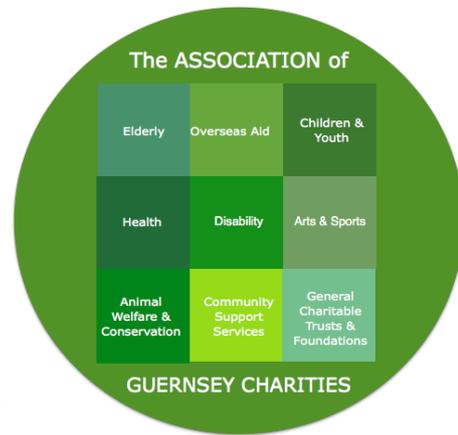


AGC Newsletter

June 2016



**For Charities ♦ About Charities
in the Bailiwick of Guernsey**

Welcome to the June 2016 Newsletter

In this edition we will share with you:

- Chairman's message
- Online Giving (www.giving.gg)
- emails
- Members' News
- Lottery and Lottery Grants
- Update on Regulation & Risk
- AGC Council
- Volunteers' Week
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A message from the Chairman



Thank you to all those who turned out for our Annual General Meeting. I hope you found this to be an interesting and informative evening. Many of you have told me how much you enjoyed the “State of the Nation” debate with speeches from Jonathan Le Tocq, Paul Whitfield, Tabitha Carr and Stuart Falla.

My own address, about the State of the Third Sector, had two key themes.

Firstly, member charities need to work better together, with openness, transparency and accountability so that we continue to hold the highest possible public trust. This is particularly important where charities have similar missions; we should not be complacent that the public will understand why we are different from another charity with similar aims. If we don't work together, co-operatively, we will not be as effective as we can be.

My other message concerns the States of Guernsey. I still find it hard to understand why the States apparently provides little or no support for so many of the disadvantaged and vulnerable in the Bailiwick, why the States does not properly recognise the value of the volunteering effort, and the vital work that charities deliver, and does little or nothing to encourage development of the 3rd Sector. I sincerely hope we and Government can work together to change this.

It would not be unfair to say that, up to now, there has no tangible recognition, generally, of the value of the 3rd Sector. Last year the UK Treasury estimated the value of volunteering efforts to the UK economy. If that methodology was used in Guernsey it suggests that to provide these essential services would cost the States a little under £100m a year. Yet the States contributes less than £2m to the running of essential charities (excluding the Ambulance Services and the Libraries), and gives to charity only the proceeds of the Christmas Lottery, as compared to Jersey where the proceeds of all the lotteries throughout the year go to Jersey charities.

There's another topical example of how the States takes us for granted - the AGC has been pressing T&R through

the 3rd Sector Liaison Group for 3 years to look at the miserly policies on Gift Aid. With the threat of a media campaign it is now on the agenda, but will not be in place until next year, and we still do not know how generous Policy & Resources will be. Up to now the States has gratefully pocketed the contribution of all the charities and voluntary organisations too numerous to mention, breathed a metaphorical sigh of relief that it had cost it nothing, yet failed to recognise, until pressed, that it really should make a better contribution to assisting these charities, that it did need to put its hand a bit deeper into its pocket. The early indications are that this message is getting through. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating, as they say, so let's see what comes out in October.

I may well need your help to press home the case for tax reform that has been in place elsewhere for many years.

The AGC will be working hard to bring home to the States the value to the Bailiwick of the work of charities and voluntary organisations, and the need for the States to properly recognise this benefit and better contribute to it.

Online Giving (www.giving.gg)

I wrote to all of you at the beginning of April to alert you to this project which will assist your fundraising efforts without all the costs associated with commercial donation platforms.

I am pleased to advise that we expect to launch this platform in the third week of June and it will only be available to AGC members.

Many of you have returned the Declaration form that permits you to participate. If you have not yet completed it and returned it to me then please do so. If you have lost the form please e-mail me at chairman@charity.org.gg.

This valuable project is being undertaken with voluntary assistance from Applebys (legal advice), Zedra Trust (trustee services), TPA (design and marketing), Butterfield Bank (Media advertising Steve Higgins (website construction), and Barclays Wealth (banking and card merchant services). Brooks Macdonald has volunteered to provide the administration for this, so there should be no ongoing cost apart from that charged if a donor used a debit or credit card to make donations. This means that everything we get will be passed on to you, apart from any third party charges.

Emails from the AGC

It is vital that we are able to send you and members of your committee our newsletters, bulletins and news of our events. We are aware that some of you do not read our e-mails, or it goes automatically into your Spam

folder, and when this happens you will miss key announcements and events.

