

E- news bulletin N°111 – 30 June 2010.

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to E- news bulletin N°111– 30 June 2010.

In response to readers' feedback, we will be trying out a new publishing schedule for Community Links Bromley's e-news service over the summer months. The idea is to make the schedule flexible and more responsive to the timing of current local news and events.

Members of CLB staff will continue to provide a full e-news bulletin service on a monthly basis with the usual range of local and national news, funding, volunteering news events and training. Legal updates, financial management and best practice will also continue to be published in this edition.

Our e-news alerts will become a more frequent service keeping you in touch with any of the above where there is a greater urgency to cover topical issues – for example giving you more time to respond to consultations or job vacancies.

As ever, CLB will take account of comments you may have about these changes to ensure we publish a valued news service for our subscribers and the local sector. Thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes,

Philippa

Philippa Leary

Membership, Information and Communication Officer

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Spotlight

New Video features successes of Bromley's Youth Volunteering Project

As part of our celebrations to mark Volunteer Week 2010, The Volunteer Centre students from Orpington College have created a truly inspiring video looking at the difference young volunteers make. The ten-minute film has had 18 views since Monday. You can watch it on CLB's [You Tube space](#) and read a review by Tracy Harrison, Youth Volunteering Worker at the Volunteer Centre under the [Volunteer news section](#).

Briefings from Community Links Bromley

As promised in the last e-news bulletin Stephen Blann, CLB's Policy and Networks Officer has prepared two new briefings and updated information on local commissioning.

- [Big Society](#) - the Conservative's vision for community action now adopted by the coalition government [MS word]
- [Coalition Agreement Summary of Headline issues](#) This is the five-year programme of the coalition - some of which has already appeared recently in the Queen's Speech [MS word]
- [Commissioning](#) – read new links to current strategies on our website

Grassroots Grant Funding Event Review – Thursday 24 June 2010

Over thirty people came to find out how to complete the application form and prepare to make a strong application for a Grassroots Grant of up to £5,000.

Cathy Togher, the Programme Manager for the Grassroots Grants fund, delivered a comprehensive, section-by-section, [presentation](#) to 36 attendees to encourage quality applications from eligible Bromley VCOs. [Read more.](#)

Local news

Support from LBB for returning soldiers

As part of a review of how LBB can help service men and women, coming back to Bromley with their housing needs, the Council is also looking at developing new initiatives. Services like benefits advice, access to counselling, and support with health issues will offer help to returning soldiers who face the challenges of making the transition into civilian life.

Councillor Stephen Carr, Leader of Bromley Council said, “This is something I feel passionately about. I want our Council to do all it can to show in very practical ways our appreciation for the dedication shown by these brave men and women who are coming home to Bromley. But it is about more than just showing our gratitude for their dedication; this is no more than they deserve and for our Council this is the right thing to do, in fact it is the least we can do. They have been there for us, now it is our turn to be there for them.”

A Council reception is planned later this year to coincide with Armistice Day in November to honour soldiers returning from active duty.

Talking about Supporting Independence in Bromley – council briefing

Third in a series of briefings from the Supporting Independence in Bromley's transforming adult social care team. Please cascade to your networks

Briefing - [Talking about Supporting Independence in Bromley](#)

On this subject, you might be interested in attending CLB's free training, delivered in partnership with Social Enterprise London, and called '[Getting Ready 4 the Personalisation Agenda](#)'. This afternoon session will look at how organisations should organise their financial management systems to make the personalisation agenda work for them. Topics will include pricing structures, developing unit costs and analysing expenditure and income to become financially sustainable.

Freedom Pass – huge savings this summer

From 26 June to 25 July, Freedom Pass holders can enjoy huge savings on rail fares from London terminus stations to destinations across the South East and beyond.

From just £5 return, you could visit Bognor Regis, Brighton, Eastbourne, Shoreham by Sea, Southend and Worthing. You could upgrade to first Class for only a tenner return.

On the other hand, if you fancied a longer trip, you could go to Winchester from £15 return or Bristol, Cardiff and Norwich for just £20 return.

