



DECEMBER 2004



**The Board of Directors and Staff of SCVS  
wish members and colleagues a very  
Merry Christmas**



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- 18<sup>TH</sup> January 2005**      **READY STEADY WRITE** – A guide to making good funding applications  
This workshop will take you through the golden rules for making good funding applications to a range of funders and will look at case studies.  
**St. Ninians Church Hall, Castle Douglas 4pm – 7pm**
- 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005**      **HUMAN RIGHTS ACT TRAINING** – How the Human Rights Act relates to and affects voluntary sector organisations. An opportunity to explore your organisational policies and practices and look at case studies on relevant sections of the Act. Run by the Scottish Human Rights Trust, there will be a charge of £10 per person for this training.  
**Castle Douglas Community Centre 10am – 4pm**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2005**      **PROTECTION OF CHILDREN – NEW LEGAL REQUIREMENTS** – Having the right policies and procedures in place if you are working with children and young people is now essential. This workshop will bring you up to date on requirements.  
**St. Ninians Church Hall, Castle Douglas 7.30pm – 9pm**
- 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005**      **MONITORING AND EVALUATION** – Managing grants, setting targets, evaluating and meeting the expectations of stakeholders  
**St. Ninians Church Hall, Castle Douglas 4pm – 6pm**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2005**      **INTRODUCTION TO THE BIG PICTURE** – The Big Picture tool is designed to help you think about the work of your organisation and how you can ensure quality in the development of your service. Suitable for senior staff and committee members  
**Castle Douglas Community Centre – 10.30am – 12.30pm**
- Early March**      **CHILDREN IN NEED** – Workshop run by Fraser Falconer of Children in Need to assist you in preparing good applications to this fund.  
**Venue will be the McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart**
- 15<sup>th</sup> March 2005**      **COMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** – An outline of what's involved in being on a committee in a voluntary association, a charity or company limited by guarantee  
**St. Ninians Church Hall, Castle Douglas 7pm – 9pm**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2005**      **CHARITY LEGISLATION AND THE CHARITY REGULATOR** – An update on new legislation affecting charities including the roles and activities of the Charity Regulator – OSCR

## ***the gathering***

Scotland's voluntary sector fair will take place  
14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2005 at Glasgow SECC.

Further information available at  
[www.gatherscotland.org.uk](http://www.gatherscotland.org.uk) or contact Alex  
Thomson on 0131 474 6152 or email  
[thegathering@scvo.org.uk](mailto:thegathering@scvo.org.uk)

## **Get Involved in National Storytelling week ...**

29<sup>th</sup> January – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2005

This campaign aims to increase public  
awareness in the art and value of storytelling.  
If you would like to participate call  
**Del Reid**  
**Society for Storytelling**  
**020 8866 4232**



### **How does your family spend Christmas?**

**ITV is looking for families who donate their Christmas  
holiday time to charitable causes.**

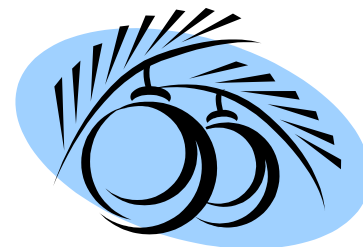
Do you spend Christmas helping others who are less fortunate?  
Maybe you use the time to help the environment, or just spend time with people who don't have  
their own family.

If you think that you and your family benefit from volunteer work at Christmas, we would like to  
talk to you.

We are looking for a family to be involved in a "Holiday Showdown" special where one family  
demonstrates what they think is the best way to spend their Christmas holidays.

As well as spending the time volunteering, any family involved will be asked to experience  
another family's idea of the perfect Christmas holiday

**If you think that you can win a family  
over to Volunteering at Christmas  
please call Charlie on 020 7013 4526 or  
email [charlie.clare@rdfmedia.com](mailto:charlie.clare@rdfmedia.com)**





## STEWARTRY FEDERATION OF HALLS

Disability Access Audits have been completed for 28 village halls in the area. Rod Macdonald, Sustainability Officer said "These audits will be useful to village halls both in terms of identifying needs to be addressed as funding allows, and in compliance with the regulations of the Disability Access Act. All recommendations in these audits are advisory." All the audits have been completed, but a small number remain to be typed up and should be available by the end of November. We are in the process of passing these on to halls and completing energy efficiency audits.

Rod, whose contract finishes at the end of November added "I have greatly enjoyed my time working for the Federation of Halls, so much so that I am continuing in a voluntary capacity to complete the energy efficiency audits and to build on the work done in the past. I will continue to be available to help any hall that requires help and support.

