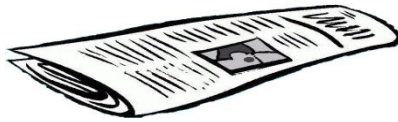


CAITHNESS VOLUNTARY GROUP

NEWSLETTER no. 8. 2008



Welcome to Caithness Voluntary Group Newsletter. This is our regular publication where we inform you about community activities, training events and funding opportunities for the voluntary sector in Caithness.

RURAL TRANSPORT RISE

Caithness Rural Transport: Dial- A-Ride has unfortunately had to raise its costs due to rises in the cost of fuel.

The membership fee will now be £5.50 yearly, renewed on 1st July each year.

There is a charge of 30p-£1.55 per person per mile depending on the length of the journey.

1 mile –	£1.55
2-3 miles –	80p per mile
4-6 miles –	45p per mile
7-10 miles –	40p per mile
11 miles+	30p per mile

Dial-A-Ride offers a door-to-door transport service with an adapted vehicle for people with transport problems regardless of age. Anyone living in a rural area that has no transport or reasonable access to any public transport can use the service. Vehicles operate five days a week between 9am and 5pm – one in the Thurso area and one in the Wick area. The service may be available at weekends and evenings dependant on volunteer drivers.

You can bring an escort but there will be a charge for this. And you must book for an escort at the time of booking the journey.

The driver will be there to assist you with the steps or wheelchair access. You can use this service for a trip to the shops, visiting friends, medical appointments or other social outings. This service is available over the festive period – 9am and 2pm, Monday to Friday.

Funding

The Highland Council has a new annual fund called the Highland 2007 Legacy Programme, providing an annual fund of £500,000 in grants to build upon the Highland 2007 year of culture. The programme aims to enhance and promote the events, festivals and cultural programme of the Highlands.

Community organisations, promoters, artists, performers, youth groups and schools are being encouraged to submit applications. You are able to apply for capital and revenue funding. Capital means for one-off expenditure on large items such as buildings or equipment. Revenue means costs that would normally be expected to recur, such as staff costs, performers' fees, contract payments and transport costs.

You can download application forms from Highland 2007 website, www.highland2007.com – or contact Highland Council office for forms. Before submitting an application you should contact your local area cultural officer to discuss the eligibility of your proposed project. The deadlines for applications are 22nd August 2008 and 6th February 2009.

Tesco Charity Trust provides donations of between £1,000 and £4,000. The funding for applications that will directly help projects for the elderly or adults and children with disabilities is open for submission from 1st August- 30th September. For information and guidelines go to www.Tescocharitytrustcommunityawards-applications.co.uk

HISTORIC SCOTLAND – DIRECT FUNDING OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR 2009-12

Historic Scotland's annual funding application round covering the three financial years beginning 2009/10 is now open. Applicants should be aware that there continues to be a heavy demand for grant assistance and that the application appraisal process will involve priority being given to those applications that clearly demonstrate activities which assist or complement Historic Scotland's own activities, especially with regard to meeting its ongoing corporate plan targets.

Completed applications require to be returned to Historic Scotland by September 30th 2008, with initial decisions on the award of grant scheduled to be made by November 30th.

For more information, contact Martin Ross on 0131 668 8805 or Thomas Knowles on 0131 668 8819. For an application form go to www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/grants/grants-voluntary-sector-funding.htm

HILTON IN THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Hilton in the Community Foundation makes grants to a wide range of charities and organisations that meet one of three chosen areas of focus:

- Young People – Education
- Young People – Health
- Disaster Relief and International Fund

Completed applications are first assessed by the foundation office, with grants of up to £5,000 approved by the director. The director will also assess sponsored grant requests received from Hilton hotels and offices. Applications for more than £5,000 are reviewed by the grants committee, with a short list of approximately 20 of the strongest and regionally representative applications put forward by the foundation office for its consideration.

If favoured, grant applications for up to £10,000 can be approved by the committee, and applications for more than £10,000 are recommended to the trustees for final approval. However, the foundation is a small charity and generally will not make awards of over £50,000 (per year). Funding can be requested for up to three years for any particular project. Guidance and application forms are available on website below.

Contact Hilton in the Community Foundation, 179-199 Holland Park Avenue, London W11 4UL. Tel: 020 7605 7733; fax: 020 7605 7736; email: info@hiltonfoundation.org.uk
Website: <http://www.hilton-foundation.org.uk>

Remaining application deadlines in 2008 are: 4th August 2008 for grants committee meeting 3rd September; 28th October 2008 for grants committee meeting 29th November.



