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Woodcraft Folk

Newsletter for Treasurers



MAY
2016

OUR NETWORKS



Welcome to the third edition

Dear all

Welcome to the next quarterly edition of the Woodcraft Folk newsletter for all things fundraising and finance.

Awards for All

First of all, just a reminder to those of you who are considering an application to Awards for All that there are example applications at www.woodcraft.org.uk/funding which you may find useful to look at when writing your application. If you email fundraiser@woodcraft.org.uk or funding@woodcraft.org.uk we should also be able to put you in touch with experienced application writers who can look over your application.

The Woodcraft website

If you have visited the Woodcraft website recently, you may have noticed some tweaks and modifications. Staff and volunteers have made changes intended to make it easier for visitors to the site to find information on fundraising, to become a member and renew membership or to donate to Woodcraft.

The changes are still a work in progress but we hope that they are helpful. (Feedback and comments would be very welcome.)

An important future change to the website will be the launch of the online "Friends of the Folk" service. As you may know, Friends of the Folk is a scheme for individuals who want to regularly support Woodcraft Folk financially but don't want/need to be a member because they don't work actively with our groups.

The introduction of the online service will allow individuals to sign up and start donating online, which should increase the number of individuals signing up. We hope that steady financial support from Friends of the Folk will help to fund the important support which core Woodcraft provides to Groups and Districts and, therefore, lighten the financial load on our Groups, Districts and volunteers. The launch date for Friends of the Folk online is not yet fixed as we are still working on some technical issues. Watch this space for more information.

In the meantime, more information on the Friends of the Folk scheme can be found at www.woodcraft.org.uk/resources/friends-folk-leaflet.

Group registration and audit 2015

Thanks again to all of you for your efforts in relation to this year's increased Group Registration fee. A number of groups have paid a reduced fee and this has been offset by solidarity donations.

Woodcraft's annual financial audit is on-going and the auditors spent some time at Folk Office for this purpose a few weeks ago.

Thank you to all of you for sending your Annual Returns to Richard Robertson (our Annual Returns volunteer) who has been working hard consolidating all of the information for the auditors.

The auditors will now seek extra information from a small sample of groups and districts and we'll be in touch if this affects you.

Folk Assembly

CONTACTS

[Roland Susman](#)
(National Treasurer)

[Jon Nott](#)
(General Secretary)

[Debs McCahon](#)
(Director of
Development)

[Sarah McDonnell](#)
(Gift Aid)

[Leanne Powell](#)
(Membership &
Groups)

[Funding Group](#)

[John Tippins](#)
(Volunteer Fundraiser)





Folk Assembly which will be held on 8-10 July will provide an opportunity to discuss the financial issues faced by Woodcraft locally and nationally. More information can be found at woodcraft.org.uk/activities/woodcraft-folk-assembly

Blue skies
Roland

WEB LINKS

Advice for treasurers

[Treasurer's Handbook](#)

[Accounting Spreadsheet for Groups & Districts](#)

[Financial Returns](#)

[FAQs for treasurers](#)

Funding advice

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Local Fundraising](#)

[Woodcraft Folk Funding Bids Policy](#)

Gift Aid

[Gift Aid guidance for District Treasurers](#)

[Gift Aid Webinar](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8-10 July
Woodcraft Folk Assembly

24 September
Annual General Meeting



Give as you Live®

FORWARD THIS EMAIL

Do you know someone who might be interested in

Support to districts

In your annual return for 2015, you were asked to say whether you would like help in four areas:

- Sign posting to available funding
- More information on Gift Aid
- Local Fundraising ideas
- Support with completing a funding bid

For some weeks now I have been sending a weekly list of forthcoming grant deadlines to those districts that requested this information. A number of districts have said that they find this very useful. If you would like to receive this weekly email, please [contact me](#). It would be great to hear of your successful grant applications and any other suggestions you have about the mailing. The email also includes information on forthcoming workshops offering advice on grant funding. Remember, if you need an experienced pair of eyes to look over your draft application, Ann McGarry (ann@gwerin.org) will help.