You have the ability to give us up to three e-mail addresses, in the "private" area of your page on the AGC website. Please populate this fully so that you get everything from us. We do not spam, everything we send you is going to help you in some way. So please check your spam filters regularly.

Just remember that your ongoing membership of the AGC costs nothing except your time. The more you participate the more you will get from your AGC membership

If you want to contact me please do so, on 01481 267023, or via chairman@charity.org.gg

Members' News

Many congratulations to Guernsey Citizens' Advice who have just won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest possible recognition of the excellence of this voluntary body which provides such an essential free service to the Bailiwick and receives almost no financial support from the States. The QAVS is seen as an MBE for voluntary organisations, and the award to the GCA is well deserved.

A warm welcome to the following new AGC members since the last newsletter:

No 429 Guernsey Photography Festival LBG

No 430 Makerspace Guernsey

No 431 Abigail House LBG

Be sure to look regularly at the AGC website (www.charity.org.gg) for details of all Members' news, events and volunteering vacancies

Lottery and Lottery Grants

The Christmas 2015 Lottery was once again a great success, and we were able to give grants of £220,000. This included over £20,000 of unclaimed prizes from the 2014 lottery. Unfortunately, as has become customary, we had applications amounting to over £750,000 which means that many of you were disappointed.

We are in discussion with the States about the high commissions which are paid to agents to run the Lottery and sell tickets. These agents make more from the Christmas Lottery than we do, which strikes me that the balance is wrong.

We are also aware that responsibility for the Lotteries has passed to the States Trading Board (previously Culture & Leisure) so perhaps they will be more open to discussion about the possibility of following Jersey, and

giving the entire Lottery proceeds to Charity, rather than just the proceeds of the Christmas Lottery.

Update on Regulation and Risk

We continue to represent the Charity sector at regular meetings with the Guernsey Registry, and representatives of the Policy Council, so as to influence the extent and direction of charity regulation in Guernsey.

Gambling Legislation – Charitable Gambling

You will recall that the July 2015 Billet approved the elimination of the requirement for charities to obtain a license for fundraising lotteries where the ticket price does not exceed £10, and no prize exceeds £10,000. The changes also enable charities to sell tickets online, but only to Bailiwick residents. BUT please be aware that while the States approved the Policy, the enabling legislation is not likely to be enacted until the end of 2016.

Register of Non-Profit Organisations

Don't forget that if your income exceeds £5,000 or you have more than £10,000 in assets, you MUST register (new charities) or renew your registration (existing charities) annually each January, with the Registrar of Non-Profit Organisations.

These thresholds are currently being reviewed and we are engaged in close discussions with Government about this.

The Registrar is Alan Bougourd, and the Deputy Registrar responsible for Charity and NPO registration is Helen Proudlove-Gains, both at the Guernsey Registry, who can be reached at 01481 743800 or at enquiries@guernseyregistry.com. The web address is www.guernseyregistry.com/charities.

AGC Council

AGC Council meets every 6 weeks or so to discuss developments in Guernsey's Charitable and Voluntary Sector.

Apart from updating Council about developments with individual charities, and various consultations ongoing with the States of Guernsey, Council is currently engaged in some major projects for the benefit of Bailiwick members. One important initiative (Volunteering) has been completed and another (Online Giving) is about to be launched. Both initiatives have been built by volunteers, and will be administered by volunteers.

As you know, after a significant hiatus not of our making we are now fully engaged with the States to try to bring about a change in attitude by them towards charities and voluntary organisations. The States' need to recognise

our value, and better contribute to our success. We will keep you routinely up to date with the ongoing dialogue, but do please let me know if there are specific matters you wish us to raise for you, also if you think we are properly representing you in these discussions.

Over the summer, we plan to repeat the Survey we sent out to you a couple of years ago, to try to make sure that the AGC works best for you, the members. When you get it, please do complete it and return it so that you can shape what the AGC does to help your charity mission.

Volunteers' Week

Volunteers' Week has just passed and you will have seen a lot of media coverage, recognising the contribution of volunteers in the Bailiwick, and encouraging more people to volunteer.

The vulnerable and disadvantaged in the Bailiwick rely very heavily on the voluntary efforts of so many people who give their time and expertise for the benefit of others. We hope you were able to use the momentum of Volunteers' Week to attract new volunteers for your charity mission. Please let us know how you got on?



As you know we have now merged the Volunteering website (www.volunteer.gg) into the AGC website (www.charity.org.gg) so that charities have a single place to go to update their news, events and volunteer vacancies. We have also enabled volunteers to register their interest so that we can match them up with charities of interest to them. This makes it simpler for both charities and volunteers. So, please keep updating the AGC website with as much information as you can to keep the public and the media informed about what you are doing.

