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MONET

A warm welcome to CVSA's new Business Development Manager...
David Wood



CVSA are pleased to welcome David Wood as our new Business Development Manager.

David joined CVSA on 21st November, having previously been the Bursar of The Burn, an educational retreat and study centre beside the River North Esk near Edzell (www.goodenough.ac.uk/the_burn.html).

David is now in overall charge of our three existing retail outlets - the Charity Shop, The Boxroom and the 'Magpie' Project. He will also be working actively to expand and develop CVSA's range of social enterprises across the area - so watch this space!

Aberdeenshire Signposting Project

The Aberdeenshire Signposting Project provides a service within GP surgeries, Community Hospitals and by self-referral throughout Aberdeenshire to help enhance clients quality of life and promote positive mental health. They work with clients to find tailored solutions to the non-medical issues affecting their quality of life, mood and wellbeing.

Patients are given full details of any agency or organisation relevant to their situation and the Signposter will make first contact on behalf of the patient if required. The patient then has the opportunity to address the issues affecting their wellbeing with people best placed to help them. The service is free, confidential, non-judgemental and impartial.

The Signposting Project can help if you, a family member or someone you care for are:

- ◆ experiencing or are at risk of developing low mood, anxiety, stress or reduced wellbeing
- ◆ over 16 years of age in Aberdeenshire
- ◆ over 55 in Aberdeenshire and wanting to engage more with local community activities
- ◆ struggling to cope with issues and unable to find help.
- ◆ feeling isolated or alone
- ◆ new parents
- ◆ recently bereaved
- ◆ recently unemployed or under threat of losing their job
- ◆ experiencing relationship problems

Ask at your medical/community hospital reception if appointments are available. Alternatively you can contact Karen Nicol at the Signposting Project directly on 01466 793284 or karennicol@signpostingproject.org.uk.

If you are interested in volunteering for the project, please contact Karen on the above phone number or visit the website at: www.signpostingproject.org.uk.

contact us...

15a High Street, Inverurie AB51 3QA tel: 01467 629072
72a High Street, Banchory AB31 5SS tel: 01330 825027
email: mail@cvsa.co.uk website: www.cvsa.co.uk

Charity Technology Trust

Microsoft supports community and voluntary charities by giving them the opportunity to apply for a Microsoft software donation or purchase low cost computer hardware or receive IT training.

Their software donation process is run by the Charity Technology Trust. The Charity Technology Exchange (CTX) programme enables UK-based charities to request from a range of Microsoft software. They offer eligible organisations up to ten titles, including the most popular software packages like Microsoft Office for example. Organisations can get up to 50 copies of each title every two year period. Donations include free upgrades for two years and access to a range of e-learning resources. Not all charities are eligible, but the vast majority are, and there are no limits on the number of organisations who can receive a donation. Grantees pay a nominal administrative fee to the Charity Technology Exchange. For more information visit: www.ctxchange.org/about_ctx/partners/microsoft

Hardware - The Microsoft Registered Refurbisher programme works with eligible refurbishers to provide legally installed software on refurbished desktop PCs and laptops to provide low-cost computers to charitable and community organisations. For more information visit: www.microsoft.com/refurbishedpcs

Training - The Microsoft Digital Literacy Curriculum teaches basic computer concepts and skills so that people can use computer technology confidently. It is available free to use directly from the internet and provides an OCR accreditation. For more information visit: www.microsoft.com/uk/dlc.

Britain Works NGO Programme - This programme is to assist charities that work at community level to help people get back into employment. The programme enables networking, sharing resources to benefit learners and the charity: www.microsoft.com/uk/britainworks/ngo.



practical ideas for nurturing
community organisations

After the success of our first CVSA Grow Your Group event in Laurencekirk in May of this year, we are planning to hold another event in Oldmeldrum in March 2012.

Grow Your Group brings together local voluntary and community organisations and gives them a chance to gain information, guidance and inspiration to help their project grow - particularly in the current economic climate.

We are now inviting suggestions on what topics groups would like to see covered at the next event in March. Is there a particular issue you and your group are facing that you would like discuss? We are organising speakers and topics for the event, so let us know what you think we should be talking about and we will do our best to cover it.

Contact our Development Officer, Alison Melville with your suggestions at Alison.Melville@cvsa.co.uk or call 01467 629072.

