

VOLUNTARY VOICE

FLVC

Flintshire Local Voluntary Council
Cyngor Gwirfoddol Lleol Sir y Fflint



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YOU CAN BE PART OF THIS NEWSLETTER TOO !

If you would like to include an article in the next edition of *Voluntary Voice* then please forward your article to :

Jane Hewson, Communications Officer, Corlan, Mold Business Park, Wrexham Road, Mold CH7 1XP
 Email : info@flvc.org.uk
 Tel : 01352 744000

Front cover photographs courtesy of Graham Davies SUSO Project



Would you be happy to receive our Voluntary Voice newsletter electronically ?

Our recent stakeholder survey indicated that over 80% of respondents would be happy to read this document online. We will soon be sending out an email to everyone on our database asking this question.

Printed copies will always be available, and we recognise the importance of hard copies, but if you would like to help us, to reduce costs, and the environment, and are happy to access this publication on line please can you contact Jane Hewson, Communications Officer, email jane.hewson@flvc.org.uk

FLINTSHIRE LOCAL VOLUNTARY COUNCIL (FLVC)

Our Vision :

FLVC's vision is of a strong, sustainable and effective voluntary and community sector, involving people and serving Flintshire people.

Our Mission :

FLVC's mission is to support, develop and promote voluntary and community activity in Flintshire and to strengthen the capacity of voluntary and community groups to contribute to the quality of life of Flintshire people and communities.

NOTES FROM ANN

THIRD SECTOR CONFERENCE THEATR CLWYD 8TH NOVEMBER 2016

Thank you to everyone who supported our Third Sector Conference on 8th November. Over 100 guests enjoyed excellent presentations from

- Mantell Gwynedd on Social Return on Investment
- Einir Roberts, FLVC on Making the Most of the Third Sector (Social Services and Well Being Act)
- Flintshire County Council – Connects Services
- WCVA – Well Being of Future Generations Act
- Social Firms Wales – Development of Alternative Delivery Models



Key themes on the day included the need for Third Sector Support organisations like ourselves to provide greater opportunity for evidencing the Social Return on Investment into the Third Sector, and creative use of the resources we have as partners to reduce the impact of funding restrictions and increased demands on our services. Colleagues from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Flintshire County Council who attended stated that they valued the opportunity to explore these issues with Third Sector partners, and evaluation forms noted

how valuable the event was.

I also took the opportunity at the Conference to review FLVC's Stakeholder Survey and to launch our new Accredited Volunteer Training (now available for all organisations supporting volunteers within Flintshire (more details on page 6).

The FLVC Stakeholder survey showed that:

71% of the respondents felt that FLVC provided high quality support to the sector

59% of respondents felt the CORLAN building was well suited to the needs of our services

86% of respondents would be happy to receive electronic-only copies of our Newsletter

12% of respondents felt that we do not communicate our plans and achievements effectively to partners

All information and comments from the survey will be fed into FLVC's Strategic Plan.

I look forward to speaking to you soon.

Chief Officer
 01352 744028
ann.woods@flvc.org.uk



THE THIRD SECTOR SCHEME

The scheme is unique to Wales and is a statutory requirement of the Government of Wales Act 2006 - this means that the Welsh Government has to set out how it will promote the interest of third sector organisations.

The third sector scheme offers the opportunity for organisations to put their views to the Welsh Government. The scheme itself sets out how Government and the third sector will work together and communicate with one another. It offers the third sector formal routes for talking to Government and raising the concerns of our members and service users. These include the Third Sector Partnership Council and regular ministerial meetings between the sector and each Welsh Government Minister. The Welsh Government produces a report on the scheme each year which you can access from their website along with other publications related to the scheme and the third sector.