The Stewartry Federation of Halls is currently seeking funding for a marketing project for the next year.

### WATER RATES

Jim Lugton of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations has been in discussions with the Scottish Executive and Ministers in connection with the above and reports

The Water Rates Exemption Scheme is being extended to 2010 and they are now focusing on conditions attached. The original stated intention was to make 80% of small charities benefit, but in reality less than 20% benefit because of these conditions. SCVO is lobbying for the withdrawal of all conditions except the limit of £50000 annual income.

Halls on private water supply can still access exemptions for waste water. There are currently no exemptions on charges for private water supplies, although they are regulated by Scottish Water and SEPA for quality water. Jim advises that Halls on private supplies should write to Euan Robson MSP regarding the payments they have to make for checks on quality, on the principle of equalisation with Halls on mains water.

### LIQUOR LICENSING LAWS

The Scottish Executive is currently overhauling licensing laws. Issues re security, frequency of licenses etc. in new legislation were likely to impact on small local halls. SCVO has been in discussion with them concerning village halls, in particular the need for halls to have a monthly event to raise funds. Following SCVO lobbying, the Scottish Executive are now liberalising regime for church halls, village halls etc. to let the law reflect the reality.

When SCVS receives more information on this we will pass it on to hall committees.

### LOTTERY LICENCE

SCVS has renewed the lottery licence on behalf of the Stewartry Federation of Halls.

If your hall is planning a raffle remember to use this licence. All you have to do is :

- book your date at the office
- and
- send in a return after the event

**EASY - AND IT COSTS YOU NOTHING!**

## Dumfries & Galloway Arts Association GRANTS for Community Groups

Dumfries & Galloway Arts Association's Area Development Project is available to support groups to develop interesting and hopefully sustainable cultural activities.

Types of events already approved:

A youth theatre performance of the 'Wizard of Oz'  
A family sculpture event on the Solway Shore  
Tango workshops and dance with live music  
A family arts activity day as part of Learning Week

The maximum cash award to any individual project is likely to be around £400 but the co-ordinators can help communities source additional funding if required. Assistance with marketing is also available and there is lots of advice on how to tackle your project, including how to apply for this scheme.

Call 01387 253383 to register your interest and to book a consultation with one of the area co-ordinators



## Tobacco & Inequalities Project Small Grants Fund

ASH Scotland's Tobacco & Inequalities Project (T&I) have set up a Small Grants Fund which is available for projects to address tobacco use within the following target groups:

Mental Health  
Black & Minority Ethnic Communities  
Older Adults

This funding is provided by the Scottish Executive and NHS Health Scotland. For application of less than £3000 the initial first stage form will be accepted as the completed application. There is a two stage application process for applications for more than £3000.

**The deadline for receipt of Stage one applications is 5 pm on 14th January 2005.**

The deadline for stage two applications is 18th March 2005.

For details and how to apply contact Kirsten at:

**ASH Scotland**  
8 Frederick Street  
Edinburgh DH8 8HE  
Tel: 0131 220 9460  
Fax: 0131 225 4759

or call at the SCVS office and get a copy of the Guidance/Stage One Application Form

## Grants of up to £5000 available for groups supporting Women in Scotland

The **Women's Fund for Scotland**, a joint initiative by the **Scottish Community Foundation** and **Engender**, wishes to announce the last dates for grant applications from organisations supporting women.

Grants available to organisations that are run by women as well as organisations which seek to support and empower women are split into two categories: small fast track grants up to £1000 and main grants up to £5000.

**General grants** can be made for drama work, befriending, health education, counselling, residential courses, improving premises, telephone helplines, employment training,

supporting women who face difficult issues to do with disability, mental health, ethnicity, homelessness, domestic abuse, sexuality and motherhood. The grants for the International Women's Day fund activities such as workshops, exhibitions and gatherings throughout Scotland.

**General grant applications for the year 2004/05** have to be received by **31st December 04** and those for events to celebrate **International Women's Day** in March 05 have to be received by **15th January 05**

For further information contact the Scottish Community Foundation on 0141 225 6670 or email [grants@scottishcommunityfoundation.com](mailto:grants@scottishcommunityfoundation.com) or visit [www.scottishcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.scottishcommunityfoundation.com)

.....NEWS FLASH.....

## ETHNIC MINORITIES GRANT SCHEME TO PROVIDE CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS

50 Grants of up to £2000 will be available in 2005-06 to black and ethnic minority led groups which promote racial equality and reduce racial discrimination by improving access to mainstream services in Scotland.

