

SCVVS NEWS

STEWARTRY COUNCIL
OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE



17 Castle Street, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4JA, 01557 331346
info@stewartrycvs.org.uk www.stewartrycvs.org.uk

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National and Local Funders Visiting the Stewartry



On **February 28th** eight National and local Funders will be visiting the Stewartry. This will be an ideal opportunity for your community group or organisation to come along and discuss your ideas with them. The funders that have currently agreed to attend the event are:

- £ Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland,
- £ Comic Relief
- £ Scottish Land Fund
- £ BBC Children in Need
- £ Solway Heritage
- £ Forward Scotland
- £ The Holywood Trust



The event will take place in **St Ninians Hall Castle Douglas** from **2 – 7pm**. Come along and have a coffee and a chat with them.



STEWARTRY FEDERATION OF HALLS

Thank you to all the representatives of halls who attended the meeting in Urr Parish Hall, Haugh of Urr at the end of November. We were really optimistic that at long last something could be done about the ever increasing cost of Hall insurance but alas....

Keegan & Pennykid regret that they are unable to provide block insurance to the Federation of Halls although they are willing to look at each hall individually and give a quote.

If your hall insurance is coming up for renewal contact Euan Drysdale at Keegan & Pennykid, 50 Queens Street, Edinburgh. EH2 3NS; Tel 0131 225 6005 or email ED@keegan-pennykid.com

.....Every little helps



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We gratefully acknowledge financial support from the Scottish
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Do you have a good idea to help the community?

The Big Lottery's New Fund '**Investing in Ideas**' has now opened for applications

If you have an idea that could benefit your community but you are not sure if it could work then your community group could be eligible for a grant under this new fund from the Big Lottery.

'**Investing in Ideas**' can pay for:

- market research
- feasibility studies
- business planning
- training your committee
- exchange visits in the UK
- community consultation
- professional advice

and many other things which can help turn your idea into a well planned project (or help you realise that it will not work at all)

The '**Investing in Ideas Fund**' as part of the Big Lottery's new manifesto which aims to use an investment approach to distribute its funds. The new manifesto's investment areas cover:

- community assets
- life transitions
- coping with 21st century change
- building dynamic and inclusive communities



Will your event bring in tourists?

If so, the **Events Challenge Fund** may be for you

A new fund of £220,000 to support festivals and events across the region has called for the first round of applications to be lodged by March 10th.

Supported by Leader +, Scottish Enterprise Dumfries and Galloway and the Council the application and guidance are pretty tough and rigorous.

You must be able to demonstrate that your project will:

- Have an additional, new or innovative aspect
- Have specific measurable outcomes including economic benefit
- Support tourism in the area

The Challenge Fund wants to support events which increase the profile of the area including supporting the themed brand towns.

Minimum grant - £2000

Maximum Grant - £20,000

If you are interested see www.dumgal.gov.uk/fechallenge fund or telephone

Ian Barr on 01557 330291

If you want some independent advice on filling in the application form contact SCVS



Meeting with Digital UK - Friday 3 February 2006

Newton St Boswells

Age Concern Scotland was invited to attend the above meeting (arranged at very short notice) with representatives from Digital UK, Dumfries and Galloway Council and Borders Council to begin discussions about the implications of digital switchover in the Border TV region in 2008. (Age Concern has been involved at a UK level in discussions with Digital UK).

Prior to reading these notes it would be worth going on to the following website where there are lots of "Frequently asked questions" – both general and specifically relating to Border TV region:

www.digitaluk.co.uk

Relevant notes from the meeting are given below for information:

- 2 small communities in Wales went digital last year
 - The Border region was chosen as the first area for switchover due to its transmitters having minimal interaction with transmitters in neighbouring parts of the country
 - The Border TV area also has a large number of households which are unable to get Channel 5 or freeview services
 - There is to be a major TV campaign in May 2006 on both BBC and ITV channels – the same advert on both
 - A letter will be sent out to every household (when this will happen is not yet known) explaining more about switchover
 - The Targeted Assistance Scheme is to be announced shortly although a Support Scheme has already been announced (see details on www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk)
- A trial switchover programme has already taken place in a particular ward in Bolton targeting the 75+ age group; people with learning difficulties and those who were visually or hearing impaired (450 individuals). Focus group sessions are currently being held in this area to pick up on issues and difficulties arising.
 - As well as Age Concern, the RNIB, RNID, Help the Aged and the Consumers Association have been involved prior to the introduction of the pilot
 - In Bolton, 75% of switchovers were done without engineering help. They had a small team of 4 volunteers assisting people where necessary
 - A small proportion of aerials will need to be replaced (estimated at 3%). Digital UK is currently working with the Confederation of aerial installers and local colleges to offer an SVQ in installation. All installers recommended through the Confederation will have been disclosure checked.
 - More significantly many video recorders will need to be replaced by PVR recorders if people wish to watch a TV programme but record another at the same time
 - All TV's apart from a few very old sets can be converted with a digibox if customers don't want to install satellite TV. There are already a vast range of digiboxes on the market – some much better than others. The DTI is currently looking at this and it is hoped feedback from the focus groups in Bolton will also be used to influence design in the future – eg size / ease of access on remote controls. There is to be a Which Report doing a comparison of the digiboxes on offer at some time in the future.

UNLESS OLDER PEOPLE ARE DESPERATE TO BUY A DIGIBOX NOW THEY WOULD BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL MORE IS PUBLICISED ABOUT THE RANGE OF DIGIBOXES AVAILABLE AND THE ALTERNATIVE WAYS AND COSTS OF GOING DIGITAL ARE MORE WIDELY KNOWN.

- No definite date has been given for switchover in the Border region but it will be **late** 2008.
- There was considerable discussion about how to identify “vulnerable” people and implications of the Data Protection Act when trying to share information between different organisations.
- A Regional manager is shortly to be appointed (being advertised just now) and an “Advisory Committee” is to be set up to help take forward the switchover arrangements in D&G and the Borders in conjunction with this Regional Manager. A separate committee will be set up for Cumbria. Suggested participants in this were put forward as follows:

BBC; ITV; OFCOM; 4 reps from each l’auth to include Community Planning; Social Services; Communications and an elected member; a joint rep from the Southern Uplands Partnership; Coalition of Disabled People/Disability Forum (Borders); Federation of Community Councils rep /Borders Forum of CC’s; DAGCAS/CAS (Borders) and Age Concern Scotland /Scottish Borders Elder Voice.

Ann Stephenson
7 February 2006

New Energy Trust set up

The Scottish Power Energy People Trust has been set up to help end fuel poverty. Trustees will meet four times a year to consider applications for grants to support projects in crisis funding, benefits health checks, energy efficiency and research. Priority will be given to projects aimed at helping families with young children and young people. For more information see

[Scottish Power Energy People Trust](#)

READ 4 CHARITY

Buy your books online and support charities

The book selling website has been set up by Polly Ernest who wanted to make a difference after the shock of last years Tsunami. 15% of sales go to charities who have registered with the web site. Currently charities such as Shelter, Scope, Big Issues, PAWS and others are registered.

If you are looking for books or looking for another way to benefit your charity visit the website at <http://www.read4charity.co.uk>

Get BROADBAND and help your local CVS

If you use this link below to register for Broadband BT will make a one off donation of £20 to SCVS. We undertake to put that donation to good use in our work to support local communities and voluntary sector organizations.

[http://www.workwithus.org/broadband/Sign up.aspx?id=120897](http://www.workwithus.org/broadband/Signup.aspx?id=120897)

ESSENTIAL WORKSHOPS FOR YOUR DIARY

Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 And Child Protection

Training

PoCSA

1. Background to Act
This will cover why this new Act has been introduced and what powers it has given Ministers
2. What does the Act require organisations to do?
This will cover what organisations are required to do under the new Act to comply with the legislation (Recruitment process)
3. Creating Safe Places (Policies and procedures)
Code of good practice, Code of conduct, Child protection policy statement, Child protection procedure, grievance procedure, disciplinary procedure.

Child Protection

The D&G Child Protection Committee Introduction Course has the following learning outcomes for participants:-

To have increased knowledge of the nature and incidence of child abuse;

To improve skills in recognising when a child may be in need of protection;

To understand the principle of placing the welfare of the child at the centre of all decision-making; and

To Understand when and how to report incidents of child abuse and why people don't.