FUNDING

COMMUNITY CHEST UPDATE

This year 30 groups in Flintshire have received grants of up to £1000 from the Flintshire Community Chest administered by FLVC on behalf of Flintshire County Council. In total £18,828 was distributed to a wide range of organisations supporting the community and voluntary sector as follows –

Children & Young People	£3536
Sport	£1540
Heritage & Environment	£2596
Community Buildings	£5170
Disability & Health	£1500
Arts	£4486

One of the organisations that received support was the Friends of Rhydymwyn Valley who were able to provide a Summer Arts Workshop for 20 young people aged between 8 and 15. The grant was used to provide musical instruments, equipment and materials used during the weeks activities which otherwise would have been

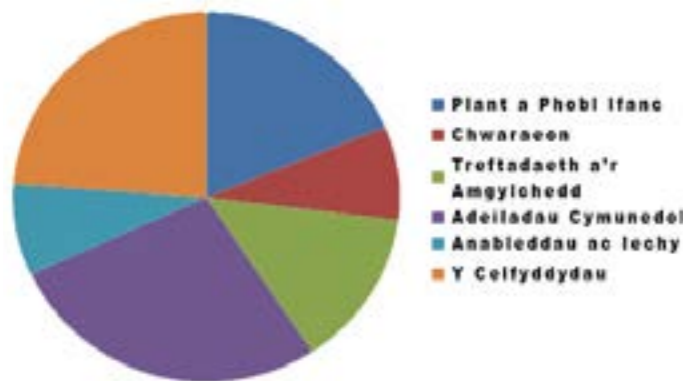
beyond the groups financial capabilities. The increased range of instruments allowed the young people to learn new skills. In addition the group was also able to create a new permanent art installation for visitors to the Rhydymwyn nature reserve site to enjoy for years to come, and each young person was able to take home a framed piece of their own art work.

The greatest value of the grant was that it was able to offer young people who could not otherwise have afforded this opportunity to explore their creativity in a stimulating environment and to understand conservation whilst developing their social skills and making new friends

COMMUNITY CHEST FUNDING 2017 - 18

If you are a group that has not received funding from the Flintshire Community Chest in the last three years contact June Brady to check if you are eligible for funding in 2017.

To prepare groups for the next round of the Community Chest a training session will take place on Tuesday 21st February in Corlan between 10 a.m. and 12.30, to book a place please go to info@flvc.org.uk Other small grants will also be covered at this session.



FLVC - FUNDING PORTAL

Community and Voluntary Organisations can now search for funding opportunities and the most up to date funding news available by using the Flintshire Local Voluntary Council's funding portal.

Just register here www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/flvc

If you require any assistance, please contact June Brady at june.brady@flvc.org.uk

FUNDING

GALAXY HOT CHOCOLATE FUND

Local charities, community groups, schools and individuals from across the UK and Ireland are invited to apply for an award to help support sporting or leisure activities or hobbies that are beneficial to individuals or communities.

To date, the Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund has given out awards to help over 150,000 people.

This winter, five separate awards of £300 will be given out each week from 7 November 2016 until 26 February 2017.

One of these awards will go to the project that has received the most public votes online each week, while the other four will be selected by a panel of judges who will judge each entry on:

- The extent to which the proposed initiative will help the local community
- Extent of the proposed initiative's reach.
- The perceived local need for such hobbies, sporting or leisure activities.

Entries can be made at any time up until 11.59pm on 26 February 2017.

Further details are available from:

www.galaxyhotchocolate.com/



WREN - COMMUNITY ACTION FUND

WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants to community, environmental and heritage projects across the UK. Projects must be within a 10 mile radius of a landfill site to apply. Grants of between £2,000 and £50,000 are available for the provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or another public amenity. WREN's definition of an amenity is something that a community will have access to and be able to use for leisure or recreation purposes. Typical projects that WREN fund include:

- Community building upgrades, inc. refurbished kitchen, toilets, windows, roof repairs etc.
- Public parks, inc. construction of footpaths and cycleways
- Community sports facilities, eg for MUGA multi use games areas
- Children's Play areas and skate parks
- Nature reserves, and community woodlands

Please note, there have been several funding policy changes recently and applications can now only be accepted from the following types of organisations:

- Registered charities which operate a community facility
- Churches or Parochial Church Councils
- Parish or Town Councils or management committees or user associations acting on behalf of Parish or Town Councils
- Local authorities
- CASC registered sports clubs

The deadline for applications is 22nd February 2017 (5pm). Further details are available from: www.wren.org.uk/apply/wren-grant-scheme, tel: 01953 717165 or email info@wren.org.uk



EVENTS & TRAINING

INTRODUCING ACCREDITED COURSES FOR VOLUNTEERS

Course Title: Induction for Volunteers

Level: Entry Level 2 **Credit Value:** 2

Number of hours: 10 (over two days or three evenings)

Cost per participant: From FREE to £80
(dependent on your organisation's income threshold)

FLVC are offering a two day Volunteer Induction Course for volunteers/potential volunteers linked to organisations based in Flintshire.