Setting up in business - Support

www.businesslink.gov.uk/mynewbusiness

'My New Business' has a range of advice and support for people who want to set up their own business. This includes:

- ◆ Access to online information and guidance
- ◆ A range of about 250 interactive online tools, including training, tutorials, workshops and case studies
- ◆ A personalised homepage facility to manage information about people's businesses.

Creative Scotland/Young Scot Creative Enterprise Fund

Creative Scotland and Young Scot have launched a new fund for young people, the Creative Enterprise Fund, to support 15-22 year olds to develop their artistic talents and fulfill their ambitions within the creative industries. The Creative Enterprise Fund can award young people up to £200 on an individual basis and £750 for groups of three or more.

Do you...

- have a project or activity in mind that you would love to make a reality?
- want to run your own local youth dance class?
- aspire to produce your own theatre productions?
- want to get your band off the ground or make a career out of your filmmaking interest?

Find out more at
www.youngscotextra.org/cef

Autism Development Fund

At the launch of the Scottish Strategy for Autism on 2nd November 2011, the Minister for Public Health announced that the Scottish Government would provide £13.4 million over the next four years to support implementation. He has stipulated that £1 million per annum should be devoted to a Development Fund (subject to Budget clearance) to enable organisations to work in partnership with Scottish Government and COSLA to improve local and national services available to people with autism. Applications are now invited from local and national Third Sector organisations, Local Authorities and Health Boards to draw on this Fund. They are particularly interested in hearing from organisations that want to work together and who are able to develop initiatives that:

- ♦ improve early interventions
- ♦ support individuals through

the transition from children to adult services

- ♦ lead to employment
- ♦ support carers
- ♦ provide appropriate training and education
- ♦ further develop the evidence base on what works for people on the spectrum and their families.

Proposals should be submitted no later than 12 December 2011 and it is anticipated that funding award decisions will be made and notified by the end of December 2011. Please contact Annette Pyle via email on Annette.Pyle@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or on 0131 2443214, if you have any further questions. Proposals should be submitted to Julie Crawford at Julie.Crawford@scotland.gsi.gov.uk. For more information on the goals and recommendations within the strategy please read the Scottish Autism Strategy on: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/11/01120340/0>

fundinginbrief

Tullo community fund

Organisations in the area around Tullo Wind Farm near Laurencekirk in Aberdeenshire are being invited to submit their applications to the annual community benefit fund set up to support community projects. The fund will welcome applications for projects that:

- ♦ Benefit children and vulnerable people
- ♦ Involve community buildings or regeneration
- ♦ Boost the environment or wildlife
- ♦ Have health, education, heritage or sustainability benefits.

Full guidelines and applications are available from the offices of the Mearns Area Partnership at 44 High Street, Laurencekirk or can be downloaded from www.meansareapartnership.org.uk or www.tullo-windfarm.co.uk.

Outdoors4All A new grant is available to help groups in Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City and Moray take their clients on local outings where somebody can provide an introduction to the outdoors. This grant is explicitly targeted at groups which support people with special needs or groups which are frequently excluded from enjoying the natural heritage and the outdoors because of factors of social or economic exclusion. Contact the Buchan Countryside Group on: (01771) 637394 or email: BuchanCG@gmail.com

Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation provide funding for charities and community groups in areas close to Clydesdale Bank branches. Visit www.cbonline.co.uk/about-clydesdale-bank/community/charitable-donations-about-us

Awards for All

Awards for All Scotland is a small grants scheme which makes awards of between £500 and £10,000 to support projects that improve opportunities to take part in arts, sports and community activities and projects that promote education, health and the environment.

Awards for All can fund up to 100% of eligible project costs and is open to applications from constituted voluntary and community organisations, schools and statutory bodies. Awards for All is a rolling programme so there are no deadlines and they are currently funding almost 70% of applications received.

If you're aware of groups with projects that might fit with Awards for All please pass on these contacts: 0300 123 7110 or visit the website www.awardsforall.org.uk/scotland for more information on how to apply.

OSCR's Public Focus Strategy consultation: comments invited



Office of the Scottish **Charity Regulator**

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has launched a consultation on its new Public Focus Strategy, and is keen to hear from beneficiaries of charities and those who use charity services, now or in the future. The strategy aims to improve OSCR's involvement with users of those services they scrutinise. The consultation period closes on Friday 23 December 2011.

