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**Third Sector
Excellent Awards –
Deadline for
entries extended
to 15 June!**

The Awards aim to reward examples of outstanding campaigns, strategies, projects and performance in the Third Sector.

For more information, including how to apply go to -
www.thirdsectorexcellenceawards.com/

news and opinion from a trustee's perspective

3-course lunch, lecture by Jon Snow, seminars and networking - all for only £40!!!

There are still places left for CTN's event of the year, our annual lecture, with accompanying sit-down 3-course lunch. This year we are very excited that Jon Snow, Channel 4 news presenter will be giving the lecture, and we are looking forward to hearing his thoughts on trusteeship and the recession.

In addition to lunch and Jon's lecture, there are seminars by the Charity Commission, Media Trust, CCLA Investment Managers and by one of CTN's own trustees on fundraising and trustees. And there will be lots of opportunities to network with other trustees.

All this for only £40, or free if you join **trusteenetplus**.

It takes place at Church House, Westminster on Tuesday 16th June from 10am to 4pm. Book your place by Wednesday 10th June. For more information, including how to book and/or join **trusteenetplus** go to www.trusteenet.org.uk/events/ctn-annual-lunch-and-lecture-jon-snow

Charityfair 2009 – Trustee Lounge back for another year

Come and gain new skills and update your sector knowledge in two packed days of charity learning and networking on Wednesday 24 & Thursday 25 June at Central Hall Westminster.

If you're a trustee, work with trustees or are thinking about becoming one, come and visit the Trustee Lounge. There'll be lots of free resources, the chance to ask questions about trusteeship and opportunities to network with other trustees and find out more about what CTN can do to help you.

It's free to get into Charityfair, and more information is available at www.charityfair.org.uk

Report on the state of trusteeship in the UK

Board Matters, is a review of charity trusteeship in the UK undertaken by New Philanthropy Capital (NPC). It questions the strength of trustee boards in the charity sector, and argues that recruitment, training and evaluation of board members is frequently neglected because charities and funders do not prioritise governance.

The report can be downloaded at -
www.philanthropycapital.org/research/research_reports/other/trusteeship.aspx

NPC believes that a charity that measures, manages and communicates its

Need new trustees?

Don't forget you can log in to www.trusteenet.org.uk and post your trustee vacancies on [trustefinder](#)

results well will be more informed, more effective, more transparent and more sustainable. With this in mind, NPC is developing a suite of free tools to help charities to measure, manage and communicate their results.

These are available at -

www.philanthropycapital.org/tools_for_charities/available_tools/default.aspx#measure

Read CTN's response to the NPC report, which is available at -

www.trusteenet.org.uk/news/new-philanthropy-capital-launches-report-trusteeship

There's a lot to be said for being a trustee

Thank you very much to everyone who took part in our survey seeking to explore some of the positive aspects of being a trustee.

Over 200 trustees responded to the survey, 95% of which agreed that they had, to some degree, acquired new skills since becoming a trustee. 89% also agreed that to some degree, however small, being a trustee has helped with their personal or career development.

Being a trustee also appears to be a good way to widen and diversify your social circle, with 81% of respondents saying they have met people from different backgrounds that they might otherwise not have met. And 60% of people agreeing strongly that through being a trustee they had met people who have since become good friends.

In a time of recession when many unemployed people are wondering how to keep their skills current and their confidence up, trusteeship may be one answer. 68% of respondents agreed very strongly that their skills and experiences have been valued by the charity of which they are a trustee.

CTN believes that if charities focus on such positive outcomes of being a trustee, alongside a balanced view of the responsibilities of trusteeship, then more very able people may be interested in becoming trustees rather than being put off by the doom and gloom which often accompanies talk about trusteeship.

Serious incidents – updated guidance from the Charity Commission

The Charity Commission has revised its guidance for trustees on the need for charities (in England and Wales) to report serious incidents. An incident that has taken place in a charity is considered to be serious if it has resulted or could result in a significant loss of funds or a significant risk to the charity's property, work, beneficiaries or reputation. The revised guidance clarifies the Commission's approach to issues of serious concern, what they consider to be serious or significant, the actions trustees should take, the legal requirements placed upon them, and what the Commission's response may be.

The guidance is available at -

www.charitycommission.gov.uk/investigations/rsi.asp

The Trustee Conference – 2nd July, London

The Trustee Conference 2009 will bring together leading legal, financial and fundraising figures within the charity sector to offer trustees and senior managers practical advice and innovative solutions to the challenges ahead. The seminar programme has been specifically designed to deal with the problems posed by the current economic climate and

includes sessions which aim to address funding, risk and accountability issues and demonstrate how to get the most out of assets, such as staff and property.

To view the full programme and to book a place go to -

www.trusteenet.org.uk/files/Sayer%20Vincent%20%20Trustee%20Conference%202009.pdf

Making trustees' donations go further

A new fundraising initiative will match donations from charity trustees and major donors to their charities.

theBigGive.org.uk aims to raise £2m from trustees and major donors over the summer, which will unlock a further £1m from the Reed Foundation. This £3m fund will then be matched by a further £3m from charity supporters this December.

The new £6m challenge will create the largest ever online matched fund. Last year, a similar matched funding challenge on theBigGive.org.uk raised £2 million for charity in an astonishing 45 minutes.

Charities have until 27th June to apply to join the challenge. Any donation of £100 or more can be put towards the creation of a matched fund. More information on the scheme, including how to apply, can be found at: www.thebiggive.org.uk/millionmatch

Communicating during a crisis

Louise Morriss is Managing Director of Amazon PR www.amazonpr.co.uk and a trustee of the Rainforest Foundation www.rainforestfoundationuk.org. Here she shares with us her thoughts on communicating during a crisis.

You are on the Board of a charity that is well-run, effective and respected. You have worked hard to develop an operational risk strategy which is reviewed regularly.

But have you thought equally hard about how your organisation might communicate during a crisis? And how this could affect your hard-earned profile and reputation?

Events such as missing funds or allegations against staff are deeply distressing to all, but need to be dealt with to avoid harming relationships, damaging an organisation's reputation, and ultimately affecting its ability to operate.

News travels fast and key stakeholders may well hear about an incident before you do. The way to tackle this is to act immediately – which means planning in advance, identifying problems that could occur and how they would be dealt with.

It can seem counter-intuitive to spend time and money preparing for something that may never happen. But consider how much you could lose in terms of trust, support and funding if the media runs a poorly-informed story about you.

Communicating during a crisis is not about covering up. It is about being able confidently and quickly to address issues clearly and openly. Careful planning and good communication can help minimise the distress caused to others, while also protecting your organisation's reputation.

If you get it wrong, it could take months or years to recover - if you

KEEP YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE

If you are no longer a trustee or your details have changed, log in to www.trusteenet.org.uk to update your details.

manage it at all.

Chances to have your say

- **A risk and proportionality framework for the Charity Commission's services to charities** – this consultation is aimed at achieving greater clarity about the Commission's approach, and runs until 23 June. For more information and to take part in the consultation, go to - www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/rpintro.asp
- **Gift-Aid survey**. NCVO are working with other sector umbrella bodies to increase the value of Gift Aid whilst reducing its administrative complexities. An online survey is currently being undertaken on the proposed reform of Gift Aid into an opt-out system. This survey will help inform their discussions with HM Treasury and HMRC. To complete the survey online, go to www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB22947ZZU5DA
- **The Office of the Third Sector is conducting an online survey to help improve the content and functionality of its website**. The survey should take no more than a few minutes to complete and your feedback can help them create a better and more useful resource that meets your requirements. To complete the survey go to - www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=yjiPO2wloDCoenkTitbh6w_3d_3d

What do sustainability and governance have to do with each other?

All voluntary and community organisations need good governance to thrive and the way that we carry out our governance responsibilities can say a lot about the values of our organisation and how we live these on a day-today basis. So, if we are trying to make our organisations more sustainable then we also need to reflect this in the activities of our board.

This short guide offers a host of practical advice to help you weave sustainable actions through your existing governance processes and the activities of your board. It includes exercises, tips, checklists and, perhaps most valuable of all, direct experience from those who have done it themselves. It also recognises that becoming more sustainable in what we do is a learning process – we can't expect to do everything at once, so we need to make realistic decisions about what we can do now, soon or later.

The guide is available at -

www.everyactioncounts.org.uk/en/fe/page.asp?n1=230&n2=281

Network Events in June and July

Please go to www.trusteenet.org.uk/events for more details of these and many more events.

9 June – Network of Women Chairs – London

25 June – Southwark Treasurers Seminar

25 June – Lewes District Trustee Networks

1 July – Guildford and Waveney Trustee Network

6 July – Thrive Trustee Network – Grimsby

9 July – Watford Charity Trustee Network

14 July – Central London Trustee Network

22 July - Bath and NE Somerset Trustee Network

ANY OTHER BUSINESS?

Do let us have your feedback on this e-newsletter by replying to this email. Let us know if we are getting it right or how we can improve this e-newsletter, **trustee focus** goes out bi-monthly, and we want as much content as possible to be from you - we would really welcome your ideas and submissions.

This newsletter is sent to you by **Charity Trustee Networks** (CTN)

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