

AGC Newsletter

July 2014

**For Charities ♦ About Charities
in the Bailiwick of Guernsey
Celebrating 30 years - 1984 to 2014**

Welcome

Welcome to the new style Newsletter! In this edition we will share with you:

- Results of the recent Member Survey
- Update from your Chairman
- Draft Social Compact with the States of Guernsey
- New Members
- A report on Volunteers' Week
- Members' News
- How we hope the "Sectors" will work
- Meet your Council
- Forthcoming Events for your diary
- Some reminders for all charities
- Contact details for AGC Council members

Member Survey - Results

A big thank you to all those who responded to the Survey last month. We promised we would share the results with you and the initial conclusions we have drawn. It is a big help that many of you have been candid about what you would like the AGC to do for you.

Overall we received about 75 responses, which is 25% of our membership. That may seem quite low but we would say it is representative of those of you who are more active and make use of the opportunities and facilities that the AGC is currently able to provide.

First the statistics:

- 88% thought we achieved the objective of encouraging charitable work well or very well.
- 89% thought we administered and distributed the lottery proceeds well or very well
- c.11 ideas for new objectives were submitted with (broadly) 4 themes:
 - working together/ sharing resources
 - acting as a central resource for general advice as well as advice on changes in laws etc.
 - lobbying/publicising the Third Sector
 - oversight
- 67% had attended Members Forums, 92% found them of interest, 92% thought there should be two or more Forums pa, 65% thought we should hold them in the evening, 95% thought Les Cotils was a good place to hold them.
- 85% attended General Meetings, 81% found them of interest, 79% thought they should be held only once a year, 75% thought they should be in the evening, and 100% thought they should be at les Cotils
- 80% found the website of use, 91% found the newsletter of use and 83% found AGC e-mails of use. Relatively few members used the Facebook page and Twitter feed.
- 51% would like Sector Group meetings
- 59% there should be a small annual membership fee, 79% thought we should not charge to attend meetings

We have not listed items where there was less than a 50% consensus across the responses

If you want to see the fuller analysis of the results these can be found on the AGC Website (www.charity.org.gg).

Strategy Conclusions

Council has discussed in some detail what the Survey tells us about what you want us to do. Although most of you seem to be relatively happy with us, a few things are clear:

- you particularly value our web-presence, newsletters and e-mails
- our Forums are important to you, you would like there to be at least two each year
- many of you would like to hold sector meetings, but we are looking at the range of responses to see whether this applies to all sectors or just a few
- although we hope not to have to introduce an annual membership fee, it seems you are not averse to the idea

You will know that all members of Council are volunteers, so there is a limit to how much time we can spend helping you. Clearly we could do more if we had a paid member of staff, but there was no consensus for this in the Survey, and if we did propose this to you, a significant annual fee would be necessary.

So the conclusions we drew were:

- we need to improve the web-presence, which is always slightly out-of-date, and hard to manage. The proposed redevelopment of the website is an important goal
- our newsletters, while informative, may not be as regular as you would like
- we don't hold as many Forums each year as you would like
- we are still working out how to engage with you using the sector representatives, and working together/co-operating was a key theme from the Survey
- while you are satisfied with the Lottery Grant process you would like more transparency about the way we make decisions

We think it was important to check with you what you want AGC Council to do for you, and the results were useful, so we will run this type of survey again in the future. Thank you all for taking the time to fill it in.

What you can expect from membership of the Association of Guernsey Charities

Council believes that it is important that you should be aware of what to expect from your membership, given our existing resources:

- 1 One General Meeting and two Forums each year
- 2 An up-to-date website (although this will only be achieved when the new website is launched)
- 3 A regular Newsletter, with ad-hoc Member Alerts 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

Update from the Chairman

Some of you will know that I have been trying to meet many of you to find out more about what you do, but with nearly 300 member charities I have barely scratched the surface. I hope to continue this so please let me know when you are holding events and I will do my best to attend. The more we know about you, the better we can make AGC for you.

The new website progresses, but as with all IT projects, progress is not as fast as we would like. The importance of this website development is that it puts you in control, so that you can update your own contact details, news and events, so that the website will become the focal point for all Bailiwick charities, and all people that want to find out information about charities and what they are doing.

We have given feedback to Government on your behalf on the Consultation Paper issued by the Registrar of NPOs, also to the Third Sector Liaison Group (which is trying to write a Social Compact between Government and Charities – see next article), and we have attended meetings with Government on the Future Tax Strategy of Guernsey, and on whether Guernsey needs a Living Wage.

