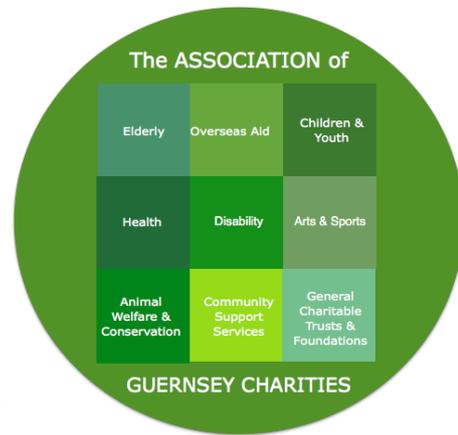


AGC Newsletter

February 2016



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

Welcome to the February 2016 Newsletter

In this edition we will share with you:

- Members' News
- Lottery and Lottery Grants
- Update on Regulation and Risk
- AGC Council
- Volunteering (www.volunteer.gg)
- Online Giving (www.giving.gg)
- Tax on charitable donations
- Forthcoming Events for your diary
- The AGC Website
- General Reminders for Charities
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A message from the Chairman



I hope you get a chance to read all this Newsletter, there are many things of interest for Bailiwick charities.

I would particularly draw your attention to the work we have been doing on our website and with www.volunteer.gg to improve the way that voluntary organisations and volunteers find each other, and would re-emphasise the need to keep your page on the AGC website up to date with all your news, events and volunteer vacancies.

Later this year will see a major new AGC initiative with the launch of a Bailiwick online giving application that will be (almost) free to use. Those of you that use UK commercial online donations programmes will save a huge amount of money with this. More to follow soon.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers who have been involved in helping build a strong and relevant Association that engages with members and does all it can to help their success. This not only includes members of Council, but particularly the people and businesses who have helped with our website developments.

It is vital that we are able to send you and members of your committee our newsletters, bulletins and news of our events. So we have added 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.

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

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

No 423 Guernsey Indoor Bowling Association LBG

No 424 The Orca Charitable LBG

No 425 Le Grand Courtil Community Association

No 426 Guernsey Commonwealth Games Association

No 427 Sarnia Motorsport Rescue

No 428 Friends of Jonah Gillingham

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. We do not yet know how much we have to distribute; we expect it will be in line with previous years, but last year we had a significant receipt from the unclaimed prizes fund of nearly £200,000 (sadly that is not likely to be the case this year).

The application deadline has now closed and we have had 44 applications amounting to over £650,000. Council deliberations are now underway, with announcements of the successful recipients likely to be made in early April 2016.

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 licence 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.

Ombudsman scheme

The Financial Services Ombudsman Scheme came into force at the end of 2015, and took into account our representations that it should be extended to charities. If your charity has any unresolved grievances with Guernsey regulated financial services businesses you can now use the Ombudsman Service (www.ci-fo.org) to have your complaint reviewed. The Ombudsman's ruling is binding.

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 under way. Both initiatives have been built by volunteers, and will be administered by volunteers. Both of these are described in more detail below.

Over the summer, we also 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.

Volunteering (www.volunteer.gg)



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.

This whole development, along with the recent relaunch of the AGC website, was written by Andrew Goss, a talented local web designer, on a voluntary basis. We are all extremely grateful to him for this hard work.

Online Giving (www.giving.gg)

Some of you use UK based online donation websites to raise money, even though the costs can be significant, as we highlighted in our charity forum on Fundraising.

Building something similar for Guernsey charities is not particularly easy, given regulatory constraints, but we are now quite well advanced with a Guernsey based solution that should cost pretty much nothing to run.

This valuable project is being undertaken with voluntary assistance from Applebys (legal advice), Zedra Trust (trustee services), TPA (design and marketing), 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.

If you wish your charity to be able to participate you will be asked to put your bank account details onto the AGC website, where the administration tools will lie.

We hope to be in a position to launch later this year, watch out for the launch of www.giving.gg! It will only be available to AGC members.

Tax on charitable donations

Some of you will have seen that Treasury & Resources have committed to revisit the way that tax relief is given on charitable donations within the Bailiwick. The plan is to announce changes in the October 2016 budget discussion to be brought in for 2017.

At present charities can only get the tax back on donations provided the donor has given at least £500 in a year, and the relief is limited to a maximum total

donated of £5,000. Elsewhere, (the UK and Jersey) there are either no limits (the UK has Gift Aid) with in Jersey the thresholds are much wider.

We think the States is out of step with everywhere else, the Scrooge of the Western Hemisphere! It takes the valuable work that charities do in the Bailiwick for granted. It is time they put their hands much deeper into their pockets to help. We will push for nothing less than a UK style Gift Aid. We estimate that this will cost less than £1m pa, but even a figure this small will help Guernsey charities tremendously.

Please give this initiative your full support and lobby your deputies to make sure they do the right thing.

Forthcoming events for your Diary

Our next **Charity Forum** will be at Les Cotils on **16th February 2016** on the subject of **The Key to Effective Cooperation**. This topic was requested by several members in the survey we sent round last year. Please register for this important event by using this link charityforum.eventbrite.co.uk.

On **17th May 2016**, we will have our **AGM**, followed by a **“State of the Nation”** debate. The States election will take place in April and we thought it would be a good opportunity for some key speakers to reflect on the progress made in the last States of Deliberation, and to set the agenda for the new States. The debate will be hosted by ITV’s John Fernandez, the new (as yet unknown) Chief Minister has an invitation in his diary to attend and listen, and speakers lined up are as follows:

- Jonathan Le Tocq
- Paul Whitfield
- a speaker from the Youth Forum
- Stuart Falla

No **sector events** are currently planned, but 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 two Forums 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

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