The Course is accredited with WEA Cymru (2 credits at Entry Level 2) and includes general aspects of

- Health and Safety
- Equal Opportunities
- Confidentiality
- Boundaries
- Support and Supervision of Volunteers
- Basics of Safeguarding (very brief introduction)

The course can be adapted to explore the Volunteering roles within the organisations

represented by the attendees – (Organisations are asked to share their Volunteer Role Descriptions with FLVC prior to the course)

The course is delivered in a structured, but informal manner and participants are offered the opportunity to complete a short portfolio of evidence to submit for Accreditation of their work (optional) Participants will be supported by the FLVC Volunteer Centre staff team throughout the course.

For more information please contact: Emma Gough Volunteer Development Officer, FLVC
Tel: 01352 744000 info@flvc.org.uk



COURSES ORGANISED BY FLVC

2017

13th & 20th February (2 day course) Cost £40

Mental Health First Aid Certificate for Young People

16th March Cost FREE

Community Fundraising

13th July Cost £10

Strategic Development

For further information or to book on to any of these courses please email Jane Hewson, Communications Officer - FLVC on: jane.hewson@flvc.org.uk



EVENTS & TRAINING

FLVC AGM & CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERING

Over 70 people attended FLVC's 19th Annual General Meeting in September at Theatr Clwyd. This year's event again included a Celebration of Volunteering, recognising the millions of hours that Flintshire residents give to helping others each year.

After light refreshments, entertainment and a chance to mingle, the evenings events were opened by Marjorie Thomson, Chair of Trustees (FLVC), who listed the order of the events for the evening. There followed a series of presentations highlighting some different areas of Third Sector work:

- The Difference Volunteering Has Made
- North East Wales Third Sector Health & Social Care team
- The Third Sector Doctor Project

The Annual Report and Accounts were presented and accepted, and as part of FLVC' Celebration of Volunteering, certificates of appreciation were awarded to :

- Sara Parker – Caffi Isa
- John Thornton & Ken Lloyd – Jubilee Court Senior Citizens Association
- Ron Holland & Claire Holland – Grassmere Social Club, Talacre
- Dave Williams, Martin Bennewith, Sarah Way & Jo Myers – RainbowBiz Limited
- Carl Jackson – Gwernymynydd Village Centre
- Jamie Morgan & Dawn Clarke – Clwyd Alyn Housing Assoc
- Pam Thomas, Barbara Roberts & Sue Matthews – Flintshire Mind
- Christopher Jones – Penyffordd & Penymynydd Ramblers Assoc
- Cleveland W Jones – Buckley Train Station
- Michelle Humphreys, Nathan Partington & Graham Davies – FLVC



Then followed a special award – the Tom Jones Award for Outstanding Volunteering Contribution by a Young Person – this award is dedicated to the memory of a wonderful man, Tom Jones, former trustee who always showed total support to this organisation.

The Award was presented to Gareth McCormick, a young man who gives many hundreds of hours of his time to helping others, including volunteering on Flintshire Youth Forum, Flintshire and Wrexham Online Watch Link Association and Radio Glan Clwyd. A well deserved award for Gareth. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.

HIGH SHERIFF OF CLWYD AWARDS 2017 - NOMINATIONS

Once again it is time for the High Sheriff Awards, launched in 2013, to recognize outstanding contributions made by individuals or voluntary / community organisations or groups (with a charitable aim) to their respective communities.

The winners will be presented with their awards at an event to be held at Theatr Clwyd, Mold on Friday 10th March 2017.

The closing date for the submission of completed nominations to the appropriate County Voluntary Council is noon on 31st December 2016.

