



Newsletter and Update No. 28 - 23rd April 2021

Message from Cath Witherington - CEO

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. Today is of course St. George's Day. The earliest documented mention of St. George in England is reported to be way back in time around 673–735. So understandably the array of myths and legends surrounding St. George are an embedded part of our English Heritage, but did you know that St. George's Day is also celebrated in places such as Spain, Germany, Russia, Greece and Syria? I find that amount of international recognition truly amazing and such a symbol for unity. For anyone interested, you can read 9 things you didn't know about St. George, on the English Heritage [website](#).

Today is also an anniversary for me. My facebook page reminded me it was a year ago today when I completed a large and difficult mosaic jigsaw of the Mona Lisa which I had started at the beginning of our first lockdown. This unexpected reminder of a past achievement made me smile and was certainly a good start to the day.

As I am at my keyboard writing introduction to this week's newsletter, I am able to look out of the window, enjoy a clear bright blue sky, see a plane fly by leaving its white trail and watch a pair of ringed collar doves eating some bread thrown out onto the lawn earlier this morning. Whilst it's great to work from home and notice these things, I'm looking forward to getting the chance to get out and about more and to getting to know as many people as possible across the sector as soon as regulations allow.

One thing I will want to talk to people about is the findings of our Doncaster VCFS Capacity and Capability [survey](#) which remains until **30th April**. I do hope that as many groups and organisations as possible take part. Once responses are collated, we will share the results and will use them to inform the development of our planning and shape our work programme over the next 3 - 5 years. [So please do have your say](#). By completing the survey, you will also have the opportunity to make sure that your organisation is included in a **new online directory** for Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector in Doncaster which we will be launching later this year.

Doncaster VCFS Fund

You may recall that we launched this fund towards the end of 2020 and have been pleased to see many organisations and groups submit applications. The large grant is now closed. We are no longer able to consider applications for grants above £5000. The General and Micro grants remain open and we continue to welcome applications.

Guidance on the fund and how to apply is available on our [website](#).

Charity Trustees Recruitment - Doncaster Housing for Young People Ltd.

Would you like to be part of an organisation that achieves amazing things, transforming the lives of young people in Doncaster who are at risk of homelessness?

As a Trustee, you will oversee the running of the organisation, including strategic planning, reviewing performance and ensuring our finances are well managed.

This is a voluntary role, but reasonable expenses will be paid. We will provide you with the training and support to help you fulfil the role and develop your own skills and experience. Above all, you will be part of a friendly and forward-thinking team, making a huge difference to young people in Doncaster.

We welcome people with a broad range of skills and experience from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Trustee meetings are held on a monthly basis at our offices in central Doncaster, or by video conference, commencing at 6.00pm.

Please email admin@dhyp.org.uk to request a recruitment pack.

The closing date for completed applications is **31st May 2021**.

New Charity Commission Guides for Trustees

If you're interested in the previous item in our newsletter (or you are already a trustee for a charity) this may also be of interest. The Charity Commission has launched a campaign aimed at helping trustees refresh their knowledge of charity governance and be "certain in uncertain times". The regulator's approach to the campaign is informed by [research into trustees' knowledge and awareness of their responsibilities](#), and into trustees' wider attitudes. The campaign prompts trustees to

consider their understanding of their key responsibilities by a posing question connected to each guide.

You can find out more about this campaign and view the guides via the government [website](#).

Places of Worship Covid-19 Guidance

Based on the government's latest updates and the roadmap out of lockdown, the Public Health team at DMBC have created a guide which can be used by all local places of worship to support their reopening to the public. The guide includes information, advice, guidance, templates and posters which can be used as necessary, as well as links to the advice and guidance from various religious national bodies, many of whom have detailed support and resources.

You can read and download the full resource pack [here](#).

Covid Facts

We are keen to help make sure people can access the facts about the covid vaccines. There is a new website which has been designed to do this and support the public in making their decisions about having a COVID-19 vaccine. [Covidvaxfacts.info](#) has been developed by independent experts to address the most common questions raised by the public and seeks not just to present the facts, but 'have a conversation'. The team behind the site believes that having a vaccine is a choice and that the public should be provided with the information it needs to make an informed decision.

Digital, Data and Technology Guidance for Organisations

NCVO have launched their [new digital, data and technology guidance](#) to help community groups, organisations and charities understand how to get everyone on the digital journey, and to make it as low stress as possible.

The guidance includes topics such as:

- [Influencing senior leaders and trustees](#) and getting buy-in for digital innovation
- [Engaging volunteers and staff](#) and tackling barriers to digital change
- [Improving GDPR and data protection](#) and taking the steps to ensure you're meeting your responsibilities
- [Writing or updating your data protection policies](#) and understanding the key principles that apply to all policy writing

- [Choosing new software](#) and reducing risk when selecting new digital tools

Chartered Institute of Fundraising & DCMS Fundraising Guidance

The Chartered Institute of Fundraising and DCMS have teamed up to provide guidance on public fundraising, which resumed from 12th April. Government guidance sets out the following dates for events:

- some charity events returning outside (12th April)
- some events (gala dinners, auctions etc) can happen inside from stage 3 (17th May)

They will publish updated guidance with the Fundraising Regulators to support charities resume public fundraising activities in line with the latest Government advice.

For more information, head to the Chartered Institute of Fundraising [website](#).

You can read more about the current legal guidelines via the Government [website](#).

New Project 6 Session

Project 6 is launching a new [Self-Care Toolbox](#) session starting on 28th April and running for five weeks. These sessions aim to give participants a 'place where they can create their own strategies for dealing with whatever life brings'. To book a place on these sessions, you can contact Project 6 via phone on 01302 360090 or via email at info@project6.org.uk

Project 6 have also shared with us their [schedule](#) for the week commencing 26th April 2021, as well as their [flyer](#) with further details about the services they offer at the moment.

If you know any individuals who could benefit from any of these sessions, then please get in contact with Project 6 to arrange a simple sign-up either over the phone or as a 1 to 1 appointment, to see how they can best support that individual. They offer groups, either within their service or via Zoom sessions.

Community Wealth Builder Upcoming Events

The Community Wealth Builder team have shared with us the [programme](#) for upcoming workshops and events. This programme includes events such as:

- Social Enterprise Business Start Up Workshop

- Governance Presentation Series
- Fundraising Opportunities
- How to ensure your social enterprise continues to THRIVE and GROW throughout these turbulent times
- Managing Costs for Not for Profits and Charities
- How to Write Winning Tenders and Grant Applications for Charities and Social Enterprises
- Community Wealth Builder Networking Hour

To see the full list of all workshops for this year and book your place on any of these events, please visit the Community Wealth Builder [website](#).

Monthly Book Club for Military Families - Sheffield Mind

Sheffield Mind are running a monthly book club for military families as part of their Keeping Families in Mind service. This will take place on the first Tuesday of every month, starting on 4th May 2021 at 6pm.

Contact Sheffield Mind for Zoom joining details by phone on 07900 743930 or via email at kfim@sheffieldmind.co.uk.

Doncaster Community Stalwart Honoured for Lockdown Work with Prestigious National Prize

Peter Singh has been awarded an iconic Census 2021 purple plaque after a nationwide search to find unsung community heroes throughout England and Wales. He was nominated by the public and awarded the honour by a judging panel, featuring Gavin & Stacey star, Joanna Page.

In a year like no other, 22 unique purple plaques, one for each census that has taken place to date, have been awarded to community heroes up and down the country. The competition, which received hundreds of entries across England and Wales, awarded Peter, for his services to his local community in Doncaster through volunteering and fundraising.

Peter has gone beyond his usual charitable volunteering work by ensuring that throughout the pandemic his community centre users and residents, who were shielding, had access to tablets and telephones to ensure they had internet access to combat isolation, and keep in touch with family and friends. He also coordinated the delivery of fresh food, and hygiene and household products for the elderly and those shielding, and families on low incomes.

Peter, who lives in Bennetthorpe, commented: "I am truly grateful to have received the Census 2021 Community Hero Award, amongst the hundreds of entries that were submitted. The pandemic has meant so many of us have fallen upon hardship, I wanted to do my part and do what I can to help anyone who is struggling in my community.

"In times like these it's important for us all to pull together, and I am so thrilled to have been selected for this award."

"But this award is not just for me. It's for the whole team."

The census, which took place on 21 March 2021, sheds light on the needs of different groups and communities, and the inequalities people are experiencing, ensuring the big decisions facing the country following the pandemic and EU exit are based on the best information possible.

Census 2021 will inform decisions nationally and locally on vital services and issues. Ultimately it ensures millions of pounds are invested in emergency services, mental health care, school places, hospital beds, houses, roads, GPs and dentists' services - all based on the information people provided.

