

Borders Youth Theatre

are holding a
Fundraising Craft/Table-top Fair
Abbey Row Community Centre Kelso,
Saturday 11th March
from 10am to 4pm
Admission is £1 for over 15's
Home Baking Sale and refreshments
in the café, from 10am to 2pm
There will also be face painting and
hopefully some other fun stalls
 Please come and support BYT and
 local craft makers and artists. Thank you



Bannerfield Community Tea Party

Saturday 6th May
Philphaugh Community Centre
10.30 am - 12.00 noon
 a free tea 'n tunes (or coffee) with cake
Music from Bannerfield Buskers
 Lottery Funded

The Roxburgh Singers with The Berwick Arts Choir

sing Bach's magnificent B Minor Mass
 conducted in Berwick by Catherine Fish and
 in Melrose by Marion Dodd. Orchestral
 reduction for the occasion by Tony Kime.

Saturday 29th April, St Andrew's Church
Wallace Green, Berwick at 7pm

Sunday 30th April
Melrose Parish Church at 7pm

Tickets £10 accompanied children free
 available from choir members, at the door,
 borderevents.com or call 01750 725480

Enquiries: mmoyes2@gmail.com

Scottish Borders Regional Networking Leaders Lunches

20 April

VCBorders
 Riverside House, Ladhope Vale, Galashiels

Speaker:

Gordon Brown, Chief Executive,
VCBorders

28 November

Netherurd House
 Blyth Bridge, West Linton

Speaker:

Denise King, Chief Executive of
Girlguiding

Pat Armstrong, CEO, ACOSVO will be
attending these

A great opportunity for 3rd sector leaders to
 meet informally. The discussion theme at
 this year lunches is "Collaboration". A
 speaker will spark the initial discussion on
 the theme with a 10-15 minute introduction,
 and then leaders gain the chance to talk
 around the theme, sharing experiences and
 challenges.

For more information contact
phili.wetton@acosvo.org.uk

Tweed Theatre Presents

My Big Fat Greek Cinderella

A new musical comedy
based on a classic fairytale

March 30th – April 1st at 7.30pm

Matinee April 1st at 2.30pm

The Eastgate Theatre, Peebles

Tickets £10/£8 available from the theatre box
office, online at www.eastgatearts.com
or call 01721 725777

Written and directed by Katherine
Mathison

Produced by Keith Brunton



THE BRIDGE

Issue 38

February 2017



THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING

The Bridge is preparing to
 say farewell to its longest
 serving member of staff.
Sandra Bremner, Shop
Manager at the Tweeddale
Thrift Shop in Innerleithen,
 is retiring in April this year.
 Sandra has worked at the
 shop since it was opened in
 1993 as an initiative of TAVO
 (Tweeddale Association of
 Voluntary Organisations),
 firstly as a volunteer and then
 as the volunteer manager.
 She has held the post of paid
 manager since June 2001.



Sandra Bremner

In 1994 Sandra embarked on
 full time studies at Edinburgh University
 eventually graduating with an Honours
 Degree in Economics and History. However,
 this did not prevent her continuing with her
 volunteering as she worked most Saturdays in
 the shop. And her commitment to her local
 community didn't stop there. Whilst her fellow
 students were looking forward to collecting
 their degrees Sandra was collecting
 committees! She joined the Volunteer Bureau
 committee of TAVO, eventually becoming its
 chair and also, in time, became chair of the
 overall TAVO Committee. She sat on the
 shop committee and when TAVO established
 the committee to set up Home Basics, Sandra
 was on that too! Home Basics was set up to
 collect, refurbish and store donated furniture
 and household goods and distribute them to
 those in need. Sandra helped to ensure that
 Home Basics became a stand-alone project in
 its own right and she has ensured that the
 Thrift Shop has maintained close links with
 them ever since.

The reason Tweeddale Thrift Shop is now
 held in such high regard is largely down to
 Sandra's management. She has built a large
 team of loyal and committed volunteers for

whom the shop acts as an
 important social point, with
 every effort made to make
 volunteers feel welcome and a
 part of the team. Sandra has
 given support when anyone
 has had a problem and this
 has been repaid by loyalty and
 a willingness to help out
 whenever necessary. Sandra's
 husband John has been "an
 amazing volunteer by proxy!"
 There is a friendly, happy
 atmosphere in the shop and
 this has led to regular
 customers, for some of whom
 visiting the shop is the social
 highlight of the day.

In 2006 the shop received runner-up awards
 at the UK Association of Charity Shops
 conference in both Supporting Volunteers and
 Young Volunteer of the Year categories. It
 went on to claim first place in the Shop Team
 of the Year Award at the UK Association of
 Charity Shops Conference as a result of
 which Sandra was interviewed on BBC radio!

Sandra is rightly proud of the fact that
 Tweeddale Thrift Shop has retained the
 unique qualities of a real charity shop – it
 only ever sells second hand goods and at
 very reasonable prices too! Feedback from
 her many customers fully endorses this.

"I have always loved my job," says Sandra,
 "and am privileged to know so many people
 who care for the shop and those who make
 it work."

Sandra's shoes will be very big ones to fill
 (figuratively speaking of course!) and we are
 very sorry to see her go. Sandra is looking
 forward to being able to spend much more
 time with her family and in her garden. All
 of us at The Bridge wish Sandra a thoroughly
 deserved long, happy and restful retirement.

THE BRIDGE

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www.the-bridge.uk.net

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morag.walker@the-bridge.uk.net

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☎ 01896 755370

Development Worker

pauline.grigor@the-bridge.uk.net

Open Mon -Thurs 9.30am to 2.30pm

Roxburgh – 1 Veitch's Close, Jedburgh, TD8 6AY. ☎ 01835 863554

Manager heather.batsch@the-bridge.uk.net

Open Mon – Fri 9.00am to 1pm

Tweeddale - Volunteer Resource Centre, School Brae, High Street, Peebles, EH45 8AL. ☎ 01721 723123

Manager graham.lumb@the-bridge.uk.net

Open Tues - Fri 9.30am to 1pm

Services:

Roxburgh Thrift Shop – 18 Canongate, Jedburgh, TD8 6AJ. ☎ 01835 869884

Tweeddale Thrift Shop – 15 High Street, Innerleithen, EH44 6HA. ☎ 01896 831427

Gala Wheels - based in Central area office ☎ 01896 755370

central@the-bridge.uk.net

Teviot Wheels - based in Roxburgh area office ☎ 01835 863554

roxburgh@the-bridge.uk.net

Tweed Wheels - based in Tweeddale area office ☎ 01721 723123

rosa.cabello@the-bridge.uk.net

Children and Young People's Services based at Langlee Complex, Marigold Drive, Galashiels, TD1 2LP. ☎ 01896 755110

Clare@youthborders.org.uk

Appointments can be made in area offices outwith opening times



Committed to excellence

FROM THE CHAIR...



Last year, there was much talk about the issue of “social isolation”. But now people seem to have moved on. Which is a pity because the issue itself hasn’t gone away – as one small recent finding has so tellingly reminded us. That finding – from research published late last year – was that the number of so-called “pauper funerals” in Scotland has increased by some 24% in just four years. “Pauper funerals” (awful name) are those where there is no one to take responsibility for the burial or cremation. In some cases, this may be because of financial hardship – an inability to pay the costs involved. But in an increasing number of cases, it’s simply because the person has died without there appearing to be any family or friends around. The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has seen this as a small symptom of a more general “epidemic of loneliness”.

Is social isolation something we should heed in the Borders? Given that the proportion of our population that lives some way distant from larger towns or settlements is greater than in most parts of Scotland – given also that the number of older people living alone after spouses have died is also projected to rise very considerably in the decade ahead – then it’s certainly something we should not overlook.

But nor should we overlook what already exists to help counter such issues. For example, we have throughout the landward parts of our area a network of community hubs – the village halls which do so much to enrich and enliven local life and which are in so many ways the beating heart of a rural community.

One of the key functions of The Bridge is in supporting the three Federations of Village Halls which are active in our area. These three Federations in turn help between them to sustain a network of 69 halls – a quite staggering total. Behind each individual hall, there is a core of individuals who give so generously of their time to keep the facility going. But I’m also proud that The Bridge plays its own behind-the-scenes role in keeping these vital components of rural life going.

Ian Yates

Social Enterprise ‘early actions’

SCOTLAND’S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE STRATEGY was launched in December, with £140,000 to expand the Social Entrepreneurs Fund to help individuals set up and run a social enterprise. A further £927,107 has just been announced by Equalities Secretary Angela Constance MSP, which will fund a number of early actions, including:

- Starting the country’s first ‘social impact hubs’ to encourage greater teamwork between enterprises
- Strengthening business and leadership support for our community enterprises and development trusts
- Setting up a partnership and procurement hub to improve the sector’s ability to collaborate and tender for contracts
- Advancing social enterprise learning across schools in the Highlands and Islands and Southern Scotland.

Social Enterprise Strategy 2016-2026

This ten-year, national social enterprise

strategy sets out our shared ambitions for social enterprise in Scotland, jointly developed with the sector. It provides a framework for action over the next decade.

Social enterprise models inclusive growth and this strategy will support our aim of sustainable economic growth, tackling inequalities and building a fairer Scotland. This strategy will build on the supportive ecosystem, developed over the previous decade, and will cement our reputation as world-leading and the best place to start and grow a social enterprise.

The strategy focuses on three main priorities:

- 1) Stimulating social enterprise
- 2) Developing stronger organisations
- 3) Realising market opportunities

These will be developed into a series of action plans spanning the decade, the first of which will be published in 2017.

For more information visit

<http://>

www.gov.scotPublications/2016/12/4404

Business Improvement Districts Scotland (BIDS)

BIDS are now looking for The Next Generation of BIDs in Scotland so if you are a local business association, community group or local authority with ambitions for your town, city, business park, tourism area or food and drink group and want to see change and improvement then contact Ian Davison Porter, Project Director, BIDS Scotland, for an informal chat: ian.davisonporter@bids-scotland.com

By working together in a strong local partnership, businesses can reduce costs, share risks and create new platforms for growth, contributing to the wider regeneration aspirations of the local

community. Strong local partnerships with sustainable finance, staff and an agreed plan deliver lasting positive change.

Development grant funding of up to £20,000 is available to assist with the development of your local BID. For further details see <http://www.bids-scotland.com/funding/grant-funding>

BIDS Scotland is hosting its Annual Gathering on 28th March 2017 at Perth Concert Hall. Attendance is free – see their website for more details and to book your place.



Claire Penny has been appointed as Funding Officer within the Communities and Partnership Team at Scottish Borders Council. Claire says “On a day to day basis we provide support to communities to help them access and apply to internal and external funding and grant schemes to empower communities and improve their outcomes. My role is to help give communities the best possible chance of a successful application and to maximise both internal and external funding.”



We're delighted to announce that the next Voluntary Arts Festival will take place throughout the UK from 5 - 14 May 2017. We are now contacting community-led groups throughout Scotland, encouraging them to take part in the Festival and to help promote their event(s) on our website and social media.

Voluntary Arts Festival – Call for Participants

The Voluntary Arts Festival is open to creative groups and organisations of all shapes and sizes. You could hold a taster session, open day, pop-up event or simply advertise your regular activity and make it welcoming to new people. Staging an event

as part of the Voluntary Arts Festival is a great way to attract new members, raise your profile in local media, celebrate your achievements, and feel part of a nationwide event celebrating community-led, creative cultural activity. Find out more at www.voluntaryarts.org/festival

Hundreds of groups and thousands of participants celebrated their creativity in 2016 and we're looking forward to doing it all again in May 2017! Watch our short film to find out how to get involved: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQHUF027t0U

If you're interested in taking part or would like to hear more about the Voluntary Arts Festival, please don't hesitate to contact us on festival@vascotland.org.uk or 0131 561 7333.

You can also subscribe to the Voluntary Arts Scotland monthly newsletter, and follow our social media platforms, to keep in touch with the latest news, creative opportunities and funding at www.vascotland.org

Leadership Exchange Programme

Leadership Exchange Programme is moving towards a cohort approach this year with application submission dates of **28th February** and **29th September 2017**.

ACOSVO welcomes you to apply to our **FREE Leadership Exchange Programme**. The initiative pairs leaders at middle, senior and executive levels to offer them brief cross sectoral exchanges to learn from each other, develop an understanding of other sectors, encourage collaborative working and improve leadership skill capacity. It offers a fantastic opportunity to see the challenges others experience, gain a fresh perspective on your own role as well as develop relationships and essential connections within other sectors.

The programme is open to ALL sector leaders, not just 3rd sector. Eligible "leaders" can include individuals who;

1. can demonstrate a "leadership" role within their current position, leading or working with, a small / large team
2. have a close working relationships with other internal/external management levels

3. demonstrate an interest in personal progression/aspiring to the next management level
4. have a job title of "officer", "coordinator", "team leader", "project manager" and meet points 1 or 2 above.

Over the last 5 years, the Leadership Exchange Programme has matched 240 leaders across public, private and third sectors, including representatives from; Scottish Government, Local Authorities, NHS, Scottish Natural Heritage, various Scottish Universities and Colleges, Local and National Charities, Police Scotland, Scottish Prison Service, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Shell, Standard Life and Zurich Insurance. With individuals from more organisations engaging with our programme every week, we can offer a wide range of exchange experiences for all our participants.



SCOTTISH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE Community Learning Exchange

THE COMMUNITY LEARNING EXCHANGE is a fantastic opportunity for communities to learn through the exchange of ideas and the sharing of common solutions. When community groups make visits to other communities, the most valuable part is often meeting new people with similar interests and gaining new insights and perspectives on common challenges. Visiting groups come away armed with new ideas and approaches, and host organisations have the opportunity to explain their project to a new and interested audience, often seeing their own projects afresh through new eyes.

For examples of how learning visits have already benefited some groups see the latest newsletter http://www.scottishcommunityalliance.org.uk/upload/Newsletter%20November%202016_1.pdf

What will the exchange fund?

The Exchange will fund up to 100% of the costs of a visit by members of one community to another community project up to a limit of £750, including a host fee. In exceptional circumstances (where travel distances are greater or certain aspects of the visit are particularly expensive) this limit can be increased. Similarly visits out with Scotland, but within the UK will be considered where a similar project does not exist in Scotland.

The Exchange will also fund follow up support between organisations. This might be as a result of a learning visit when it is

recognised that more specific and on-going help, support, or advice is required. This can be through face-to-face meetings, by phone, e-mail, or skype. Funding for this kind of additional support will need to be negotiated separately.

How to apply

The Exchange operates through the networks that comprise the Scottish Community Alliance. Applications to the Exchange are processed through a network's designated member of staff. Applications can be made at any time for visits up until the end of March 2017. Funding is limited, and once it has been committed no further applications will be accepted. Please remember, applications must be endorsed by a network that is a member of SCA

Contact details

To find out how your community-based organisation can apply to the Community Learning Exchange, contact one of the networks - see www.scottishcommunityalliance.org.uk or email exchange@scottishcommunityalliance.org.uk or call the Exchange Coordinators:

Jane on 07581 216246 or Amanda on 07843 481790



Asset Transfer Regulations Now in Place

Asset transfer legislation under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 came into force on 23 January 2017. All the guidance, model forms and other useful stuff is available on our website at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/engage/AssetTransfer>. This includes a new summary guide in simple language. The website will continue to be developed over coming weeks, in particular with model governing documents for community transfer bodies, and we'll be completing and updating the contacts for relevant authorities.

Queries about the guidance etc can be sent to assettransferguidance@gov.scot Please note we can't give advice on handling specific cases, but we can direct you to relevant bits of the guidance or legislation and other sources of advice.

Beware of Consultancy Services for Funding Bids



This is a quick and friendly reminder to watch out for consultants who offer services to help you with your funding bid. Some businesses promote their services by telling potential customers about the **Big Lottery Fund**. They may offer consultancy services or imply they are acting on the Big Lottery Fund's behalf. Some offer to help you fill in the form or do it for you in return for payment.

Our application process is free and we believe paying for external consultancy advice is unnecessary. The Big Lottery Fund

does not work with or endorse the services of any consultant and we can't provide funding for any costs, commission or fees that they charge you to make an application form. We ask that you please complete the application form yourself and apply directly to us.