Dates of Events venues to be confirmed

Annan - Evening (6-9pm) - Thursday 20th April

Dumfries - Day (10-4pm) - Friday 21st April

Castle Douglas – Evening (6-9pm)Thursday 4th May

Stranraer – Day (10-4pm) Friday 5th May

This training is at a basic level and you would have to have undertaken this to participate on the Multi-Agency Child Protection Training see overleaf. Contact us for further information.



INCREASE Programme 2006-2008

Announcing a further £5 million support

The Scottish Executive has provided a further £5m to support community based recycling projects in Scotland until 31 March 2008.

The INCREASE Programme will provide investment to eligible community organisations engaged in activities that will help to implement the National Waste Plan. The overall objective is to enable new and existing community organisations to become economically sustainable social enterprises that will help to develop the social economy in Scotland.

The INCREASE Programme Aims To:

INCREASE Capacity

To develop the internal capacity of community organisations to deliver more.

INCREASE Enterprise

To support the development of new and existing markets to help generate more revenue.

INCREASE Action

To raise awareness of waste minimisation through development of innovative projects that will result in a desired action i.e. an outcome that can be measured and monitored.

What Funding is Available?

INCREASE 2006-2008 has a two-tier investment programme:

- 1. Provide investment in Small projects between £5,000-£30,000.*
- 2. Provide investment in Strategic projects from £30,000 to £200,000.*

How to Apply?

Please note that the small projects application process has been streamlined and the strategic application process has changed from the 2004/2006 Programme. Please visit the revised INCREASE website for full flow diagram details for each process (weblink <http://www.increase-programme.org.uk/login.php>). All projects will be considered on an individual basis and appropriate levels of support will be made available..

Getting Involved ..

..Scottish Disability Sport Forum comes to the Stewartry

A forum to look at the issues and opportunities for more people with disabilities to take part in sport is to be organised in the Stewartry. Co-ordinated by John Alison from the Council's Leisure and Sport department, the first meeting will be held on

Friday 3rd March at the Community Centre, Cotton Street, Castle Douglas . 9.45 for Coffee starting at 10.00 a.m

Please contact John on 01556 503806 if you'd like to come along or e-mail him on JohnAI@dumgal.gov.uk

..Rural Development Strategy

Written responses to the **Strategic Plan** for Rural Development in Scotland 2007-2013 are now being invited by the Scottish Executive. This framework will guide the use of European Union Funds for Rural Development over the next seven years. A complimentary consultation on how these funds will be delivered under the Scottish Rural Development **Programme** (SRDP) will open in March.

There are three key themes in the Strategy:

- Performance and quality in agriculture, food and forestry
- Enhancing rural landscapes and natural; heritage
- A more diverse rural economy and thriving rural communities

The new programme will be linked to Leader+ and Land Management contracts and will essentially try to link the private land sector with public and community bodies.

If you'd like to comment on the strategy go to rdstrategy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or phone Zoe Woods on 0131 244 3376

There's a copy at SCVS

... Valuing

..our voluntary sector

"The Voluntary sector already plays an active and vital role in today's society and I want it to contribute even more" *Malcolm Chisholm Minister for Communities. Ministerial foreword A vision for the Voluntary sector*

On 12th December 2005 The Scottish Executive launched 'A Vision for the Voluntary Sector'. The vision outlines steps to help the sector

- Deliver more and better services
- Build stronger communities
- Develop it's role in advocacy and policy thinking
- Encourage change in society

At the same time one of the outcomes of the Strategic Funding review is further work to implement full cost recovery models for voluntary and public sector.

Well it's good to be optimistic whatever the circumstances.

WATER BILLS TO SINK VILLAGE HALLS after 2010

A campaign is to be launched to persuade the government to back down on plans to make halls pay for water supplies after historic exemptions expire in 2010.

A Scottish National MSP Andrew Welsh raised the issue in a parliamentary debate last wee. He highlighted the case of a new hall in Angus which opened in 2002 but is now considering closure because of rising water bills.

Look out for the petition which is on its way to you at your hall!