

Young Voices

The Big Vote 07 - 19-30 November



Do you know about The Big Vote 07? It's this year's elections for a new Youth Cabinet in East Sussex and UK Youth Parliament. Everyone aged 11-18 has a vote. Voting takes place from 19-30 November to elect 18 registered candidates across each area of East Sussex .

The aim of the Youth Cabinet is to represent the views of young people in East Sussex on issues that are important to them such as bullying, safety and exams - and it is non-party political.

Voting stations will be open in schools, colleges and youth centres around the county. Make sure you, or a young person you know uses their vote - more details at www.eastsussex.gov.uk - search for 'a voice for young people' or contact the East Sussex Participation Unit, youth.participation@eastsussex.gov.uk

Young skateboarders succeed in £10k bid to improve skate park..

Congratulations to Dan Young, Luke Browne, Alan Wyatt, Dave Chester and Dylan Ewing, the young Hastings skateboarders whose bid to the East Sussex Youth Capital Fund won them £10k of improvements to the skate park in White Rock Gardens.

This money means that skateboarders in Hastings now have a really great space to skate which reduces the amount of skating in the town centre - something that was attracting complaints from members of the public, local shops and residents of nearby Homedene House.

..and the youth workers who helped make it happen win a Hastings Achievers Award



Congratulations to Matt Davey and Kerrie Cloke from the Youth Development Service whose dedicated work in engaging young people to find a solution to the problem of skateboarding in Hastings town centre has earned them a Hastings Achievers Award. They were presented with the award for "Improving Community Safety" at a ceremony, hosted by the Hastings Observer.

For more, email [Matt Davey](mailto:Matt.Davey@youthdevelopment.org.uk), Youth Development Service, or phone **01424 852371**.

Card competition with the Xmas factor

Chestnut Tree House hospice for children is challenging budding artists in Sussex to draw on their creative talents and paint their way to fame by entering the 2007 Christmas card competition.

To win, young hopefuls must convince much loved '*Snowman*' author and illustrator Raymond Briggs (below right) that their festive design has the Xmas Factor.



Previous winners, Sarah Karn and Hazel Adcock (above), were chosen at a celebrity prize-giving last December attended by X Factor finalist Chico and star of BBC's *'Strictly Come Dancing'* Darren Bennett.

Their pictures of a 'Christmas Angel' and a 'Christmas Robin' have been made into Christmas cards for Chestnut Tree House to raise funds for the care of life-limited children in Sussex.

The competition is open to children aged between 4 - 12 years old who live in Sussex. The individual winner of each age category will receive a digital camera and photo printer and there are also prizes for the runners up.

Full details and how to enter are at www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk.