

VOLUNTARY VOICE

FLVC

Flintshire Local Voluntary Council
Cyngor Gwirfoddol Lleol Sir y Fflint



Cefnogi Trydydd Sector Cymru
Third Sector Support Wales

VolFest '17



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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

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.

UPDATE FROM FLVC

We are delighted to announce that FLVC have recently achieved awards from Investing in Volunteers and Chwarae Teg (Exemplar Employer – Achieving Level).



Both awards highlight the organisation's commitment to recognising and valuing our volunteer and staff team. Well done all!

Dates for your diary – after the success of our Third Sector Conference in 2016, this year's event will again have a packed agenda, with the theme of Co-production – recognising that the users of our services are our most important stakeholders.

THIRD SECTOR CONFERENCE – 'Co-Production in Practice' Thursday 7th September 9.30 am until 1pm inc light lunch Clwyd Room, Theatr Clwyd, Mold.

To confirm your attendance please email info@flvc.org.uk

Our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held a week later, on the evening of Thursday 14th September, again at Theatr Clwyd. Please come along (and bring a friend!) to hear about the work of FLVC.

All County Voluntary Councils across Wales now join WCVA as part of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) – a partnership of country-wide Third Sector Support organisations. The Business Plan for TSSW will form four strands of work

- volunteering,
- sustainable funding,
- good governance and
- strategic engagement and influencing

We look forward to working with our TSSW partners to maximise the effectiveness of Welsh Government's investment in the Third Sector Infrastructure.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a response to our online (and paper-based) survey regarding support needs for voluntary and community groups. Some of the findings from the survey were:

81 % of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that there is a need for additional support for Third Sector Organisations to train and support their volunteers and trustees

73 % of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that there is a need for mentoring/peer support for Trustees within Third Sector organisations

37% of organisations indicated a need for support with a Trustee Induction Course

41% of organisations indicated a need for support with a Volunteer Induction Course

51% of organisations indicated a need for support with Volunteer Management for Staff

We will use our findings to help shape our own Business Plan, and to inform our work with local, regional and national partner organisations.

And finally, 2017 marks the 20th Birthday of Flintshire Local Voluntary Council. Our Third Sector Conference (7th September) and our Annual General Meeting (evening of 14th September) will include some reflections of the past 20 years.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads 'Ann'.

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



Cefnogi Trydydd
Sector **Cymru**
Third Sector
Support **Wales**

FUNDING

NEW GRANT PROGRAMME OPENING AUTUMN 2017

Hanfod Cymru is a new national charitable fund exclusively for Wales, distributing the money raised for good causes by Loteri Cymru to strengthen community life in Wales.

Our aim is to support local projects, the length and breadth of Wales. As a generalist grant maker we will seek to reflect the needs and demands of those who apply to us but we will have an initial emphasis on general social needs, on the arts and creativity, and on educational projects.



We have structured our grant making in order to be able to respond to small community projects needing relatively modest sums, as well as to larger and more strategic ventures aimed at making a significant difference to people's lives.

We are established as an independent charity number 1172179 operating at arms' length from the operators of Loteri Cymru, in order to maximise the benefit for Wales of this exciting new development.

<http://www.hanfodcymru.wales/about-us/>

FUNDRAISING HEALTH CHECK AND EXECUTIVE COACHING

Registered charities with two or more members of staff and with voluntary income of up to £50,000 are invited to apply for fundraising support as part of our Big Lottery Funded "Fundraising Health Check and Executive Coaching" project.

Successful charities will be matched with an experienced coach who will help them develop a new fundraising strategy, thereby increasing the fundraising skills and knowledge within the charity.

For an information pack and application form please contact alisonp@institute-of-fundraising.org.uk or call 02920 340062

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FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY CHEST

Applications are now being accepted from organisations that benefit people from Flintshire for a grant up to £1000 for the following initiative.

- Minor capital projects for example, building repairs and updating internal fixtures and fittings.
- Community events
- Equipment but not consumables
- Publicity / marketing
- Training and awareness events/courses

The date for the return of the completed application is Friday 6th October

Please contact June Brady for an application pack including full criteria and application form. june.brady@flvc.org.uk

A Community Chest training session is being held on Tuesday 19th September from 2 p.m. if you would like to attend to learn how to make an application, please contact June Brady.

In the last round the following groups were successful –

- Saltney Ferry Scouts & Guide to install radiant heaters and a hand dryer for the Scout hut
- Gorwellion Newydd to buy a laptop and printer for use by staff and members
- Trelogan Playgroup to purchase toys and tablets for group sessions
- Buckley Theatre Club a grant to remove an old wall and replace with insulation
- Friends of Rhydymwyn Valley to hold a Summer Arts Workshop
- North East Wales Search & Rescue to produce promotional leaflets, posters and pavement sign
- Kim Inspire to buy equipment for a men's shed project



COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAMME

The Community Facilities Programme is a capital grant scheme and can be used to improve community facilities which are useful to, and well used by, people in the community.

Grants are available at two levels; small grants of under £25,000 and larger grants of up to £250,000. The Programme is open to community and voluntary sector organisations, including social enterprises.

The focus of the Programme is on increasing opportunity, creating prosperity for all and developing resilient communities where people are engaged and empowered.

All applicants are expected to work with partners which can come from the public, private or the third sectors.

Priority will be given to applications from former Communities First cluster areas but applications from other areas will also be welcome and we expect to fund the best of these.

Please read the guidance before making an application.

If you would like to contact us for further information about the Programme please e-mail the team at: Communityfacilitiesproghelp@gov.wales.

For further information please go to -

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/community-facilities-programme/?lang=en>



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Funding capital and revenue community projects from £10,001 to £500,000

People and Places has recently been updated based on customer feedback to become quicker and simpler.

If you've already started completing an application, don't worry, we will continue to accept the older People and Places application form until 31 October.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact us by calling 0300 123 0735 or emailing wales@biglotteryfund.org.uk.

People and Places has now been split into two strands, medium grants and large grants.

Medium grants offers funding from £10,001 to £100,000 for projects lasting up to five years. For more information, please visit:

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/
peopleandplacesmedium](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peopleandplacesmedium).

Large grants offers funding from £100,001 to £500,000 for projects lasting up to five years. For more information, please visit

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/
peopleandplaceslarge](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peopleandplaceslarge).



LOTTERY FUNDED

EVENTS & TRAINING

DIGITAL FUNDRAISING

Kick start your digital fundraising with this workshop for local voluntary groups & charities in Mold

Getting started with online fundraising

12th October - Corlan @ Mold Business Park - 14:00 to 16:00

By the end of this session, you will:

- Understand the basics of online fundraising
- Know how online fundraising can benefit your group
- Be aware of free tools and resources available to you
- Be registered on Localgiving, enabling you to claim £200 of match funding
- Be able to confidently use the Localgiving fundraising platform
- Understand how to ask people to support your cause
- Be equipped to secure your first digital donation
- Understand how to develop and maintain relationships with donors
- Have developed some new promotional materials for your cause

This is a practical session. To get the most out of the workshop, participants will need to bring a laptop or tablet.

Light refreshments available!

You must book a place in advance

Contact FLVC: 01352 744000 info@flvc.org.uk

This workshop is offered under the Big Lottery funded Wales Development programme, through which local charities and community groups can learn to confidently run online fundraising campaigns. Participating groups will benefit from:

FREE membership of Localgiving for a year (usually £72) open to all local third sector groups – including those too small to be registered charities and therefore unable to subscribe to other online giving platforms

Face to face training, mentoring and support (tailored to your organisation's needs) to help you raise awareness of your cause and raise funds online

£200 of match funding (ring-fenced for every group that signs up) as an extra incentive to fundraise online!

To sign up to the programme, visit

join.localgiving.org/wales



'THE BIG STITCH UP' DELIVERS



Following the Knit a Square for Share initiative started by the JoY (Journey of Youth) team from the Estuary and Mountain Mission Area, The Big Stitch Up held in Holy Trinity Church, Greenfield has resulted in over 23 blankets donated to SHARE's work for refugees. Pupils from a number of schools contributed squares knitted by friends and families in the communities.

Pictured are pupils from Ysgol Maesglas representing the lunch time knitting club of over 30 pupils who met each day for weeks to produce over 300 squares. Flintshire Youth Volunteer Awards were granted to pupils who

had dedicated more than 10 hours of their time. Above are pictured the Silver Award winners who were chosen to deliver the 23 blankets in recognition of the 20 hours they had dedicated to the project. The JoY Group were granted Gold Awards for the 30 hours they had committed in the creation of the project reaching throughout the Mission Area from Lixwm to Whitford, Flint and Mostyn.

Blankets and squares are still coming in and there will be a second delivery to SHARE. You can still leave your contribution in Rhosesmor Church (CH7 6PJ) which is open every day.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

As Welsh Government continues its development of a Resilient Communities programme, WCVA is working with the sector to examine the concept of community resilience.

The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, Carl Sargeant, has talked about the need for a new approach to building resilient communities. This includes a particular focus on what he calls the 'three Es' - early years, employability and empowerment. Over summer and beyond, WCVA will work with the sector to develop ideas and insights on what makes a resilient community, and help shape Welsh Government thinking on the role that the

sector can play in promoting resilience and empowerment.

We have now launched our Resilient Communities Hub, where our work on this area will be posted. This includes, initially, a joint discussion paper from WCVA and Talwrn, which draws on discussions WCVA has had with sector network, and a look at our Eisteddfod panel debate on resilient communities.

You can visit the Resilient Communities Hub here

<https://www.wcva.org.uk/what-we-do/resilient-communities-a-third-sector-perspective>

BRYN GWALIA COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our Community Garden is more than just planting seeds; it's about planting ideas, growing skills, and nurturing self-esteem.

We are also a local community-gathering place; that equips people with gardening skills, and how to grow their own food. From senior citizens and youth of all abilities and disabilities, they all benefit from this intergenerational, interactive project.

If you wander down a pathway to a blue gate you will encounter a wonderful surprise...