To claim, you need to download a special voucher for each rail journey [and for each Freedom pass holder], travel to a London terminus station, using your Freedom Pass, and present your voucher in exchange for your tickets.

Log on to www.daysoutguide.co.uk/oyster to start planning.

Commissioning – new links to current strategies

Read Stephen Blann's updates on this important issue on our website.

1. [What is Commissioning?](#)
2. [Why is Commissioning Important?](#)
3. [World Class Commissioning](#)
 - a. [Changes to NHS commissioning](#)
 - b. [Children](#)
 - c. [Adults](#)
4. [Contestability](#)
5. [Transforming Social Care – Supporting independence in Bromley](#)

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Local Events

Grassroots Grant Funding Event Review – Thursday 24 June 2010

Over thirty people came to find out how to complete the application form and prepare to make a strong application for a Grassroots Grant of up to £5,000.

Cathy Togher, the Programme Manager for the Grassroots Grants fund, delivered a comprehensive, section-by-section, [presentation](#) to 36 attendees to encourage quality applications from eligible Bromley VCOs.

This event, delivered in partnership between Community Links Bromley and London Borough of Bromley, also provided an opportunity to hear more about the support [services available](#) at Community Links Bromley and to network with colleagues who are involved in running groups and projects benefitting the local community. A selection of comments from the delegates included:

“Very good easy to understand and clear information”, “Excellent speaker”

“Really helpful and encouraging” and “Good information on links to local funding and help available”. You can view [photos taken at the event Flickr](#)

For more information on the fund go to www.capitalcf.org.uk and to download an application form under the grants section.

Remaining deadlines for this fund are August 13th and finally October 8th. The fund will close at the end of March 2011.

Cray Festival events – celebrations at the Croft Tearoom

Date: Saturday 3 July

Evening ‘soiree’ with a three-course supper and live music from John Bishop. (£11.50 Pre-booked Tickets only)

Date: Wednesday 7 July

Free wine tasting evening hosted by Laithwaites Wine Merchants

Date: Friday 9 July

Evening ‘soiree’ with a three-course supper with music and poetry provided by the residents and musicians of Derry Downs and the Shortlands Poetry Circle (£11.50 Pre-booked Tickets only)

Date: Saturday 10 July

Cray Day in the Recreation Ground, the Tearoom will be there with a stall (263 High St. will be closed) with free story telling sessions for the under 5s.

Bromley Council on Ageing - Members Meeting

Date: Monday 12 July, 2-4pm

Venue: Community House, South Street, Bromley

Mobility Challenge for Older People

We shall be discussing mobility issues for older people at the next members meeting on 12th July. Please do come along and take the opportunity to have your say.

Lunch with the Pope

Date: Sunday 18 July 12 midday – 6pm

Venue: Pope Road Street

“Share the day with neighbours and friends”. Come along and join in the day. Bring what you need to make it a success - food, drink and friends? BBQ available to cook food - bring extra to share if you wish or try your neighbour's dish.

For more information or to get involved, call Tony on 07981 400920 or email

biglunchpoperoad@hotmail.com or register at www.lunchwiththepope.org

This event is part of the [Big Lunch](#) community cohesion programme run by the Eden Project with the support of a 'family of partners' including the Big Lottery, Master Card and EDF Energy. Lunch with the Pope organisers received a Grassroots Grant this year to build on the success of their Big Lunch event of 2009. For more information on applications to Grassroots Grants, read our [Spotlight feature](#) and the [Funding news](#) section.

Rock & Ramble event with the Maypole project

Date: Saturday 17 July

Time: from 3pm to breakfast on Sunday 18 July with overnight stay

Venue: Thistledown Stables in lovely Kent countryside in Downe

Costs: £20 for overnight pitch, £10 for a family ticket for the day and £5 entry sponsorship for the sponsored walk

For those of you who have been to our usual "field day", you will see the format has changed a little; it will still be our usual good fun family day. Entertainments include a BBQ, a bar, soft drinks and cakes, a bouncy castle, ball games, trampoline, pony rides, a paddling pool and much, much more.