The Scottish Executive is undertaking an appraisal of racial equality work across Scotland. Until new funding arrangements are announced the SE has made available, in principle, funding for capacity building grants through the Ethnic Minorities Grant Scheme. To apply you should:

**Be a voluntary organisation/community group established by, and for, the benefit of black and ethnic minority communities**

**Be working in one or more of the following areas—education, employment, law, housing, social care**

**Return the short application form by 15th December 2004**

For more information you should contact: Charles Chingwalu,  
Voluntary Action Fund, Comely Park House, 80 New Row, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 7EJ

For an application form please telephone 01383 620780 or email  
Susan.Latto@voluntaryactionfund.org.uk or download from our website:  
[www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk)

### Vulnerable Persons Database

Dumfries and Galloway Council, with financial assistance from the Scottish Executive, is undertaking a pilot project in the development of a Vulnerable Persons Database, the aim is “to safeguard life by developing a database of information relative to premises where people with vulnerabilities are known to reside/frequent, whereby in the event of an emergency affecting such a premises procedures can be implemented to render necessary assistance”. If your organisation wishes to take part in this project or you require further information please contact

Alistair MacKenzie  
Emergency Planning  
Dumfries and Galloway Council  
Carruthers House  
English Street  
Dumfries DG1 2HP  
Tel: 01387 260365 Fax: 01387 265467  
Email: [alistarm@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:alistarm@dumgal.gov.uk)

The following article was taken from the newsletter of Dumfries and Galloway Elderly Forum

### FREE Central Heating

If you're sixty years or over with no central heating or your system has broken down beyond repair and you own or privately rent your home, the Scottish Executive Free Central Heating Programme, can provide heating in up to 6 rooms in your home. However, if you are **80 yrs +** and your home is partially heated or your heating is not efficient, you may be entitled to a new or upgraded heating system. (Usually for heating systems over 20 years old)

For more information call

**EAGA free on  
0800 316 1653**

## The New Charity Bill

We reported in our last newsletter information about the draft **Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Bill** and the establishment of a new corporate body the **Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)** whose functions will include proactive monitoring and regulation of Scottish Charities and providing advice and guidance to charities and Scottish Ministers on regulatory matters.

The Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Executive on 16 November.

Maybe charity law really doesn't lend itself to much excitement but the Bill is still very important – if you're a charity in Scotland it will affect you directly and that's at least 28,000 organisations that need to know about it. And, of course, through this Bill the public at large will be able to have greater confidence in charities

The definition of charitable activity has been broadened and there are now 13 charitable purposes:

- the prevention or relief of poverty
- the advancement of education
- the advancement of religion
- the advancement of health
- the advancement of civic responsibility or community development
- the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science
- the advancement of amateur sport
- the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement
- the provision of accommodation to those who need it by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage
- the provision of care to the aged, people with a disability, young people or children
- the advancement of animal welfare
- any other purpose that may be reasonably be regarded as analogous to any of the preceding purposes

If you attended the SCVS workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup> November you will have heard the concern that criteria for public benefit was not included in the

Draft Bill. However, the Scottish Parliament listened to the feed back and now the criteria by which 'public benefit' will be judged will appear in the Bill and the key change is the inclusion in Section 8 (2) of the following:

"In determining whether a body provides or intends to provide public benefit, regard must be had to –

(a) how any –

(i) benefit gained or likely to be gained by members of the body or any other persons (other than members of the public), and

(ii) disbenefit incurred or likely to be incurred by the public in consequence of the body exercising its functions compares with the benefit gained or likely to be gained by the public in that consequence, and

b) where benefit is, or is likely to be, provided to a section of the public only, whether any condition on obtaining that benefit is unduly restrictive".

This will certainly help guide the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) rather than leaving it to OSCR alone – or the courts – to decide what constitutes public benefit.

The new legal form – the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) – was welcomed during consultation and remains a proposal in the Bill. The new Bill contains more detail on how they will operate.

The proposed term 'Charity Stewards' has been dropped in favour of 'Charity Trustees'.

There are a range of other changes and developments in relation to this Bill and the establishment of OSCR. If you would like to know more contact us at SCVS; or Andrew at SCVO on 0131 474 6183 or email [andrew.jackson@scvo.org.uk](mailto:andrew.jackson@scvo.org.uk) or the Bill, explanatory notes and a policy memorandum can all be accessed online at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/billsInProgress/charities.htm>

*Article prepared with assistance from SCVO Third Force News*



## Scots get a right to Information

From the first of January 2005, a new piece of legislation will give people across Scotland an unprecedented right of access to the information held by any of Scotland's public authorities.