For a copy of the Nomination Form and Guidance Notes email info@flvc.org.uk

"The High Sheriff's Award Ceremony is an opportunity to acknowledge and highlight some of the outstanding work done by the thousands of people who give their time selflessly to so many good causes". - Mr. Jim O'Toole, The High Sheriff of Clwyd.



EVENTS & TRAINING

NEWCIS CARERS CENTRE – FREE WORKSHOP

Newcis Carers Centre in Mold are hosting a *FREE* Financial/Legal Advice Workshop on Thursday 12th January 2017 at 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Start the new year off on the right financial foot. This workshop and Q&A session is a great opportunity to learn about important financial and legal matters that have a huge impact on families.

We are offering advice on:

- Care Free Planning - What are the pitfalls? How can you reduce costs, local authority financial claims and protect your families' estate?
- Estate Planning - Reducing inheritance tax.

What are the legal ways to reduce the taxman's cut? What's the importance of writing a will?

- Power of Attorney - A power of attorney (POA) or letter of attorney is a written authorisation to represent or act on another's behalf in private affairs. What are the benefits & drawbacks?

The workshop will be run by a local advisory firm with over 100 years of combined experience, along with a friendly family solicitor. Book your place by contacting NEWCIS on 01352 752525



MAKING THE MOST OF THE THIRD SECTOR: MAXIMISING CITIZEN INDEPENDENCE & WELLBEING

Training developed in the wake of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014), to help reduce demand for health and social care services.

HALF DAY TRAINING SESSIONS FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE STAFF

Making the Most of the Third Sector training focuses on the practical aspects of how to maximise citizen wellbeing and independence. This includes finding out what support the Third Sector can/does provide to service users / patients and carers. Participants will gain an overview of the Third Sector (to build on basic level understanding). They are encouraged to bring along (but not essential) real cases from their work to explore what support the Third Sector can offer locally. Real cases are also discussed with advice on hand by Third Sector specialists. Learning to use and explore the Dewis Cymru Community Well-being and Support Directory is also a feature of this training. This course has been developed specifically to meet the needs of health and social care practitioners who work directly with citizens / service users / patients either face to face or over the phone.

Over a hundred health and social care staff across North Wales have already attended the training and found it useful. Comments by participants include:

Thank you for such an informative and interesting training yesterday. I know through my attending my patients will benefit enormously from the knowledge I gained. Once again thank you so very much for opening my eyes to a new world! (Health)

Very useful session. I learnt how to think outside the box and also how to search on Dewis Cymru. Good to know how important the Third Sector is. (Social Care)

Other courses are also available. For further information please contact:

Einir Roberts, FLVC trainer einsoar@tiscali.co.uk 07508016291 or FLVC: info@flvc.org.uk

The training is delivered by FLVC (Flintshire Local Voluntary Council) in association with other key Third Sector organisations in North Wales. It was initially developed on behalf of the North Wales Transforming Access (SPoA) Programme funded by the Welsh Government's Regional Collaboration Fund.



MONEY MATTERS



VAT Notice 701/58: charity advertising and goods connected with collecting donations Updated 8 November 2016

It's Christmas - Seasonal Gifts

An employer may provide employees with a seasonal gift, such as a turkey, an ordinary bottle of wine or a box of chocolates at Christmas. All of these gifts can be treated as trivial benefits. Tax exempt if less than £50 and not cash or cash vouchers.

Let's Party - Social Functions For Employees

There is a tax exemption for employee entertaining, but terms and conditions apply. The relief only applies to 'annual parties' available to all staff and is set at £150 per head. This figure is inclusive of VAT.



Companies House

Confirmation statement replaces the Annual Return. Companies must keep a Register of People with Significant Control (PSC Register). This new requirement applies to all UK companies including charitable companies, community interest companies and the trading subsidiaries of charities but not Charitable Incorporated Organisations. The intention of the new rules is to increase the transparency of corporate structures and identify those able to exercise, or actually exercising, significant control. Failure to keep a PSC register is a criminal offence on the part of both the company and every officer in default.



Charity reporting and accounting: the essentials November 2016

This updated guidance explains the different accounting and reporting requirements for different sizes and types of charity for financial years beginning on or after 1 November 2016.