We also said that we would provide ideas for local fundraising - things such as car boot sales, cake sales and sponsored challenges - and I included some [great ideas](#) from Highgate & Holloway District in the first treasurer newsletter. I would be really pleased to receive more ideas that I can send to districts and include on our fundraising pages on the website. Please email *your* suggestions to fundraiser@woodcraft.org.uk.

Blue skies
John

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Local money issues and treasurer life

Gift Aid Update

New Gift Aid form

The Gift Aid declaration form changed on 5 April 2016.

Any declaration forms completed before 5 April 2016 for single and future claims can still be used so you will not need to redo forms you have already collected.

When you sign up anyone new, however, you'll need to use the new forms, which can be found at www.woodcraft.org.uk/resources/gift-aid-guidance-district-treasurers.

Remember, the wording about Gift Aid in the Woodcraft Membership form has also changed.

Increase in Gift Aid claims

More and more Gift Aid is being claimed by local Woodcraft Groups and Districts. In the first quarter of 2016, £3,861 was claimed, compared to £3,233 in 2015 and £3,111 in 2014.

Solidarity donations using Gift Aid

As you know, some groups have been making solidarity donations to help Groups in a difficult financial situation. One way in which some Groups/Districts have been doing this is by donating some of the Gift Aid that they claim. For example, one Group intends to ask Folk Office to retain 25% of all of the Gift Aid that is awarded to that Group so that it can be used to support Groups in financial difficulty.

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Gift in Memory

If you are writing your will, you might be interested in supporting Woodcraft Folk by leaving us a donation. Leaving a legacy to Woodcraft Folk inspires the next generation of cooperators, empowers young people with the confidence to change the world around them and enables a greener future to be built.

If you are mourning a loved one, especially if they shared our values, friends and family can choose to nominate Woodcraft Folk for a gift in their memory. If you'd like copies to distribute locally, please email info@woodcraft.org.uk with your address and let us know how many leaflets you'd like.

In the news

Co-operative Energy

If you missed the fundraising items in the member newsletter that Leanne sent out recently, I should tell you that we're pleased to announce that Woodcraft Folk have partnered with Co-operative Energy. Woodcraft Folk will receive a donation of £25 each time someone switches to [Co-operative Energy](#). It's a great opportunity to save money on your energy bills, raise funds for Woodcraft Folk and support the co-operative alternative to the Big 6 energy companies, so please share the link with members, supporters and parents in your area. In addition, we're about to launch a prize draw in partnership with Co-operative Energy - the winner will receive a prize of £150 for their district. Keep an eye on the news pages on the Woodcraft website!

Festival Fundraising

We are also teaming up with [My Cause UK](#) this Summer to give you the chance to help raise funds for Woodcraft Folk whilst having fun at some of the biggest festivals around! My Cause are currently recruiting volunteers for festivals across the UK including Love Saves the Day, Boomtown Fair, and Shamballa for stewarding, ticketing and bar working roles. In return for your time and effort, you will not only receive free entry into the festival along with a range of VIP perks such as showers, free tea and coffee and phone charging but My Cause UK will also make a donation of up to £50 to Woodcraft Folk in return for your time! Details are in the [news item](#) on the Woodcraft website.

Well done Kirstie

Well done to Kirstie Mclachlan who raised £345 (+ £83.75 gift aid) through Just Giving, running the Ealing half Marathon for Ealing district <https://www.justgiving.com/kirstie-Mclachlanealongwoodcraft>. On top of that, Ealing's Treasurer has just sorted out 3 years' worth of gift aid. She had put it off thinking it was too much to get her head around, but now it's done she feels great and future claims will be easy. She said the money will come in handy as their camping equipment was well used and worn and some replacements, especially tables and chairs, would be great!

Newsletter feedback

Comments, suggestions for articles you'd like to see or anything else you'd like to air, please email to fundraiser@woodcraft.org.uk

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