Wilko PPE Mask Recycling

A new scheme launched in Wilko stores lets you drop off your disposable face masks for recycling. Collection bins are being set up in 150 Wilko stores across England for dropping off used disposable face masks. The scheme, run in partnership with waste and recycling specialists ReWorked and Scan2Recycle, will initially run for three months from 1 April 2021. Jerome Saint-Marc, chief executive at Wilko, said: "We're thrilled to partner with ReWorked to be the first on the high street to take positive action, recycling discarded face masks on behalf of our customers."

How the scheme works: Once collected, ReWorked shreds the masks (after a 72-hour quarantine period) along with other plastic waste. This is then melted down and pressed into durable boards which can be used to make building materials and public furniture.

This scheme should make life easier for those who need to use disposable masks and help to address the impact of plastic waste caused by massively increased PPE use during the pandemic. Reusable face coverings are a good alternative, but some more vulnerable groups may still require single-use masks. Until now they were near-impossible to recycle, as masks can't go in your home recycling bin, despite what some mask retailers have claimed in the past.

To find out more and see which stores are participating, head to the Wilko [website](#) (the Doncaster Frenchgate store is listed under 'Frenchgate').

Funding Opportunities

DMBC's latest [funding newsletter](#) is now available.

Doncaster Barrier Buster Fund

The Doncaster Barrier Buster Fund has been extended and more grants are available to distribute to Social Enterprises.

The Barrier Buster fund is available to the following groups in Doncaster who are supporting people or communities during Coronavirus pandemic:

- Not-for profit voluntary or community organisations
- Registered charities
- Faith-based organisations
- Not-for profit companies, community interest companies or social enterprises

Please make sure you read the [information and criteria](#) in full.

Applications should be clearly marked 'Barrier Buster Fund' and emailed to welldoncaster@doncaster.gov.uk or posted to Public Health, Well Doncaster, Floor 4, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU. There is **no deadline** for this fund.

Note that organisations who have already received funding from this grant **are eligible** to apply again, as long as the project/idea is different.

Tesco Community Grants

Tesco offers this grants programme "to make a positive difference in the communities where it operates". Customers vote in store for nominated groups, who receive either £1,500, £1,000 or £500

The scheme is open to registered charities and not-for-profit organisations. You can apply directly as an organisation. Equally, you might find that you have been nominated: Tesco customers and staff members can nominate a cause that they would like to see supported and Tesco will contact them to encourage them to apply.

Full details can be found on the Tesco Community Grants [website](#).

Lloyds Bank Foundation Racial Equity Fund

The Foundation is looking to support charities where more than half of their Trustee Board self-identify as Black, Asian or minority ethnic, with an annual income of between £25,000 and £1m, and with a strong track record of helping people from

minority communities across 11 complex social issues. These include addiction and dependency, asylum seekers and refugees, and care leavers.

Charities can apply for two-year unrestricted grants of £50,000 alongside development support.

The Fund is open throughout the year. You can find further details on the Lloyds Bank Foundation [website](#).

Job Opportunities

DMBC's latest [Vacancy Bulletin](#) is now available to read.

Company Secretary Independent Trustee - EXPECT Youth

EXPECT Youth is looking to strengthen its leadership and governance arrangements by appointing an additional Independent Trustee to act as Company Secretary. The charity is hoping to attract dynamic volunteer candidates with experience in financial management, board level experience in a similar role, a good understanding of children's and youth services, with a passion and commitment towards young people and the communities of Doncaster and South Yorkshire.

EXPECT Youth is a unique third sector collaborative model that works with partners and members to deliver community-based services and has made a significant impact in a short space of time. The team are enthusiastic to continue to build on the work achieved to date, being inspirational in the approach to create healthier and more aspirational lives for children and young people across Doncaster. The introduction of an experienced Company Secretary Independent Trustee for the charity will assist in achieving the charities ambitions, providing robust governance and strategic leadership to ensure that EXPECT Youth continues to benefit local young people for the future.

If you are interested in this voluntary role to become a Trustee for EXPECT Youth, please contact Philippa Bonham at p.bonham@expectyouth.co.uk to receive a full role description and application details. The deadline for applications is **30th May 2021**.

Please visit EXPECT Youth's [website](#) for more details about the organisation and its work with children and young people across Doncaster.