Following a request from Beau Sejour Café, we have placed a charity collection box by the till. Public donations will be added to the AGC Charity accounts and allocated with the Lottery Proceeds. This is a one-off and we are not actively looking to collect money in the way.

We are aware that there are about 190 Registered Charities who are not AGC members and we will shortly begin a membership drive to try to persuade them to join the AGC. If you know of a charity that is not a member, please try to persuade them to join us!

Social Compact with the States of Guernsey

After several meetings with States' Third Sector Liaison Group, a draft "Social Compact" has emerged. This document attempts to frame the way that the States and Charities interact with each other and represents a shared vision of working together effectively to achieve common goals and outcomes for the benefit of the people of Guernsey. It is of particular relevance in encouraging the States' outsourcing of services to Charities, when that will achieve a better outcome.

This is an important document and if this "Compact" is to work properly it should be read and understood by both the States and Bailiwick Charities. Following approval, when a Charity wishes to undertake work with the States these are the overriding principles that will apply. A copy of the draft Compact is included in the e-mailing.

The document is not yet intended for public circulation, just for comment please, to me at chairman@charity.org.gg by the end of July 2014.

New members of the AGC

A warm welcome to the following new AGC members:

No 395 St. Peter Port Christmas Lights

No 396 The Wrotham Group (anti nicotine/smoking)

No 397 Guernsey Literary Festival

Volunteers' Week



Volunteers' Week in Guernsey was, once again, a huge success. For the past few years the Association has worked hard on your behalf to make the most of this opportunity. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the first Volunteers' Week in the UK, and we worked for several months with each of the island's media to

get a significant amount of coverage in the newspaper, on radio and TV.

We made very effective use of social media, with frequent posts on Facebook and Twitter. We know that this is an effectual method of spreading messages and engaging people – for instance one of our “Like & Share” messages was seen by over 2,340 people.

We hope you’ll agree that it is gratifying to see so much coverage of the work of local volunteers – firstly to show that people who give up their time to help others are appreciated, and secondly to (hopefully) encourage the Government to acknowledge the benefit that the voluntary sector brings to the island.

Volunteers’ Week is also about inspiring more people to consider lending a hand to a local charity or project, and the Association is pleased to work with the Guernsey Community Foundation and Volunteer.gg to encourage this. Throughout Volunteers’ Week there was a *Volunteer Drop-in Centre* located at the OSA Pop-Up Shop in Smith Street. Some 30 AGC member charities were represented at the shop and about 174 people came in to have meaningful discussions about what sorts of things they could do to help with charities who need volunteers.

One thing that came through loud and clear is that member charities who have a need for a volunteer should either contact Laurel Le Tocq at the Guernsey Community Foundation (see Laurel’s contact details at “Reminders” below) or make more use of the Volunteer Guernsey website (www.volunteer.gg).

Members’ news

Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service

It was announced last month that three local organisations are to receive the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service. This prestigious award recognises the outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups of volunteers. It has an equivalent status for voluntary groups as the MBE has for individuals.

We offer our warmest congratulations to the 2014 recipients:

Guernsey Samaritans: Providing non-judgmental, confidential emotional support to anyone in distress or despair, including those with suicidal feelings for 50 years in the Guernsey community.

St. John Care in the Community Library: Providing easy access to large print books for the elderly and infirm, with the accompanying social interaction which is important in keeping the mind active in later life.

The Guernsey Society for Cancer Relief: Assisting cancer sufferers and their families by supplying services not otherwise provided and helping them through their oncology treatments for the past 30 years.

Sectors

Most of you will be aware that some members of Council have been appointed Sector Representatives and each of you has been allocated into what we think is the right sector for you.

The purpose of this initiative is that you now have a point of contact on Council and have the opportunity to meet and discuss your charity with a person who can make sure that AGC Council has a better understanding of your needs.

If you would prefer to be in a different sector to the one to which you have been allocated, please let your Sector Representative know.

Your Sector Representative (see Contact List below) will be pleased to hear from you and if there is interest within your sector, we may organise Sector events.

Meet your Council

Some of you have said that you don’t know much about the people who have joined Council recently, so over the next few newsletters they will introduce themselves to you. This newsletter features the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Please feel free to stop them when you see them and let them know what you think of the AGC!

Peter Rose – Chairman.



I was born in Exeter, grew up in Christchurch, and studied Economics at Southampton University. I am a Chartered Accountant, and have worked in Banking since 1985. I have lived and worked in London and

New York, before coming to Guernsey in 1989 with Rothschild. I retired at the end of 2012 but I have been doing Non-Executive Director work locally and in Luxembourg.

