Outlook

Your February Bulletin

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Welcome to February's Bulletin!

In that difficult part of the year, when the nights are still dark and cold, Spring a long way ahead and the festive season a long way behind, it can be hard to muster the energy for your voluntary and community projects.

Hopefully, this month's bulletin will provide a little food for thought, and some ideas that can be actioned in front of a cosy fire, hot (or cold) drink in hand.

As always, please get in touch if there's anything I can do to support your group's work and plans for the year ahead.

Sarah

Funding Focus

Grassroots Grants Programme

Delivered by Groundwork, People's Postcode Lottery Grassroot Grants provide unrestricted grants of up to £2,000 for small, local organisations in England that are making a positive impact in their communities. Priority is given to organisations that support communities which fall within the top 15% of the English Indices of Deprivation and those that work with and support communities that are marginalised or vulnerable. Click the link below to find out more!

Grassroots Grants



Grant Finding

Did you know that Westmorland and Furness host a database of funding opportunities?

Your group can sign up to this database, search through it, and ask to be notified of upcoming grants.

Just click the link below!

There is a huge range of grants and funds out there - you're sure to find something that suits your project.

I also have access to this, and will happily search for funding on your behalf.

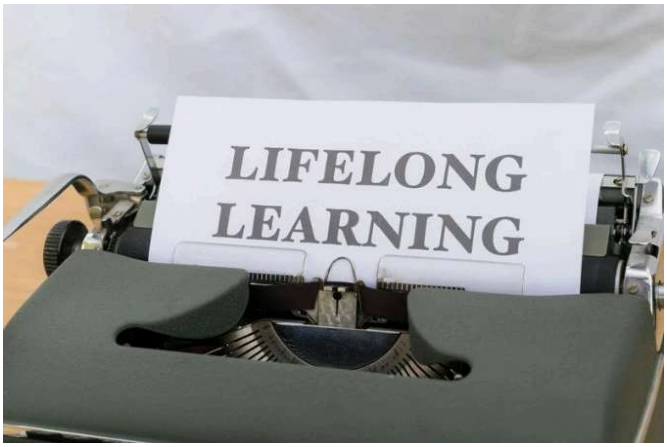
Grant Finder

Volunteers? Ideas!

5 Days, 5 Ways

Try running a mini campaign on your social media, such as ‘5 Days, 5 Ways’. Over the course of five days, post five different things people could do to get involved in your group. This could range from the micro (‘Help put up posters!’) to the massive (‘Be our new Secretary!’). This campaign will help show people the full range of what you do, as well as encouraging them to get involved. Don’t forget an eye-catching image, and your contact details!





Highlight the Learning

Could someone learn a new skill through volunteering with you? If so, that could be a key selling point!

Whether it’s practical, such as cooking or DIY, administrative such as writing reports or keeping accounts, or social such as helping the elderly or wrangling children, put it on your advertising!

Make sure any potential volunteers know that as well as doing good, they’ll get something valuable back.

Why Not Try…

…Advertising in the Herald?

If your group runs regular sessions, or is putting on an event, why not put a notice in the Cumberland and Westmorland Herald’s ‘What’s On’ section? It’s free - just send brief details before noon on Tuesdays to news@cwherald.com. Other local newspapers are available too - have a look around and see what’s out there. It



might be just the advertising boost you need.



…Creating a Product?

If you can spare the initial funds, creating a product which your group can sell serves the dual purpose of raising some extra cash, and raising awareness. What about a mug, a calendar, a bookmark, a mousemat, even a t-shirt? A wide variety of online shops allow you to design and print all sorts of items with relative ease, often at very reasonable prices. Try to convey the spirit or work of your group in an eye-catching or unusual way, and you could be on to a winner!

Community Corner

Be Prepared!

With more Wintery weather heading our way, make sure you are prepared and aware of what support is available nearby in case of emergency. Visit Amerg.org for an overview of local preparations and some tips for your home. The Alston Moor Road Watch group on Facebook is an excellent way to keep an eye on local road situations, and both Alston Town Hall and The Hive in Nenthead run weekly Warm Hubs. Stay warm and safe!

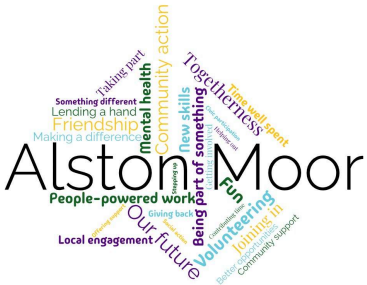


Ring Pull Collection

Wiggle the ring-pulls off your cans, and drop them at Mad Hatters! Why?

Cumberland and Westmorland Freemasons are working to support a fantastic charity that aims to break the cycle of poverty through education and welfare. The Purple Community Fund is supported by the collection of ring-pulls, which are upcycled into gift items. Each one can be worth 3p to the charity, and make a significant difference. So get collecting! Thank you.

You're receiving this email because this is my main contact address for the community group(s) that you support.
If you'd prefer these bulletins to go to a different or additional email address, please let me know!



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