Also a programme of musical entertainment from live bands, Live our DJ, a children's disco, Karaoke and a short sponsored walk. There is also, weather permitting, a tethered balloon ride!

For full information and booking or sponsorship forms, contact Phil Price - Fundraising Officer on 01689 898910 or email phillipprice@themaypoleproject.co.uk

Local training

Bromley Mind

The new course programme for [Bromley Mind's Day Services programme](#) is available from the website. Below is a taster of two courses from the programme:

Active Living

Dates: every Friday from 2 July to 30 July

Time: 1.30 to 3:30pm

Venue: Stepping Stones, 38 Masons Hill, Bromley, BR2 9JG

Would you like to try new things and make the most of your community?

This Active Living Course is designed to support and encourage people with identified mental health problems to engage, try new things and make the most of community facilities, both locally and further afield.

For more information, to request an application form or to book a place please contact Sarah Emptage 01689 603 577 sarah.emptage@bromleymind.org.uk

Drama Group

Dates: Thursday 22 July to 2 September

Time: 10:30am to 12:30pm

Venue: Stepping Stones, 38 Masons Hill, Bromley BR2 9JG

This is a free seven-week drama course involving having fun, gaining confidence in yourself and learning drama skills through improvisation.

Note: This group is on going and further sessions will be arranged in September.

For more information or to book a place contact Stepping Stones staff on 020 8289 5020 or email: stepstone@bromleymind.org.uk

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National/regional news

The Budget

As you know George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer gave his emergency budget speech on 22nd June.

The headline issues were the rise in VAT to 20% from January 4th, an increase in employers' National Insurance (though with some relief for small firms) and the cuts to public expenditure.

These are likely to have an impact on many voluntary sector organisations. Many will not be able to avoid or pass on increased VAT. The government says it will consult on VAT exemptions for charities that share back office functions (so not all charities) but there are no proposals yet. Most government departments will have cuts of 25% in their budgets in the autumn. The details of these cuts will be announced in September. The NHS is protected from cuts, but Social Care is not; most councils will also face cuts as most of their income is from government. Experience suggests that as public services are cut there is an increase in demand for services from charities and voluntary groups. You can read more information and analysis by following the links below

- [NCVO – how the budget affects you](#) Linked to this you can find a range of resources on [coping with the cuts](#) and also a [briefing on the Spending Review](#) that will inform the cuts
- [Article from Directory of Social Change](#)
- [Article from Civil Society magazine](#)

Full details of the budget are available from the [Treasury website](#).

Big Society and the Coalition Programme

Stephen Blann, CLB's Policy and Networks Officer's most recent briefing.

Big Society - the Conservative's vision for community action now adopted by the coalition government

The vision is for more community groups and people to take on more power and responsibility for local services - with the goal of every adult being the member of an active neighbourhood group. [Read Stephen's briefing](#)

The Coalition Agreement

This is the five-year programme of the coalition - some of which has already appeared recently in the Queen's Speech. Read a [summary of the headline issues](#)

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National/regional events

Premises roadshows for the third sector

Venue: Croydon,

Date: 28 September, 9.30–2pm

Providing expert guidance on premises related matters. The roadshows are free and there will be lunch and refreshments included. Booking information: Places are limited and booking forms are available from the website www.dta.org.uk. Phone 020 7250 8055 for further information.

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Jobs

Bexley & Bromley Advocacy's looking for a Treasurer to join the board

Bexley and Bromley Advocacy's Board of trustees meet bi monthly on a Tuesday evening. We provide advocacy and self-advocacy for disabled people to include those with a learning disability and Autism. You can find more information on our website www.bbadvocacy.org. We support innovative projects, which make sure people are able to have more choice and control over their lives and given the opportunity to lead more independent lives.

The project is governed by an enthusiastic, skilled board of trustees and we are look for a treasurer who can oversee our multi-funded budget.

If you have a financial background or accounting skills and knowledge, please call Vivienne Lester Chief Executive for an informal chat on 020 8300 9666.

