



Action!



Newsletter

June 2011

Voluntary and Community Action

Volunteers Week - take the time to say Thank You



Volunteers' Week is here again! This is a perfect opportunity to say "Thank You" to all the volunteers at your organisation and to encourage more people to get involved.

The team from the Volunteer Centre has been out and about promoting volunteering opportunities

throughout the area. They had a stall at Leighton Buzzard market on Tuesday 31 May and one at Dunstable market on Wednesday 1 June. There they met lots of people, spoke to them about volunteering and chatted about the many different volunteering opportunities people can choose from.

There are also special displays in Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard libraries with information, posters and leaflets about volunteering opportunities and how to get involved.

Thank you certificates

Everyone likes to feel appreciated for their efforts and there are lots of ways to show volunteers that your organisation is grateful for their help, without spending lots of money.

Making a point of saying "Thanks for your help today, it made a real difference" to a volunteer doesn't cost anything. A personal note or thank you card, especially if a volunteer has put in extra time or effort, takes only a few minutes but shows that their hard work is valued. Organisations also benefit from showing appreciation to their volunteers, people who feel valued are more likely to continue volunteering with your organisation



and be willing to put in extra effort again in the future.

Certificates of Appreciation (in Word and PDF format) can be downloaded from our website, go to Volunteer Centre and click one of the image certificates. You can insert a volunteer's name and print the certificate or print a blank certificate and write in the volunteer's name by hand. You can even personalise the certificates by including your organisation's logo.

Photos needed

Does your organisation or group have any good photos featuring volunteers? Here in the Volunteer Centre we're always on the hunt for decent photos relating to volunteering that we can use for promotional purposes.

If you have photos that may be suitable and the people photographed in them are happy for the pictures to be used, please contact us. We will credit any photos we use.



Training



Are you finding it difficult to raise money at this time of austerity? Then the following two workshops might be for you ...

Finding the Right Funder

9 June - 10am to 1pm

£10 members £15 non-members



Funding may be available from a number of sources. However, the first step to successfully secure funds is to identifying the right funder(s) who would be willing to support your project. Finding the Right Funder will help you explore income opportunities across a spectrum and identify the right ones depending on YOUR particular group's circumstances.

Making Successful Funding Applications

30 June - 10am to 4pm

£20 members £30 non-members



Making Successful Funding Applications will not only talk about how to write and submit a good grant application, but will talk about tips to beat competition by creating an application that wins high reviews. You will also learn how to better understand the grant review process.

First Aid for Appointed Persons

Thursdays 8 & 15 Sept - 6.30pm to 9.30pm or Thursday 1 December - 9.30am to 4.30pm

£60 members £85 non-members



If you require a certificate in First Aid as a nominated person to take charge in an emergency, this training will give you a certificate valid for three years. The evening course is divided over two evenings and you must attend both evenings to obtain your certification.

For more information on the above workshops, please contact Kim Mead, Information and Resources Co-ordinator on 01525 850559 or training@action-centralbeds.org.uk

Funding Fayre June 2011

Wednesday 15th June 2011 - 1pm to 4.30pm - Bedford Corn Exchange

An event full of funding related information, training and advice for local voluntary and community groups.

Whether your group needs just a hundred pounds or thousands of pounds, the Funding Fayre is the place to start looking, so put the date in your diary now!

1.30pm to 2.15pm	In an increasingly uncertain funding environment, it is becoming ever more important for voluntary sector organisations to be innovative in how they fund their mission. In this workshop we will look at all the income options available to your group
2.30pm to 3.15pm	A presentation on how to be successful in applying for 'Awards for All' (the Big Lottery Fund's simple small grants scheme that makes awards of between £300 and £10,000). In addition there will be an update on the latest Big Lottery funding programmes
3.30pm to 4.15pm	Do you want to develop your understanding of, and skills in, writing good funding applications? Then attend this workshop and learn how

For more information about the Funding Fayre contact Mandy Field at Community and Voluntary Service mandy@yourcvcs.org or by phone on 01234 354366.



Funding

Moto in the Community Trust



The Moto in the Community Trust is a grant making charity. The criteria for funding is in line with the objectives of our charity.

It is an objective of the Trust, through the 'making a difference' employee volunteering programme, to offer Moto People as many opportunities as possible to get involved in the projects we support.

The Moto in the Community Trust looks to support a wide variety of local charity and community projects.

The next meetings are schedule for, July and October 2011. <http://digbig.com/5bbprm>

BBC Children in Need - Small and Large Grants



The BBC Children in Need's grants programme. Their grants are open to organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people who are 18 years old and under.

