was very good. It was informative, motivating and confidence inspiring. It's great to know we have somewhere local to go and get support" Louise Bradbrook, Whitehawk resident.

## Social Enterprise Advisors go back to school

Two members of the BCP team have been enrolled on a groundbreaking new training programme which aims to improve the quality of advice offered to developing social enterprises in the South East. The Professional Development for Social Enterprise Advisors (PD4SE) qualification has been developed by SEEDA to build up a pool of qualified advisors in the South East who will help to make the region the national leader in social enterprise.

## BCP takes on new member of staff from work placement

Daniella Moss joined BCP in April 2006 on a work placement through Sussex Youth on the New Deal scheme and we are delighted to welcome her into her new role as BCP Core Administrator. After leaving school, Daniella worked at home, looking after her baby sister, but she was keen to gain experience in an office environment, an opportunity that BCP was happy to offer her with a work placement. Thea Allison, BCP's Director explained that BCP wanted to live its values in offering people opportunities to gain experience in the work place, and that this placement had worked well at a time when there was a need for an ongoing position. Daniella is supported in her new role by her line manager and is receiving further mentoring support from Susanne Barthelmes, of All Sorted! Consulting to develop her administrative skills.

## Business Brokers buzzed by Brighton

BCP, through the EBBS project, hosted a 2-day workshop for the Partnership Academy's business broker programme and entertained brokers from all over the country with representatives from The Department of Communities and Local Government (formally ODPM) and Business in the Community.

The Partnership Academy is an initiative of Business in the Community which provides networking, training and support to all those concerned with building better partnerships between business and community.

During the visit, brokers visited Care Co-ops to learn about their success in engaging with the business community to support their development as a social enterprise. Constructing Futures, a City College project, which trains people for a career in the building industry and arranges valuable work placements to gain experience hosted a session, as did CommunityMark building company Integra.

Participants were interested to learn about BCP's success in promoting business involvement in community development, training and workplace initiatives and the development of social enterprise in the city.

"We all have success stories to share, and things to learn from each other, whatever the geographical differences. This forum offers us an important opportunity to connect with others and develop our ideas for the future" stated Phil Lovett, Business Broker for Nottingham.

For more information on the Partnership Academy visit [www.bitc.org.uk](http://www.bitc.org.uk) or contact [susan.hinchcliffe@bitc.org.uk](mailto:susan.hinchcliffe@bitc.org.uk)

## EBBS VACANCY FOR BUSINESS GRANT ASSESSORS

### Could you be a (friendly) Dragon in the Den?

East Brighton Business Support operates a small business grant and bursary scheme to assist residents in the East Brighton community to set up in business. The project needs to recruit more entrepreneurs or business managers to help with assessing applications and giving sound advice and encouragement to clients.

The volunteer time commitment would be approximately 1 hour preparation and 1 hour on the panel per application.

For more information contact:

Lorraine Bell on 01273 296767

[Lorraine.Bell@bhbc.org.uk](mailto:Lorraine.Bell@bhbc.org.uk)

Nigel Jeffrey on 01273 291695

[Nigel.Jeffrey@bhbc.org.uk](mailto:Nigel.Jeffrey@bhbc.org.uk)



### East Communications celebrates birthday

BCP member East Communications is celebrating its first anniversary as a social enterprise. The company re-invests its profits to support community organisations in the East Brighton community and its business success over the year is evidence that effective business and social investment can go hand in hand. BCP would like to congratulate Hannah Corbett and her team on this milestone and thank them for the support that they have offered BCP over the year.



Lorraine Bell and  
Hannah Corbett of  
East Communications

### ITV's Big Clean-Up in association with CARES

ITV's 2006 volunteering campaign the 'Big Clean-Up' is encouraging people from all over the country to get out for a day on Sunday 17th September and volunteer on projects that will improve their local communities.

BCP members The Argus & Working Links have signed up to be involved in a huge makeover organised by the Business Community Partnership, which will take place at Whitehawk Youth & Community Centre as part of this day. Nando's Restaurant are kindly providing the catering free of charge for the 40 participants, Focus DIY have provided paint and Brewers has generously donated, and will fit, kitchen units for the new kitchen that the centre desperately needs. ITV Meridian have undertaken some before filming at the centre that was featured on ITV in August and they will also be sending one of their star reporters, Marcella Whittingdale to cover the day itself. BCP would like to wish everyone involved a successful and enjoyable day and offer congratulations to Charlie Allsebrook and the team leaders for making this important event a reality.

### Forthcoming Events

#### BCP's AGM and 10th Anniversary celebration

19th October 6.00 - 8.30 at the Alias Seattle Hotel, Brighton Marina

#### BCP Members' Planning Workshops

Thursday 5th October, Thursday 9th November, Thursday 7th December 9.00 - 11.00. In the Board Room of City College

These events offer members an opportunity to develop or revisit their community activity plans, build relationships, and involve new members of staff or volunteers in relationship building. Contact Oliver.Maxwell@bhbc.org.uk for more information or to book

#### BCP ProHelp and CommunityMark networking event

Monday 25th September 5.30 - 7.30pm The upstairs function room of the Eagle Pub, 125, Gloucester Rd, Brighton, BN1 4AF.

The meeting will be for both third sector organisations and business people involved in ProHelp and CommunityMark

Susanne Barthelmes, Brighton's unofficial Tsar of organisation, and Founder of All Sorted! Consulting, will make a presentation on curing the cramps, untying the knots, smoothing the creases, and flattening the kinks when it comes to communication between businesses and the community.

The meeting will also be an opportunity to build a network with friendly people who share a commitment to improving Brighton and Hove.

Please email Oliver.Maxwell@bhbc.org.uk or call 770075 for further information or to book your place.

#### Trustee Information and Networking Event

November 15th 5.30 - 8.00 pm, The Brighthelm Centre

BCP is working in collaboration with the Community Universities Partnership Project (CUPP), the Working Together Project and Brighton and Hove Community Initiatives on a project to increase recruitment of trustees for voluntary and community sector organisations from the business and academic communities.

The need for enthusiastic, dedicated and skilled volunteer trustees is a key issue for Brighton and Hove's successful and vibrant voluntary and community sector. There is significant potential for this need to be met by people working in business and academic organisations, but lack of opportunity, understanding and training limit the take up. Funded by CUPP, the project has been developed to remove some of the barriers to undertaking trustee roles and to highlight the personal and professional benefits of the work. This information and networking event will launch the project. For further information on the project, contact Oliver.Maxwell@bhbc.org.uk or Elaine McDonnell of CUPP on 01273 643 004

#### Employer Engagement Recruitment Breakfast

28th November 7.30 - 10.00 am at Brighton Hilton Metropole.

This event is staged by the Employers' Engagement Group, which is co-ordinated by BCP, and City Business Club to highlight the benefits to employers of offering work placements and recruiting people who may face discrimination at work.

Contact Claire.Mitchell@bhbc.org.uk or call 01273 774796

#### Enterprise Masterclass

4th December, Falmer High School

BCP will be supporting Young Enterprise South East in running a Masterclass with students to help them to overcome many of the perceived barriers to entrepreneurship as part of Enterprise Week. We are seeking volunteers from the business community to run sessions. The time commitment will be a pre-workshop meeting and 5 hours on the day. All the volunteers last year found the event to be enjoyable and rewarding, and the students all gained a lot from the day. If you are interested, contact Lorraine.Bell@bhbc.org.uk. Further information on Young Enterprise South East can be found at [www.yese.co.uk](http://www.yese.co.uk)