The Community Garden provides opportunities for creative success for all abilities and disabilities, by providing many hands-on learning experiences of gardening digging in the rich soil, learning about plants and developing gardening skills.

Together we slowly gain an understanding of how to



grow our own to the making of compost. Constructing different kinds of frames for growing vegetables and fruit, and learn about container growing. We enjoy recycling old pallets to be made into imaginative comfortable garden furniture. There really is something here for everyone to do and make.

We build habitats and feeding tables for our wild life that frequent the Garden.

Becoming aware of our wild life we hope will grow a natural affinity to nurture, an awareness of our ecology and how humans

affect and are affected by our natural environment. Therefore inspire a sense of stewardship and caring about our environment.

This year we are going to look at our story and design our own story pole. It will be good to develop our arts as a number of our boards on the fences are in need of repair.

We look forward to seeing you here one day in the not too distant future.



Volunteer Graham Davies patiently building the storage unit for tools



Volunteer Davis surveying the raised beds at the garden

VOLUNTEERING

VOLFEST '17



VolFest - our annual 'National Volunteers' Celebration Event' here in Flintshire - took place this year on Friday 9th June. Thanks to the Big Lottery 'Celebrate It' fund, we were able to hold our event this year at Theatr Clwyd. We wanted to make it a truly fun day for all the people who give so much of their time to make a difference to our local communities here in Flintshire. Voluntary organisations nominated volunteers who they wanted to receive 'National Volunteers' Week' certificates – volunteers without whom their organisation could not function.

As volunteers arrived in the Clwyd Room we were entertained by the choir 'SWAGG' which stands for 'Supporting Working Age Guys and Girls affected by cancer'. They sang popular songs that put us all in a good mood!!

Around 150 volunteers were then presented with their certificates and, in addition, we were most fortunate this year in Flintshire to be able to present awards to three people who were nominated for the prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award.

They were: Graham Davies – nominated jointly by the 'Step Up Step Out' Supported Volunteering Programme & North East Wales Wildlife

Sue Capewell – nominated by Connah's Quay Children's Store

John Morris – nominated by North Wales Police.

Following the presentation of certificates we had the enormous pleasure of listening to the rock band 'Sound Express' who are a local band of very talented musicians supported by 'Emerge Community Arts' Project. We then broke off into three groups to rotate round a series of workshops, namely:

- Tai Chi Movement for Wellbeing
- A Charlie Chaplin silent movie in the cinema
- A Puppetry Workshop ran by Theatr Clwyd staff.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event such a success. The Biggest Thank You, however, goes to all the Wonderful Volunteers who make such a huge difference to the lives of people and communities in our county of Flintshire.



YOUTH ARE FUNDERS ATTEND CARDIFF RESIDENTIAL



The Youth Are Funders group are made up of young people from all over Flintshire. Two young people from the group travelled to Cardiff for the residential and conference. They represented Flintshire to a great standard on this all Wales platform.

One of the group was part of a secret panel of judges who had been observing presentations from youth groups from all over Wales. Attached is a photograph of him giving feedback to a room of approximately 100 people. In the room there was young people from all over Wales, professionals from Welsh Government, local Youth Volunteer Advisors and many more. He was speaking about a youth group who had won a £100 voucher for standing out as being an excellent example of a Youth-Led volunteering project. The youth group that won was from Flintshire! Congratulations to the young volunteers from Active Cambria.

MONEY MATTERS

Pension Age Increase brought forward

Six million men and women in their 40s will have to wait a year longer to get their state pension. The rise in the pension age to 68 will now be phased in between 2037 and 2039, rather than from 2044 as was originally proposed. Those affected are currently between the ages of 39 and 47.

Employer-Supported Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is an alternative to the existing 'childcare voucher' scheme and includes the self-employed. For every £8 you pay in, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year. Further information www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Charity Commission commissioned Populus to conduct independent research into trust and confidence in the Charity Commission.

- 31% of the public are aware that they have benefitted from or used a charity's services (up from 19% in 2015)
- 88% of the public agree that the Charity Commission's role is essential or very important
- 71% of the public agree that seeing a charity is registered reassures them
- 58% of the public and 77% of charities feel that charities are regulated effectively

Small charity accounts

The Commission found that in a sample of 109 small charity accounts scrutinised, 55% were of acceptable quality (47% was achieved in the previous 2 years).

Employment Tribunal fees ruled unlawful

The Supreme Court, which handed down its judgment on 26 July 2017, has ruled unanimously that employment tribunal fees are unlawful. The government will repay up to an estimated £32m.

THE PRINTROOM

We are now printing 2018 calendars. Why not select your favourite photos from your events this year to put into your 2018 calendar - it can be a useful fundraiser.

You could have a single-sided A4 calendar with back and front card cover for £4.95 or double-sided for £3.95 using your own photos or graphics.

In addition, we can print your treasured family photographs on canvas ready for framing from as little as little as £10. We can also turn your photos into greetings/Christmas cards from 45p each. Just call in for a chat and some samples.

Why not make The PRINTROOM your first port of call.

01352 744031

theprintroom@flvc.org.uk