There are four general grant deadlines each year: **15 January, 15 April, 15 July, 15 October.** Within their general grants programme, you can apply for:

Small Grants of £10,000 or less per year for up to three years

Main Grants over £10,000 per year for up to three years.

For more information visit Website: <http://digbig.com/5bdyyyc>

The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts

Collectively, the Trusts support a wide range of interests, both in the UK and overseas, from: arts; disadvantaged children; homelessness; parenting and child welfare; social housing; social welfare; health welfare; medical research; urban regeneration/environment; environmental projects; education; Christian

causes; to developing countries.

Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, Allington House, 1st Floor, 150 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 5AE, Tel: (020) 7410 0330, Website: <http://www.sfct.org.uk>

UnLtd Sport Relief Awards



UnLtd Sport Relief Awards are funded by Comic Relief and provide opportunities for young people 11-21 years old, to bring communities together, to help promote understanding and solve problems through sport, arts and recreational activities. There are three types of awards: Try It, Shape It, Do it.

You can contact UnLtd Sport Relief by either completing the online message box or Email: sportreliefawards@unltd.org.uk Tel: 08453 670 770 Website: <http://www.unltdsportrelief.com>

The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust

The aim of the Trust is to award grants to charitable organisations in the UK and overseas, through various projects: children, youth, elderly, medical, music and arts, community and disability.

Grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 available. The Trust operates a three-year rotation of categories for applications. 2011: Music and the Arts and Overseas.

The next deadline is 1 November. Contact Karen Frank, The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust, PO Box 124, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 7YN admin@austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk www.austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk/

Funding E-Bulletin

Our Funding E-Bulletin is produced bi-monthly in between **Action!** Newsletter, it contains a larger number of funders.

For more funding information email info@action-centralbeds.org.uk to sign up to receive the next issue of the e-bulletin.

Resources



Free to collector

A company based in Milton Keynes is having a clear out and has hundreds of cardboard magazine files that it no longer needs. The company is kindly offering them free to charities, community groups and voluntary organisations that can collect them.

Contact Danielle for details, email Danielle.howard@allianz.co.uk or telephone 01483 260723.

Developing a micro-volunteering project

Help From Home has published 'How To Set Up a Microvolunteering Project', giving various views on what micro-volunteering is, a range of examples (almost all internet based and including the likes of click-to-donate websites). Download pdf, 2MB, from <http://digbig.com/5bdyxr>

New Gift Aid forms *giftaid it*

HM Revenue and Customs has issued new Gift Aid forms, including the repayment claim form R68, which can be downloaded from their website, <http://digbig.com/5bdyxs>

Health and safety made simple

There is a new 'Health and safety made simple' section to the Health and Safety Executive's website, at <http://digbig.com/5bdyxt>. The content is also available as a pdf, 1.71MB, at <http://digbig.com/5bdyxw>. It gives the necessary basics and links for more resources and key issues.

The risks of becoming a trustee



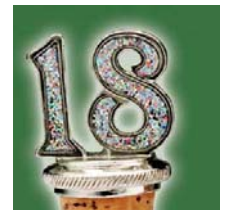
New from charity specialist solicitors Russell-Cooke is a briefing 'What are the Risks of Becoming a Charity Trustee?', <http://digbig.com/5bdyxx>.

As they say, rewards of being a trustee, and giving back to society, should outweigh any such worries.

Getting IT to help with monitoring and evaluation

Charities Evaluation Services has produced a guide to help organisations select a suitable IT system or database to support their monitoring work, as they found that this was a key barrier to such work. The guide should help establish what you need from a system and focuses on low-cost, off-the-shelf database systems with a comparison table to clearly demonstrate key features. 'IT for Outcomes' can be downloaded (pdf, 208KB) via <http://digbig.com/5bdyxy>

Change to children's age limit on vetting and barring scheme



The government has changed its mind on plans to move the age limit on vetting and barring arrangements for children's professionals to only cover those working with up to 16 year olds. It has added an amendment to the Protection of Freedoms Bill, which is the legislation currently before parliament which will be used to amend vetting and barring, to keep the cut off age at 18. From CYP Now, <http://digbig.com/5bdyya>

Inclusion of information within this newsletter does not imply endorsement by Voluntary and Community Action South Bedfordshire.

Action! is the newsletter of Voluntary and Community Action, Bossard House, West Street, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1DA.

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Copy deadline for the next issue is 18 July 2011.