Married to Suzy, we have five children between us ranging from 14 to 30 years; the youngest is at the Grammar School. Before being co-opted to the AGC Council last summer I have never had an opportunity to spend time volunteering, although I have helped on occasion with the Scouts, so I am very pleased to be able to spend time helping worthy causes. I am not on the Committee of any Member charity so I don't have any conflicts of interest when it comes to Lottery Grants.

Please feel free to contact me if you think there is something the AGC can do to help you. My contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Malcolm Woodhams – Vice Chairman.



I was co-opted in 1993 to produce a new version of the Association's *Directory of Charitable Organisations*. This was a 250+ page, printed guide to local charities, and I collected, collated, typed, and produced the new format of the book. This was updated on two further occasions, following which I created the Association's website and transferred all the information (and more) online. The current website, www.charity.org.gg, is very well known and heavily used.

Prior to joining the Association, I had been heavily involved with other charities, primarily Jubilee Radio, the hospital broadcasting service (where I was Station Manager for 4 years). I also worked for the Guernsey Blind Association, helping to produce the tapes of news and information sent to local people who were blind or partially sighted. In the days before the internet, or any local radio stations, this was a vital service for many islanders.

Whilst at Jubilee Radio, I attended Association of Guernsey Charity meetings, and so have seen the

organisation develop and change over the years. However, I believe that the Association's original key purpose is just as important now as then; namely to be a means through which local organisations can share information that might be mutually beneficial, and to be a central conduit for disseminating information useful to local charities.

I have worked for the Association in a variety of positions but, more significantly, have created a role looking after the AGC's various PR and media opportunities. This is especially evident with events such as the Christmas Lottery and Volunteers' Week, which both involve large amounts of time planning, and liaising with the media.

Over the years, I have built a detailed understanding of, and appreciation for, local charities and volunteers. This knowledge and overwhelming enthusiasm for the sector has led to involvement with a number of initiatives, including work with the States of Guernsey *Third Sector Liaison Group*.

Last (but not least!) I continue to run the Association's website, as well as the Facebook and Twitter feeds, and in 2011 started sending a regular email newsletter for members. I also looks after the Association's main email account, so am frequently the first port of call for enquiries!

Forthcoming events for your Diary

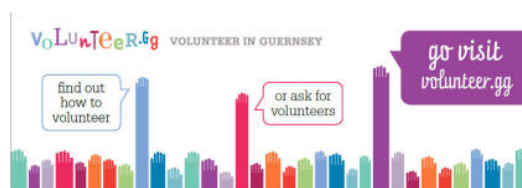
The next AGC event will be on **24th September** **September 2014** at Les Cotils where we will be celebrating our **30th Anniversary**, and holding a **Forum on Fund Raising**. This topic was the most requested in the Survey, so please keep this date clear!

We are also planning the next **Forum** after that, on the second most requested topic in the Survey – **Governance for Charities**. This is likely to be on **10th February 2015**.

Some reminders for all charities

Some general reminders for all member charities:

Volunteers



If you need Volunteers to help with your charity, or at specific events, or you need someone to fill a position on your Committee, then there are two ways to get this help. You can either log in to Volunteer Guernsey (www.volunteer.gg) and post your vacancy online, or alternatively, you can call Laurel Le Tocq at the Guernsey Community Foundation on 01481 748056 or e-mail her at laurel@foundation.gg

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 annually with the Registrar of Non-Profit Organisations. From 30th June 2014 this will be the Guernsey Registry NOT the Income Tax office, and the new Registrar of NPOs is Alan Bougourd who can be reached at 01481 743800 or by e-mail at enquiries@guernseyregistry.com. The relevant new web address is www.guernseyregistry.com/charities.

Your membership details

Please help us to keep your membership details up-to-date on the AGC Website (www.charity.org.gg) by informing us of all changes to your Committee or your contact details.

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	Mike Brown	mail@charity.org.gg	
Membership Secretary	Paula Robinson	membership@charity.org.gg	

Sector Representatives:

SECTOR	REP	EMAIL
Animal Welfare	Richard Lowe	animal.sector@outlook.com
Arts	Richard Lowe	arts.sector@outlook.com
Children & Youth	Karen Jagger	young.sector@outlook.com
Community Support Services	Kate Raleigh	community.sector@outlook.com
Conservation	Richard Lowe	conservation.sector@outlook.com
Disability	Mike Brown	disability.sector@outlook.com
Elderly	Kate Raleigh	community.sector@outlook.com
General Charitable Organisations, Trusts and Foundations	Kate Raleigh	community.sector@outlook.com
Health	Wendy Beaven	health.sector@outlook.com
Overseas Aid	Richard Lowe	overseas.sector@outlook.com
Sport	Richard Lowe	sport.sector@outlook.com