Charities Act 2016: new fundraising rules

The changes are introduced by the fundraising sections of the Charities (Protection and Social

Investment) Act 2016. They will help charities to demonstrate their commitment to protecting donors and the public, including vulnerable people, from poor fundraising practices.

The new law will also help to ensure that fundraising standards form part of the agreements between charities (registered or not) and any commercial participators or professional fundraisers with whom they work.



Discretionary Rate Relief reductions

The elected cabinet approved a revised policy framework for 2017-18 with the removal of Discretionary 'top-up' relief and the scaling back of all other Discretionary Rate Relief so that charitable, voluntary and 'not for profit' organisations will receive rate relief at 80% rather than in full. The 80% relief is mandatory for Charities and CASCs, plus Village Halls and similar, as it is funded centrally.

Other not for profit organisations have full discretionary relief such as sporting clubs, societies or other organisations who use premises for the purpose of recreational or social welfare. FCC estimated that the cost of awarding 'top-up' relief to 149 organisations is approximately £91,000 and awarding Discretionary only relief to 60 organisations is approximately £17,000.

You can check your potential bill by finding the rateable value from the Valuation Office Agency www.voa.gov.uk then multiplying it by the so called annual 'multiplier' which is currently 48.6 for 2016/17 per £.

Welsh Government Funding for 2017/18 to be fractionally up at £185m although with inflation this will be a cut in real terms.

What am iPlaying?

Planet Earth II 'snake chase' might be gripping viewing – but make sure it is just the baby Iguana that is caught. The law has changed: From 1 September 2016 you need a TV Licence to watch or download BBC programmes on demand, as well as live on BBC iPlayer

VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEERING WALES

This website will give you information and advice about getting involved in volunteering. You may be thinking about volunteering for the first time, you might have volunteered before and be looking to broaden your experiences or perhaps you work for an organisation that is involving volunteers.



If you are thinking about involving volunteers in your organisation, you can access information about the benefits

and implications, read advice about some of the things you need to consider and look at some practical suggestions on how to move forward.

Here at FLVC we offer Volunteering Wales surgeries; an informal workshop to show you around the site, help you to set up an account and start to place your volunteering opportunities. Contact us to find out more: 01352 744017.

www.volunteering-wales.net

ARE YOU AN ORGANISATION INVOLVING VOLUNTEERS?

Would you like help in setting up your volunteer policies and procedures? Feel free to contact the Volunteer Centre to have a friendly, informative chat about best practice, template policies and of course find the answers to your questions – 01352 744017

WELCOME TO BERNI

Hi I'm Berni and have recently been appointed as a Volunteer Development Worker at Flintshire Mind, I have been in post since October 16 and am really enjoying my role. Previously I worked in education as a lecturer for 15 years at Coleg Cambria (formerly Yale College). I am really enjoying going out and about with the volunteers as part of the 'Step Up! Step Out! Supported Volunteering Programme', learning new skills and going to exciting places across Flintshire.



VOLUNTEERING

A new group of enthusiastic volunteers have embarked upon a John Muir Award with the **Step Up! Step Out!** Supported Volunteering Project.

We have been discovering, exploring, conserving & sharing places of natural beauty within the county of Flintshire.



We have particularly enjoyed spending time at Bodfari Woodland Skills Centre, learning about the natural cycle of a woodland and how everything is inter-connected for the survival of ourselves and the planet as a whole.



We have been led and supported in our activity by Rod Waterfield who is teaching us so much about we are really starting to feel at home in the woods!



Step Up! Step Out! volunteers begin their John Muir Award at Greenfield Valley discovering its rich heritage and volunteering to clear away the path for an archeological dig.

THE PRINTROOM

Quality printing for everyone

Happy Christmas.....



The Printroom will be closed over the Festive Season from 4.30pm on Wednesday, 21st December, and will re-open on Tuesday, 3rd January 2017. We would like to thank all our customers for their business over the last year and look forward to welcoming you back in 2017.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.



For more information and quotes, please contact us on **01352 744031** or email theprintroom@flvc.org.uk

AND FINALLY...

FLVC staff got together for the **Wear It Pink** Day to raise money for the Breast Cancer Campaign. Through a jewellery sale and office pink sweepstakes – we raised a total of £60 !

Thank you!