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Funding News

Grassroots Grants – deadlines August 13th and October 8th - fund to close March 2011

If your group has been active in Bromley for a year with an annual income of less than £30,000, you could apply for a Grassroots Grant for up to £5,000.

The fund will close in March 2011 and there are only two more deadlines left – so if you think your organisation could benefit from up to £5,000 look at the guidelines and complete an application - www.capitalcf.org.uk

For more information and support in completing the form and preparing supporting documents, please contact Julie Hunt, Funding Information and Advice Officer at Community Links Bromley: 020 8315 1915 or email

julieh@communitylinksbromley.org.uk

There is also more information to be found in Julie Hunt's review of our recent [Grassroots Grant](#) event held in partnership with London Borough of Bromley

BBC Children in Need - grants programme

Children in Need give grants for projects delivered by organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people, who must be 18 years and under, living in the UK, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands. Disadvantages experienced by children and young people include:

- Illness, distress, abuse or neglect;
- Any kind of disability;
- Behavioural or psychological difficulties;
- Living in poverty or situations of deprivation

The application should focus on the children your project will work with and the differences that your project will make for them. You should be able to demonstrate clearly how your project will change the lives of the children involved for the better. Where possible it should take into account their views and involve them in decisions that affect them.

You can contact them by email: pudsey@bbc.co.uk or helpdesk Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm tel 020 8576 7788. The next application deadline is 15th July. There has also been a switch to online applications. Full guidance and application forms are available on Website: www.bbc.co.uk

Small grants scheme managed by Help the Homeless

Help the Homeless has a small grants programme (generally up to £3,000) for capital expenditure to help establish single homeless people into mainstream society. All applications must relate to projects that assist individuals in their return to mainstream society. There are quarterly deadlines for grant applications each year. The remaining deadlines for 2010 are 30th September and 31st December. For more information go to www.help-the-homeless.org.uk/Grants.htm

Elton John Aids Foundation

A regional grants scheme offers funding to collaborative programmes whose work helps to lessen the physical, emotional and financial burdens of those suffering from HIV, or helps to prevent the spread of HIV in high-risk groups. The scheme is intended for regional HIV programmes, including London.

Programmes need to support the following strategic objectives of the fund:

- Men who have sex with men (MSM) living with HIV
- Long term survivors and older people – aim to reduce the impact and social isolation of this group
- Employment and training
- Children
- Poverty and nutrition

In addition, The Robert Key Memorial Fund gives grants (£10,000 to £60,000) for frontline groups that help people with HIV in vulnerable or marginalised communities. The fund aims to help groups who are not necessarily covered by mainstream HIV supported services. The application process is ongoing for both of these schemes and interested applicants can apply at any time.

For further information visit their website <http://www.ejaf.com/Home/> call 020 7603 9996 or write to Grant Applications, Elton John Aids Foundation (EJAF), 1 Blythe Road, London W14 0HG

Communities First Fund

Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office has announced a new government fund to help start more groups in deprived areas.

He did not say how much the fund was worth or when it would open. However, a spokesman for the Cabinet Office said the fund would operate in the most deprived

areas of England with low social capital. The details, including the amount in the fund, will be announced in the coming months.

Hurd confirms the end of Futurebuilders

[Nick Hurd](#), Minister for Civil Society, has confirmed that future revenue from the £200m Futurebuilders programme will be used to provide grants to stimulate the creation and development of neighbourhood groups, the stated goal of the Government's Big Society concept.

Plans to scrap Futurebuilders (which is managed by the [Social Investment Business](#)) were mooted in the Conservative party's manifesto this March. Hurd told Civil Society last week that the plans were definitely going ahead: "Futurebuilders is effectively closed for business now," he said.

UnLtd - Level 2 Awards

UnLtd are looking for inspiring people who have innovative and entrepreneurial solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing communities, wider society and the world.

They encourage applications from inspiring individuals who can clearly articulate a compelling vision to bring about social change.

Level 2 Awards can be up to £15,000. There are two award competitions per year. The award can be used for living expenses and project costs and they will be as flexible as they can in matching the award to your projects' financial needs.