Already we can see that the Volunteer experience is much better so that more people are encouraged to volunteer, and you can get enthusiastic support for your missions, committees and events whenever you need them

Help us to help you get volunteers for your missions and for your committees by updating your AGC web page as often as you can.

Forthcoming events for your Diary

Following the survey we will carry out over the Summer, we will announce the subject for the next Forum. In the

meantime two **sector events**, for the Overseas Aid sector and the Children & Youth sector are being planned, and details will follow in due course.

Please contact your representative if you think there are areas where we can help by organising an event to promote better communication between charities, particularly those with mission overlap.

If you are interested in learning of events being held by member charities, please look at the Events page on the AGC website (www.charity.org.gg) for an up-to-date list.

Please also let your sector representative know of any events you are holding. The better we know you, the more likely we are to be able to help. A list of all sector representatives can be found at the end of this newsletter.

AGC Website (www.charity.org.gg)

A good number of you have been logging in to correct or update your details, and to post your news events, and volunteer vacancies. As a general reminder to all:

- **each charity has its own webpage**, and you can **update your own details** (it is very easy)
- you can record **news items, volunteer vacancies, and events**, which will appear not only on your own web page, **but also on the home page**, which will give you prominent advertising on the first page that most users visit (again it is very easy)
- it is very easy for us to add "static" pages **so we can build a more comprehensive library of useful information for you**, and keep it up to date better.

The MOST important thing for this new website to be a success is that YOU must use it, to keep your details up-to-date, to record your new, your volunteer vacancies, and your events. **It should be at the heart of your contact with the wider public, and if you do use it to the fullest, you should benefit enormously.**

Some reminders for all charities

Tax relief

If your charity receives a donation (or donations) from an individual (i.e. not a company) of at least £500 and not exceeding £5,000 in a calendar year, the donation is deemed to have been made to the charity net of income tax.

You should then ask the donor to complete a declaration to the Director of Income Tax, to confirm that Guernsey tax has been paid. The charity can then reclaim the relevant amount of tax (i.e. 20%).

For example, if the individual makes a donation to a Guernsey Registered Charity of £1,000 and completes

the appropriate declaration, the charity is treated as having received the sum of £1,000 net of tax which gives the equivalent gross donation of £1,250 (i.e. £1,000 X 100/80). The charity would then claim a repayment from the Director of Income Tax in the sum of £250 (i.e. £1,250 - £1,000).

It is important to note that relief is only available in respect of donations made by an individual out of income taxed in Guernsey. It only applies to Guernsey charities which have registered in accordance with the Charities and Non Profit Organisations (Registration) (Guernsey) Law, 2008 (see the Charity Register, on the Guernsey Registry website, which is:

www.guernseyregistry.com/charities

Further details are available by contacting the Income Tax Office, by e-mail (charities@tax.gov.gg), letter or telephone on 724711.

The benefits of AGC Membership

Just to recap what to expect from your AGC membership:

- 1 One General Meeting and one Forum annually
- 2 An up-to-date website
- 3 A regular Newsletter, with ad-hoc Member Bulletins when needed
- 4 Sector meetings where there is sufficient interest within the sector
- 5 A robust and professional Lottery Grant Allocation process with sufficient transparency
- 6 Representation of the Third Sector with other bodies on your behalf
- 7 Collection of ad-hoc donations on behalf of the whole Charity Sector, but not active fund-raising
- 8 And now ... the ability to collect donations online via www.giving.gg

And finally AGC Council Contact details

The AGC Council has a dedicated phone line on which you can leave a message for someone to call you back at a convenient time. The number is 07781 433334.

If you prefer to contact us by e-mail, details are as follows:

Chairman	Peter Rose	chairman@charity.org.gg	01481 267023
Vice Chairman	Malcolm Woodhams	mail@charity.org.gg	01481 251542
Secretary	Maureen McLellan	secretary@charity.org.gg	
Treasurer	Mark O'Connor	mail@charity.org.gg	
Membership Secretary	Paula Robinson	membership@charity.org.gg	

Sector Representatives:

Sector	REP	EMAIL
Animal Welfare	Richard Lowe	animals@charity.org.gg
Arts	Richard Lowe	arts@charity.org.gg
Children & Youth	Karen Jagger	young@charity.org.gg
Community Support Services	Kate Raleigh	community@charity.org.gg
Conservation	Richard Lowe	conservation@charity.org.gg
Disability	Mark O'Connor	disability@charity.org.gg
Elderly	Kate Raleigh	elderly@charity.org.gg
General Charitable Organisations, Trusts and Foundations	Kate Raleigh	general@charity.org.gg
Health	Wendy Beaven	health@charity.org.gg
Overseas Aid	Richard Lowe	overseas@charity.org.gg
Sport	Richard Lowe	sport@charity.org.gg