Scottish Community Projects Fund

The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland provides the Scottish Community Projects Fund to enable community groups to enlist professional help to carry out feasibility studies into possible building, environmental improvement, employment or other project with social benefit. RIAS hopes to promote the involvement of local people in the design, use and management of buildings in their communities, and will support studies into the following type of project

- Refurbishment, Renovation, New build and associated landscape, Environmental projects, Community plans, Employment-generating projects

The following types of building project are considered for support

- Community centres, Village halls, Low cost housing schemes, Community arts and cultural centres, Community education projects.
- Grants are available to cover 50% of the costs of the feasibility study, to a maximum £2,000 for further information contact **0131 229 7545 e-mail johara@rias.org.uk**

National Key Scheme for Toilets for Disabled People

With the National Key Scheme, a standard lock can be fitted if the local authority or other provider, in discussion with disabled people, considers it necessary to lock toilets for people with disabilities separately from others. There are now more than 8000 toilets in all parts of the country provided by over 400 local authorities and increasingly a wide range of other organisations.

Toilets fitted with the NKS lock can now be found in shopping centres, pubs, cafés, department stores, motorway service areas and many other locations around the country. There is a National Key Scheme Guide available that gives information on where these accessible toilets are located.

The RADAR keys required for use with accessible toilets are available from the Caithness Disability Access Panel. These keys are for sale or hire at a cost of £5.00; Caithness Community Care Forum will also photocopy details of accessible toilet locations from the National Key Scheme Guide if required. Contact Fiona on 01955 609962 or email **Fiona@cvg.org.uk**



Consultation on Unused Assets/Dormant Bank Accounts

The Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill is progressing through the UK Parliament. The money will be invested exclusively in the third sector. "Dormant" is defined as a period of 15 years during which the customer has not initiated any activity on the account. In England the assets will be distributed among defined priority areas of providing opportunities for young people, improving financial inclusion and supporting institutions involved in social lending – but it is for Scottish Ministers to set the priorities for the Scottish share of funds and they have initiated a consultation process.

It is estimated that Scotland's share for investment in the third sector would be approximately £40m. The money would be distributed by The BIG Lottery Fund (Scotland) who have produced an Advice Note (available on the referring page to this survey) outlining options for structuring and managing the money. It is hoped that the fund would be operational at some point in 2009.

A series of four local consultation sessions are being held across Scotland this summer. Additionally, The Scottish Government has opened a formal consultation process to encourage a wider debate about the uses of the fund; to participate, go to www.scvo.org.uk/scvoPolicyAndParliament

HILTON HOTEL VOUCHERS FOR PRIZES/FUNDRAISING

Since 2005, in response to huge ongoing demand from charities and good causes, Hilton Hotels has agreed to donate a limited number of accommodation vouchers for use by charities for raffle or auction prizes at their fundraising events. The foundation manages this process.

To enter the monthly draw to receive a voucher, requests should be made by email to: **info@hilton-foundation.org.uk**

Whether successful or unsuccessful, in order to maintain a fair response, organisations are required to leave a gap of three months between each request. Please note that, once awarded, these vouchers cannot be transferred, extended or exchanged

OSCR

Have any of your charity's details changed? Charities have a duty to inform OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) about the following changes no later than three months after the change has taken place. You should tell when: the principal contact changes

- the contact details of the existing principal contact change
- the accounting year end date has changed
- changes unrelated to purposes are made to the constitution
- any change consented to by OSCR is implemented.

Overview of changes requiring OSCR consent:

- change its name
- amend its charitable purpose
- amalgamate with another body
- wind up or dissolve itself
- changing legal form
- A charity applying to the court in relation to amending its purposes, amalgamating or winding

For more information on how to apply for consent using any of the forms, please access the guidance notes. A charity can only make such changes if its constitution allows for the charity trustees to do so. This follows from the general principle that charity trustees must act in accordance with the specific terms of the constitution of the charity. It is therefore important to establish, through reading the constitution, that there are sufficient powers in the constitution to allow the charity trustees to make the change.

In the event of a charity not having the necessary powers to make the intended change, Sections 39 to 43 of the Act will need to be applied. Sections 39-43 of the Charities and Trustee Investment Act 2005 came into effect on the 31 May 2007.

OSCR has published a profile of Scotland's charity sector. *Scottish Charities 2008* is based on annual returns from charities over two years. You can get a copy through the OSCR website.

For more information, visit the OSCR website at www.oscr.org.uk or write to: Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, 2nd floor, Quadrant House, 9 Riverside Drive, Dundee, DD1 4NY; phone: 01382 220446; fax: 01382 220314.

- **Anyone who would like to contribute information about their community group or events planned, or would like to find out more about anything in this newsletter, can contact CVG on 01955 609960; yvonne@cvg.org.uk**