UnLtd will support you in evolving your project idea through a dedicated development manager, who will design a support package tailored to your needs.

The Autumn 2010 round - Expression of Interest will go live on the website on Friday 6th August 2010 from 10.00am and will close Monday 6th September 2010 at 12.00 noon.

Website: www.unltd.org.uk

Cash 4 Clubs

Sport in the community is about local people, local facilities, local groups and organisations working together to provide opportunities to enjoy sport.

Cash 4 Clubs has been set up to facilitate fundraising for community sports clubs throughout the country. Cash 4 Clubs offers all sports clubs in the UK the chance to win grants ranging from £250 to £1000.

Clubs can apply for a Cash 4 Clubs Sports Grant by filling out the online application form at anytime, available at the website below.

Any sports club can apply as long as they are registered with their sport's National Governing Body or local authority. Funding can be requested for anything that will add to the sustainability and effectiveness of the sports club.

Their committee awards grants on a quarterly basis after selection. Contact Email:

cash4clubs@betfair.com

Website: www.cash-4-clubs.com

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Volunteer News

New Video features successes of Bromley's Youth Volunteering Project

Tracey Harrison our Youth Volunteering worker with the vinspired project writes

"I am so pleased with this video. It really captures the heart and spirit of the project.

Young people are given such bad press in so many ways and here is the perfect comeback. In ten minutes you can learn much about the energy, commitment and enthusiasm that young people bring to the unpaid work they do."

"The video project came about as a collaborative piece of work between the Volunteer Centre and three students on a multimedia course at Orpington College. It was storyboarded, filmed, edited and produced by the students. We set up the interviews with our volunteers and organisations, as well as the filming at our recent Volunteer Award Ceremony."

Tom, one of the students from the College, had this to say about his experience.

"At the start of our project I chose Community Links because I knew volunteering was beneficial. Through the project, I learnt a lot more... I found out that some of the young people who volunteer help make other people's days! For example at Bertha James Day Centre when the volunteer Eleanor walked into the room and talked to the users they became so much happier. The video project showed all members of our group that there are young people out there who **do volunteer** and help make other people's lives better.

"Working with Community Links was also very enjoyable - everyone was helpful and happy. Without organisations like Community Links, it would be harder for volunteers to get information and placements. And it is obvious to us, that this organisation is essential

to the community and so we hope that the video we made will get more people volunteering."

I would like to thank Tom, Sam and Kim, the residents and staff of The Bertha James Day Centre and all interviewees and participants who gave up their time to make this very special film. [You can watch it here.](#)

V4You – volunteering programme for young offenders and the unemployed

This free London-wide programme uses creative projects to engage with young offenders and the unemployed. Lyric writing, music production, and art and design projects form a platform for key skills development, such as stage management and peer mentoring, resulting in the production of a community event.

The programme is one of a range of events provided by Artefacts Edutainment (sic), an award-winning not-for-profit organisation that uses the power of the arts to address personal, social, health and environmental issues. Based in South East London, it operates London-wide, creating an environment where arts and creativity are at the heart of all society. For quotes and referrals, please [contact us.](#)

Volunteer co-ordinators' forum – 28 July

This forum is an opportunity for individuals who recruit, supervise or manage volunteers to get together and share information and support with one another.

The next meeting will take place on:

Wednesday 28th July 2010, 10.30 am – 1 pm (to include networking lunch)

Simon Forzani, from the London Learning Consortium, is our guest speaker for this event. He will be discussing how to support your volunteers through an accredited training programme.

A group discussion will follow, looking at what training/induction/support/ forum members already have. How they use mentoring and development support for existing volunteers, and the way forward to share this information across the forum.

There will be a short session on personal training needs for our volunteer managers before we break for the networking lunch.

If you are not a member of the forum and would like to attend, please contact Diane Diamond, Bromley Volunteer Centre Manager on 020 8315 1930.

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Legal news

Work with children and vulnerable adults from Sandy Adirondack

Added or updated on the legal update website for voluntary organisations

Despite what you may have read or heard in the media, the vetting and barring (VBS) scheme has not been scrapped – some aspects of it have been put on hold while it is reviewed.