For more information, visit

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/about-oscr/our-work/consultations/>

Free Welfare Reform Training - One Parent Families Scotland

Thursday 8th December, 12.45pm,

St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Place, Inverurie

Changes to benefit entitlement have now been introduced for lone parents. More and more parents are being moved from Income Support to Jobseeker's Allowance and the longer a person remains on Jobseeker's Allowance, the more conditionality is required to maintain receipt of that benefit.

If you work with lone parents and would like to be able to advise them about these important changes, then come along to this free session on Welfare Reform for Lone Parents.

Book a place online via the website:

<http://www.opfs.org.uk/form/397>

Inverurie Mentoring Service receives Recognition Award

The New Explorations Mentoring Service received the Health and Disability Recognition Award for 2011 from the Scottish Mentoring Network.

The new service, which works with people with disabilities and mental health problems supporting them to bring choice and control to their lives, is based at Grampian Opportunities offices at 1 High Street, Inverurie. New Explorations Mentoring service is funded by Big Lottery Fund Investing in Communities - Transitions programme.

The service provides an accessible one to one mentoring service across Grampian which encourages people to achieve their potential. New Explorations Mentoring Service has been developed and is delivered by people with disabilities. Mentoring is support given by another person to help people explore their opportunities through improvements in self confidence, motivation and independence. The main aim of New Exploration Mentoring is to enable adults to move into regular employment. For others, not seeking employment, the scheme provides new opportunities for people to get together to use existing skills or update and learn new ones.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer mentor, or in a mentee opportunity to have one-to-one support, please contact Tricia McLean or Katrina Wilson, Mentoring Co-ordinators on 01467 629675 or email: go.mentor@grampianopportunities.org.uk.

Petplan Charitable Trust

Applicants to the trust must be charities and grants must provide a direct benefit to the species supported by the Petplan Ltd. ie. dogs, cats, horses and rabbits. For further information visit: www.petplantrust.org or email: catherine.bourg@allianz.co.uk

Community Engagement in Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire Council has developed a programme of community engagement events where they meet with community and business representatives, parent council representatives and young people on a regular basis. These events provide the opportunity to hear directly from local communities about their priorities, as well as providing an opportunity to discuss the Council's progress in delivering savings.

The sessions are run on a monthly basis, with the Council Leader, Chief Executive and senior officers from across all Council services attending. Other community planning partner agencies are invited to attend these events, and any issues raised which may be more relevant to another partner are passed to them to take forward.

For information about where these events are being held visit: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/consultations/engagement_events.asp



2011 Christmas Toy Appeal

The 2011 Cash for Kids Christmas Toy Appeal was launched on November 17, with a plea to ensure that local children do not wake up to find that Santa hasn't been.

The public are being asked to donate toys and gifts of any value as long as they are unwrapped, brand new and can be suitable for babies, toddlers, children and teenagers. Asda stores across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are supporting the appeal with drop-off points for donations, as well as being the main sponsor of this year's event.

Members of the Cash for Kids team were be at the relaunch of the newly revamped Bon Accord Centre, where staff from the Disney Store were dressed up in costumes provided by John Lewis, encouraging the public to donate gifts to the appeal. John Lewis also has drop-off points for presents.

Donations to the 2011 Xmas Toy Appeal can be dropped off at the following locations: all Asda supermarkets; John Lewis in the Bon Accord Centre; Northsound Radio reception; and Westhill Business Centre, Arnhall Drive.

Cash for Kids, Northsound's listener charity, was set up 15 years ago to distribute grants to individual youngsters as well as groups, organisations and projects working with underprivileged, sick and disabled children throughout the North-east. Each year it aims to raise £200,000.

For more information on Cash for Kids, please call 01224 337010 or visit www.northsound1.com/cashforkids

Masters in Citizenship and Human Rights

Application Deadline 9th Jan 2012

Those working and volunteering in charities and not-for-profit organisations can apply to study a work-based Masters in Citizenship and Human Rights. The course, developed jointly by Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), gives you the chance to learn more about, and gain accreditation for, the work you already do. Study is online with only a few face-to-face seminars in Glasgow, ensuring that people in remote, island or rural areas can access learning. For more information visit www.gcu.ac.uk/business/socialinnovation/mscincitizenshipandhumanrights/ or contact Morag Redwood morag.redwood@scvo.org.uk Tel 01463 251738. To register for the course, email humanrights@gcu.ac.uk now.