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act will allow anyone to request information from those authorities. The right covers every piece of information recorded by a public authority. This could include information about homophobic bullying in schools, or your local police force's policies and statistics dealing with hate crimes.

Public authorities can withhold certain information if it is exempt under the Act. These exemptions would include personal information, or information which would threaten national security. Even if information is subject to an exemption it may still be released if it is in the public interest to do so. Kevin Dunion, the Scottish Information Commissioner, has been appointed to enforce and promote the Act.

Once the legislation is in force, anyone can ask the Commissioner to investigate where they believe that a public authority has wrongly withheld information which they have requested. Ultimately, the Commissioner has the power to force public authorities to release information if he finds they are in breach of the Act.

To find out more about the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, visit: [www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info)



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## The New Communities Team in the Cabinet

The recent re-shuffle in the Scottish Cabinet has been broadly welcomed by the voluntary sector across Scotland. Malcolm Chisholm has moved from his contentious health portfolio and Johann Lamont, MSP for Pollok has her first Ministerial portfolio following on from her valuable work as Chair of the Social Justice Committee. Both Ministers have a track record of working positively with the voluntary sector and the CVS network was encouraged by the message of support which Johann Lamont sent to the CVS network at our Annual Conference in early October. Her message demonstrated a clear understanding of the needs of the voluntary sector and clarity about the vital role of the CVSs.

However, the Scottish Executive's Voluntary Issues Unit (VIU) budget has not been increased which is not quite so encouraging for the CVS network. A collective business plan and funding bid for the CVS network will be submitted to the VIU on Friday, 3 December. The bid will make clear that the network's funding has been static for four years and that a lack of positive movement in the allocation for CVS will represent a cut in real terms.

## Individual Learning Account (ILA) SCOTLAND it pays to learn

ILA Scotland is a high profile initiative and a core element of the Scottish Executive's Lifelong Learning Strategy. At the very heart of ILA Scotland is the commitment to provide learners with a high quality experience and develop a network of quality learning providers. ILA Scotland offers learners a grant of up to £200 per year to encourage individuals to invest in learning. It is available to everyone aged 18 or over who is ordinarily resident in Scotland. ILA Scotland will initially be targeted at individuals on low incomes, specifically those with a personal gross earned income of £15000 or less per year. An additional universal ILA Scotland, which will not be income restricted, will be introduced in Spring 2005

If you would like to learn more about ILA Scotland or about how you and your organisation can work in partnership in promoting ILA Scotland to learners contact: **Claire Elliott on 0141 285 6065** or by email at [clairee@learndirectscotland.com](mailto:clairee@learndirectscotland.com)

### *hopscotch holidays for kids*

**hopscotch holidays** is a Scottish charity set up in 1998 to provide FREE holidays for children with disadvantages, between 7-11 years. Holidays take place at Ardgour, near Fort William.

**hopscotch** 2005 holiday programme runs from April-October

For further information contact  
**Hopscotch**

10 Main Street, Davidson's Mains  
Edinburgh EH4 5BY  
Tel: 0131 336 5554

Email: [info@hopscotch-holidays.org](mailto:info@hopscotch-holidays.org)  
Web Site: [www.hopscotch-holidays.org](http://www.hopscotch-holidays.org)



Or call at the SCVS office and ask to look at the application criteria



## Breathing Space

A new phone line for people who are feeling low or depressed was launched at Crichton University Campus and the Barony College in Dumfries on Tuesday 16th November.

**BREATHING SPACE** is a free, confidential phone line that anyone can call between 6 pm and 2 am every day. The phone line is covered by a dedicated team of Special Phone Line Advisors who listen, offer advice and give referrals to agencies that can help with more specific problems in the caller's local area

Everybody gets depressed  
It helps to get some breathing space  
0800 83 85 87

## OUR PRICE RECORDS Supporting Charities throughout the United Kingdom

Our Price Records has a private collection of personally signed original LPs and Gold Discs. This collection has been made available to their Charity Support Team to help support charities throughout the United Kingdom.

If you are holding or are involved with an event which has an auction, raffle or grand prize draw and you would like to include one of the unique pieces from the Our Price Records private collection please contact the Charity Support Team.

Direct email:  
[charitysupport@ourpriceplc.com](mailto:charitysupport@ourpriceplc.com)

To view the pieces in the collection visit the website at [www.ourpriceplc.com](http://www.ourpriceplc.com)