If you are thinking about applying for our funding and are not sure where to start simply give our **Advice Team** a call on

0300 1237 110 or email us advicescotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk.

We are here to provide pre application advice and information.

New Guide on Being a Charity in Scotland

The **Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)** has unveiled a brand new booklet to make the basics of Scottish charity law easier to understand. Designed to be used throughout a charity's life, **'Being a Charity in Scotland'** uses simple graphics and straightforward language to help those who run Scottish charities understand their responsibilities.

The guide is for:

- Charity trustees of existing charities or people working in charities, especially smaller ones
- People who want to set up a charity
- Professionals who advise charities and organisations that want to become charities.

It sets out the key points charities need to know about Scottish charity law. Within the guide there are links to detailed guidance pages contained on our website and it also has information on other organisations that can provide help and advice to charities.

'Being a Charity in Scotland' is available online

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/charities/guidance/being-a-charity-in-scotland>

OSCR's Head of Engagement, Dr Judith Turbyne said:

"Scottish charities make a huge contribution to Scottish society. As regulator we are in the privileged position of being able to get a glimpse of the breadth and depth of all that work.

"The passion and commitment that goes into starting and running Scottish charities by voluntary trustees is impressive. But passion alone is not enough. It is important to remember that these trustees have specific responsibilities.

"We are aware that, at times, these responsibilities might appear onerous. We are trying to ensure that it is as easy as possible for trustees and potential trustees to understand what they need to do when setting up and running a charity. We have produced this Guide to be short and accessible, making compliance as easy as possible for all those who are running charities."

AFFILIATION FEES

Member Organisations are reminded that affiliation fees for 2016/2017 will be due in April. We hope that you have been happy with the services provided by The Bridge during the past year. Watch out for a renewal form dropping through your letter box shortly.

Aspiring Communities Fund

THE ASPIRING COMMUNITIES FUND is now open for applications with a deadline for submissions of 5pm on **Friday 7 April 2017**. Copies of application forms and guidance can be downloaded from

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/15300/ESFTPSI/AspiringCommunities>

Information events on the Fund are being held across Scotland, and downloadable registration forms are also available on the web page. Please continue to check the website for booking details as once venues

are confirmed we will open the events for bookings.

The Fund documentation should help you decide if this funding is suitable for your organisation and activity. You should carefully check the eligibility criteria for this fund as we will not be able to accept applications that do not meet this criteria. If you have any questions about the Fund, please email the Aspiring Communities mailbox at AspiringCommunities@gov.scot however we will be unable to comment on draft applications.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL Community Based Adult Learning

Would you like to improve your reading, writing, maths or IT skills?

Our Adult Learning team will work with you to identify what you need to learn and tailor the learning to suit the way you learn best. Learning is usually in a small group. You can also gain qualifications.

Open Doors

Open Doors, is free weekly computer IT at Peebles Community Centre (term time only). The sessions run from 10.00 - 12.00 and are open to all, so if you are a complete beginner or just need help to improve your computing skills come along and join us. You may use our PCs or bring in your own laptops, tablets etc.

As well as learning new skills you get a chance to socialise and enjoy a freshly home cooked light lunch following the session at 12.00. Lunch is provided by staff and volunteers from Tweeddale Youth Action and The Orange Grove, Peebles, kindly provides ingredients for the home-made soup. There is a small charge for refreshments.

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

The CLD service in partnership with Borders College run weekly ESOL classes for adults in Peebles, Galashiels, Hawick, Eyemouth and Duns at Beginner and Certificated level. There are also weekly conversation classes in some areas. Learners have to be assessed before they are allocated the correct class for their ability level. Assessment evenings are held at various times throughout the year.

All potential learners must complete an Initial Enquiry Form available at your local CLD office, Library or online at Borders College website.

Any further information, please contact Margaret Smail, ESOL Coordinator on

01721 720975 / 07788410378 or mmail@scotborders.gov.uk



New Faces at The Bridge

The Bridge is pleased to welcome two new members of staff to our Galashiels office. Pauline Grigor, Development Worker and Levi Russell, Trainee Administrative Assistant, (Community Jobs Fund) will both be working from Monday to Thursday.