Rural Direct roadshows

Are you active in your rural community?

Do you need help to develop local projects and find the funding to make them happen?

Then come and talk to the experts at one of the Rural Direct Roadshows being organised across Scotland over the next few months. Topics covered will include:

- ♦ An Introduction to Rural Development Funding and Rural Direct
- ♦ Rural Priorities and other funding opportunities
- ♦ Project planning - getting your application in order and ready to go Equalities & your funding application
- ♦ Building quality in rural Scotland: the KeyStone Quality Awards
- ♦ What next for Rural Development funding? 2014 and beyond.

Members of the Rural Direct team will be in attendance and will be available for one-to-one or group surgery sessions or to make appointments to discuss how your proposal may be progressed. Keep an eye open for announcements in the local press and at local community outlets for dates and locations. Each roadshow will comprise two sessions; from 3pm to 5pm and from 6pm to 8pm. You will be made most welcome at whichever session suits you best.

The Hardest Hit coalition giant Christmas card

The Hardest Hit coalition (including Action for Blind People, Guide Dogs, RNIB and Visionary) is sending a giant Xmas card, signed by hopefully 10,000 plus people, to the Government. This "action" is to coincide with the Welfare Reform Bill reaching Report Stage in the House of Lords and forms part of their extensive lobbying activities. They need to encourage peers to vote for key amendments, in particular to:

- ♦ challenge the time-limiting of Employment and Support Allowance
- ♦ make the provisions around Personal Independence Payment (PIP) fairer.

Unless the Bill is amended, there is a real danger that blind and partially sighted people will lose vital financial support - in many cases this will be around £30 a week. In some cases this will be over £90 a week. To sign the card visit <http://tinyurl.com/765rorx>

The card will be delivered on 13th December

For more information please contact campaigns@rnib.org.uk or info@hardesthit.org.uk. or call 0207 391 2082

Making Money Easier Portal

Making Money Easier is a portal from United Response and the Association for Real Change (ARC), offering a set of picture guides designed to help people with a learning disability to think about money, banking, and living independently. Visit the site at: www.making-money-easier.info/



Scottish Charity Register to help with volunteer research

In November and December the Scottish Charity Register will be used to help inform research being carried out by Volunteer Development Scotland (VDS).

The research aims to identify challenges charities face in the engagement and involvement of volunteers. The completed research will be used by VDS to develop free resources.

If you would like more information about the research, please e-mail VDS directly at helen.harper@vds.org.uk



..training..

CVS Training Initiative
33/34 The Square, Ellon
Tel: 01358 722205
Email: admin@
cvstraininginitiative.org.uk

ESF FUNDED TRAINING PROGRAMME - these recognised, certificated courses are being offered free to basic grade staff and volunteers in Social Enterprises and Voluntary/Community organisations in Aberdeenshire. To obtain a registration form please contact: Diane/Shirley on 01358 722205 or email admin@cvstraininginitiative.org.uk. Closing date for registration - Wednesday 18th January 2012

Appointed Persons First Aid
Wednesday 1st February,
9.30am - 4.30pm,
Mintlaw Village Hall
Trainer: Caroline Hay-Crawford

Appointed Persons First Aid
Wednesday 21st March,
9.30am - 4.30pm,
Burnett Arms Hotel, Banchory
Trainer: Caroline Hay-Crawford

Elementary Food Hygiene
Tuesday 28th February,
9am - 5pm,
Acorn Centre, Inverurie
Trainer: Janette Gascoine

Elementary Food Hygiene
Tuesday 27th March,
9am - 5pm,
The Hot Spot, Peterhead
Trainer: Janette Gascoine

BBC Two Applicant Call for Artists to take part in 'Show me the Monet'



Producers of the BBC Two programme, *Show Me The Monet* are looking for both amateur and professional artists from across the nation to apply to take part in the next series.

They have a committee of three art experts looking for great art - painting, drawing, photography, prints, sculpture, textile art (as hangings not textile design or fashion) - to put into their prestigious exhibition in London where members of the public together with the great and the good of the art world can view and buy the work that is on display.