And despite what it says on the Business Link website and probably in other places as well, compulsory registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority is not, at least for the moment, going ahead in November. All registrations – both voluntary from 26 July and compulsory from November – are on hold.

From the morass of contradictory and confusing information I have tried to extract what I think is an accurate summary of which aspects of the VBS are already in place and will remain in place, which are suspended while the scheme is being reviewed and “remodelled” as announced on 15 June, and which are subject to consultations that started before the review was announced.

I will keep the website up to date and let you know of any changes.

- Summary of recent VBS changes, the current review of the scheme, and Home Office guidance on the scheme as a whole and on safeguarding during the review period. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#vbs
- Changes to the definition of regulated activity (including charity trustees) following the Singleton review. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#regulatedactivity
- Registration of health and adult social care providers with the Care Quality Commission – from 1 October. www.sandy-a.co.uk/employment.htm#careregistration

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Best Practice, Services and Offers

Fundraising opportunity - MaxiMore Voucher Book Bromley Edition

If your organisation is looking for an effective way to raise money, look at the MaxiMore Voucher Book Bromley Edition for your next fundraising event.

MaxiMore is an annually published discount voucher book that offers over £3,000 in savings for only £14.99 featuring over 140 vouchers from local and national brands. The book contains 'Buy One Get One Free' offers and 'money off vouchers' for eating out at restaurants, beauty treatments, holiday accommodation, and local services. All vouchers are valid until 31st January 2011. Families who use only a couple of vouchers will be likely to save more money than they paid for the book. There is no risk to trying the voucher books out as there are no upfront costs, the program is tailored to your specific fundraising goals and there are no specific volume requirements to participate. Regardless of the volume, you will get to keep 20% (£3) from each book sale. For more information visit www.maximore.co.uk or contact: Deniz Turan, Managing Director, Maximore Digital Media on 07969479711 (mob) or email deniz.turan@maximore.co.uk

Looking for IT support?

ResponsibleIT is a Community Interest Company, providing great value I.T. support, consulting and training to charities and other social enterprises in London and the South East. Visit [the website to read more](#).

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Membership

Join Community Links Bromley

Benefits of becoming a member of Community Links Bromley are many. Here are a few:

- Membership is free
- Specialist advice and support services
- Inclusion in the Directory of Local Voluntary Organisations
- Community library with over 500 titles
- Specialist funding information service
- Networking events
- Forum events
- Benefit from CLB's strong relationship with statutory authorities
- Opportunity to elect CLB trustees and attend the AGM
- Free or discounted prices on members' events
- Advertising job adverts and events on our website and e-bulletin free

- Volunteering brokerage and representation

Membership of Community Links Bromley (CLB) is open to charities, voluntary organisations and community groups operating for the benefit of Bromley people and those groups whose aims are compatible with those of CLB. To become a member your organisation needs to fulfil these criteria.

Please note that CLB is a company limited by guarantee. Therefore, all members are liable for the sum of £1 if CLB should be wound up.

To apply or to check the full criteria, download the [membership form and criteria](#). Or contact Sue Lee on 020 8315 1902.

If you aren't sure whether or not your organisation is a member, follow this link to the full [membership list of Community Links Bromley](#).

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About the email bulletin

Contact Details

The editor is Philippa Leary, Membership, Information & Communications Officer, Community Links Bromley. Our website is at www.communitylinksbromley.org.uk

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Production

This email bulletin is produced by Community Links Bromley, registered office Community House, South Street, Bromley BR1 1RH. Registered Charity N° 1045255 and Company Limited by Guarantee N° 3020127, registered in England.

Sources

The CLB email bulletin is compiled from a wide range of sources including; subscriptions to news services, local and national newspapers; articles prepared by CLB staff, statutory partners and local VCOs. Funding information and governance news is regularly syndicated between ourselves and [Richmond CVS](#). All sources are credited at point of reference. Please keep information coming through. If you would like to submit an article or a feature for inclusion, contact philippal@communitylinksbromley.org.uk.