

£150,000 for Community Projects

Community groups across the Orkney Islands are invited to a free event on Thursday 7th February to learn how Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) grants from the Scottish Government of up to £150,000/year could fund their community projects.

The event, to be held at the St Magnus Centre from 11am-3pm & 6pm-8pm has been organised by Keep Scotland Beautiful in partnership with Orkney Islands Council, Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centre, Highlands and Islands and the Scottish Government. Lunch is provided at the daytime session and travel expenses to both sessions can be reclaimed through completion of an expenses form and production of appropriate receipts.

A presentation will introduce the CCF and this will be followed by a question and answer session. There will also be plenty of one-to-one time for community groups to chat through project ideas with a CCF Development Officer.

There is no need to book. If you have any queries please email tim.mullens@ksbscotland.org.uk

Further details on the Climate Challenge Fund can be found at <http://ccf.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/>

New Funding Service

VAO recently announced that changes would be made to some of their services. We can now reveal that one of these changes is the support available through the funding service. As of February 2013, we are now able to give you more advice and support to help you through the funding application process, including writing sections of the application form for you.

For more information contact **Meghan McEwen** at VAO.

Wave of Friendship Volunteering Bursaries Available

London/Scotland - bursaries of up to £500 in expenses to encourage volunteering between Scotland and London.

Scotland - bursaries of up to £100 in expenses to encourage volunteers in Scotland to take up a volunteering experience in another part of the country.

The application process is very simple and all kinds of volunteering experiences qualify.

To get full guidance and application forms, please visit <http://www.peoplemakingwaves.org.uk/>

OIC One Stop Shop

OIC are looking for Third Sector Organisations and Groups to hand in any flyers or posters for a community/partner agencies section within the one stop shop area.

If you'd like to take up this great publicity offer please get in touch with Catherine at OIC One Stop Shop on 873535.

£500k Lottery Funding Package

The Big Lottery Fund Scotland and the Scottish Government have announced half a million pounds worth of grants to provide support to potential volunteers at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

It will help with costs such as respite for carers, childcare, accommodation, subsistence, travel from outside Glasgow and additional travel and support for those who are disabled. This will hopefully mean that people from Orkney who might not have been able to volunteer at the games due to the high travel and accommodation costs, may now be able to do so.

For more information, contact **Fraser Devine** or **Meghan McEwen** at VAO.



Need space for your next meeting?

Our central location and competitive rates make VAO an ideal venue
contact us for rates...

Dates for your Diaries

February 12th: Life Changes Trust are holding a workshop in the Town Hall from 2.00—4.30pm. To book your place, e-mail vreid@whocaresscotland.org.

February 13th: Chairing a meeting - 7.00 - 9.00pm at VAO.

February 20th: Financial Management - 11.00 - 3.00pm at VAO.

February 21st: Assertive Training - date & venue to be confirmed.

Charities Online

From April 2013 Charities will be able to make gift aid and gift aid small donations scheme claims online at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/online/index.htm

Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme

This scheme will allow charities to claim Gift Aid on small cash donations without having a Gift Aid declaration from the donor. Legislation is still making its way through Parliament, but due to be implemented in April 2013. For more information:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/small-char-do-giftaid.htm

Updated guide to Charity Tax relief and Exemption

The Charity Tax Group have released a second edition of their popular 'Charity Tax Map'. For more information visit the [Charity Tax Groups website](http://www.charitytaxgroup.org.uk).

For an overview of the financial advantages of charitable status, including [tax relief](#), view the Community Toolkit at www.vaorkney.org.uk

Development Trusts Association Scotland

The report on the Annual Conference 2012 is available at: <http://www.dtascot.org.uk/content/learning/events/conference>

OSCR

From November 2012, OSCR has had the power to allow Scottish Charities permission to change the purpose for which funds may be used and/or change or remove the conditions imposed on the charity on how it can use the funds.

For guidance and application forms visit:

www.oscr.org.uk/managing-your-charity/reorganisation-in-scotland/restricted-funds-reorganisation

Simpler Guidance

Guidance for 3 of the HMRC forms most commonly used by charities has been simplified and screenshots added so that you can refer to sample pages as you complete the forms. For more information visit www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/screenshots.htm

Urgent Reminder

The deadline for submitting online tax returns is midnight, Thursday 31st January 2013.

The Gathering 2013

Scotland's voluntary sector fair is taking place on 27th and 28th February at the SECC, Glasgow. There will be opportunities to listen, learn and be heard on a range of issues. There will be an exhibition and marketplace with over 120 exhibitors and over 50 workshops and seminars. For more information visit www.gatherscotland.org.uk

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