Applications open during the week of Monday 12th December 2011 and will close when they have received 3,000 applications or on Sunday 8th January 2012 at midnight (whichever is sooner).

To apply: Visit the website: www.showmethemonet.tv

You can follow them on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/ShowMetheMonet

To view a clip from the last series:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00h3x3w>

Better Breaks Development Fund

The Scottish Government has made a short break fund of £2 million available for short breaks for disabled children and young people and their families and carers. The aim of the fund is to improve the provision of, and access to, quality short breaks for disabled children and their families, especially where children and young people have multiple support needs. The new funding is divided between two grant-making programmes - one administered by Shared Care Scotland and the other by the Family Fund. The new Shared Care Scotland programme is called Better Breaks and has a value of up to £1.3 million. It

gives a unique opportunity for third sector organisations in Scotland to apply for grants of up to £50,000 to develop additional, responsive and creative short break opportunities for disabled children and young people and their families.

More information on the fund and how to apply can be found at www.sharedcarescotland.org.uk/short-breaks-fund/Better+Breaks.html. The closing date for applications is 1st February 2012 at 12.00 noon. The Family Fund programme is called Take a Break and more information on this fund can be found at www.takeabreakscotland.org.uk.

dates for your diary

Business Gateway Funding Workshop Monday 12th December, 6.30 - 9.30pm Enterprise Business Centre, Aberdeen

This workshop will help you identify sources of funding available through both public and private sectors whilst navigating through the processes involved in accessing this.

Free, but pre-booking essential.

Call 01224 289725

Film Night: It's a Wonderful Life Woodend Barn,

Tuesday 13th December, 7.30pm

An all-time Christmas classic, It's a Wonderful Life stars the great James Stewart as George Bailey, a man who wants to end it all until a guardian angel named Clarence Odbody is sent to help him. A lovely Christmassy night out in Banchory!

www.woodendbarn.co.uk

MiDAS (Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme) Thursday 15th December, Maud

MiDAS is the Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme organised by the Community Transport Association (CTA), promoting a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers.

Cost: £70.00 Refresher £50.00

Contact Gary Laing on 01771 619191.

Email: training@dabplus.org.uk

National Autistic Society Ellon Branch Fundraising Quiz Night, Friday 24th February 2012, Station Hotel, Ellon

Come along for a great night out and raise money for NAS in the process. Minimum donation of £15 per team of four.

Call Gail on 01358 722198 for tickets.

The Charity Shop

Excellent range of good quality clothing and bric-a-brac for resale. Donations are gratefully accepted. Open Mon - Sat 10am - 4pm

Volunteers welcome - contact the shop at: 16a Bridge Street, Banchory Tel: 01330 825714

magpie furniture reuse project

Second hand furniture and household goods for sale. Pop in and grab a bargain! Open Mon-Sat, 10am - 3pm

Unit 3, Tillybrake Industrial Estate, Banchory. Tel: 01330 538001



THE BOXROOM Recycle+Reuse

THE BOXROOM recycles household goods, by direct sales to the public or by providing essential furniture for those in need

Opening Hours
Monday - Saturday 10am - 3pm
except Wednesday 9am - 12.30pm

Unit 5, Tillybrake Industrial Estate, Banchory AB31 5UN
(in front of the Royal Mail sorting office)

Tel: 01330 823800

...online...useful websites...online...

www.readyscotland.org/my-community/

The Scottish Government has published an online guide which provides advice for community groups on how to plan for emergencies. The guide is downloadable from Ready Scotland, the Scottish Government's website on preparing for and responding to emergencies. As well as advice, the website highlights some of the great things that Scottish communities are already doing to build their resilience against things like flooding or severe weather.

www.gatherscotland.org.uk

Keep up-to-date with what will feature at The Gathering, held in Glasgow on 29 February - 1 March 2012.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/citizen-ehealth

There are a number of ways that citizens could interact with NHSScotland over the internet which could help improve their healthcare. Complete this short survey to help inform development of the Citizen eHealth strategy for NHSScotland.

www.autism.org.uk/christmascards

This year's National Autistic Society christmas cards are on sale now. Remember these cards not only raise funds for the NAS but also help to spread awareness of living with autism - so why not encourage your friends and family to send their cards as well?