

Dear ICN members and partners,

This month, on the 8<sup>th</sup>, it's International Women's Day. The internet tells me that in nearly every country, women work longer hours than men and are paid less – no wonder their international day was started by socialists!

If you have an event coming up, a new project, or anything else you'd like to share with Islington's voluntary and community sector, please contact me: [christopher.taylor@vai.org.uk](mailto:christopher.taylor@vai.org.uk). Please note that this newsletter, and past editions, are also available [online](#).

## Network News and Information

After the release of a London Metropolitan University [report on the value of grant funding](#), commissioned by VAI, national organisations have teamed up to start the [Grants for Good](#) campaign. OK, the relationship might not be causal, but now that grants from the public sector make up only 5.5% of charity sector income, a decline of over 60% since 2004, it's time to get serious about their benefits.

**Voluntary Action Islington** has appointed Guljabeen Rahman to be its new Chief Executive. She will take up the role from 21st March 2016. As the current Chief Executive of VAI is a co-chair of ICN, Guljabeen will also take over that role until elections are due again in spring 2017. Guljabeen was most recently Director of the Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre in Camden and has also been a trustee of several community organisations. She has previously worked in the housing sector and internationally with UNICEF and VSO.

## Members updates

**Disability Action in Islington** is moving to a new office. From Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, DAI will be TEMPORARILY closed to callers until the move is completed in approximately 4-6 weeks. All callers are advised to see the [DAI website](#) for sources of alternative support during this period. Further details of the re-opening date and new address will follow in due course.

**Voluntary Action Islington** has successfully applied to City Bridge Trust for the two year [Strengthening Volunteering Project](#) that works with local organisations to develop and improve the induction and management of volunteers. Organisations interested in being involved in the second stage of this project, beginning in April 2016, should email Yvette Ellis: [yvette.ellis@vai.org.uk](mailto:yvette.ellis@vai.org.uk).

### Multi Faith and Community Services Celebration

16 March 2016, 9.45 – 14.00, Assembly Hall, Islington Town Hall

**Islington Faiths Forum** (IFF) would like to invite faith and community partner groups to come and hold a stall for the day, to promote their services and exhibit information on community services. There will be live entertainment and inspiring story slots so please refer any local group who would like to perform or present. Please [see the flyer](#) for more details and complete and return the [reply slip](#) to register your attendance.

**Every Voice** is [hosting a discussion](#) with award winning author Anjan Sundaram on his new book, [Bad News: Last Journalists in a Dictatorship](#), and their new [All World History, All Year Round](#) initiative, at Housman's Bookshop on Wednesday 23 March at 7pm.

### **Islington Refugee Forum Free training on Health and Safety Essentials**

23 March, 10am-1.00pm, Committee Room 5, Islington Town Hall - Upper Street, London, N1 2UD  
Knowing about your rights when it comes to health and safety and how to enforce those rights is important, particularly if you have recently arrived in the UK. Migrant workers often face extra difficulties because of their limited knowledge of the UK's health & safety systems, limited access to health & safety training and potential problems communicating in English. For more information contact [info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org](mailto:info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org).

## **Events**

### **Happy International Women's Day!**

4 March, 5.00 pm -10.00pm, Trinity Church Centre, 15 Nether Street, North Finchley, N12 7NN  
Join **Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation** for an evening dedicated to the plight of women and children in the Middle East fleeing war, rape, death and fundamentalism. There will be live music performance, Mediterranean food, and a DJ to dance to. Tickets are £15, but children under 12 get in free. [See the flyer](#) or contact MEWSO for more details: [office@mewso.org](mailto:office@mewso.org), 07958 145 666.

### **Islington Crime and Safety Summit**

5 March 2016, 10am – 1pm, Islington Assembly Hall, Upper Street, N1 2 UD  
The [Safer Neighbourhood Board](#), in partnership with the council and police in Islington, is hosting this event to give residents and other community members a chance to get involved in influencing how we tackle youth violence and knife crime in the borough. For more information, including how to book, [visit the webpage](#).

### **International Women's Day 2016 - Dispensing Wisdom Project**

7 March 2016, 9am -12.30pm, Islington Assembly Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD  
**Manor Gardens Centre & Islington Council** invite you to celebrate International Women's Day with this [arts & heritage event for women](#) featuring inspiring talks and poetry performances, creative workshops and an exhibition of photography and poetry.

### **Outcome Open Information Day**

15 March, 11:00 – 15:30, Islington Mind  
Outcome, **Islington Mind's** LGBT service, is celebrating LGBT History Month and International Women's Day with tasters from its activities and therapies. [See the flyer](#) for more information.

### **Peabody Apprenticeship Fair 2016**

17 March, 9.30am-3.30pm, Hugh Cubitt Centre, Kings Cross  
To mark National Apprenticeship Week 2016, Peabody invites young people to bring a CV and talk to over 20 recruiters, with live apprenticeship vacancies also available on the day. [See the flyer](#) for more details.

### **Islington Fraud, Doorstep Crime and Distraction Burglary Awareness Event**

29 March, 10am - 1.30 pm (stalls close at 3.30 pm), Islington Assembly Hall, Upper Street N1 2UD  
Do you work with elderly or vulnerable adults? [Learn how to help protect them from scams](#).

### **Voluntary-private sector partnership seminar: the impact of welfare reform on young people**

31 March, 12.00 - 2.00pm, 110 Fetter Lane, EC4A 1AY  
Hosted by City law firm **Weil, Gotshal and Manges**, this event is the next in the **LVSC** cross-sector partnerships series, run through the London for All programme. A mixed private and voluntary

sector audience will hear a range of expert speakers talk about action required to support young people facing significant challenges in their lives. [Visit the webpage](#) for more information.

## News & Policy

For the latest news on **social enterprise**, visit our [Facebook group for local social entrepreneurs](#).

The next meeting of **Islington Health and Wellbeing Board** will be on 20 April 2016 at 1pm. Meetings are open to the public. See all information, including recent minutes, [here](#).

The **Government** has announced it will be inserting a clause into grant agreements with charities that states funding cannot be used on activities intended to influence parliament, government or political parties. **NAVCA** has set up [a petition for the government to reconsider](#).

Since charity accounts have been in the news, [Sayer Vincent](#) have published the latest in their series of simple guides to charity finance and management: [Reading charity accounts](#).

**NCVO** has published [Welfare Reform: Voices from the Voluntary Sector](#), a report on the impact of welfare reform. Some of its findings resonate with those of the ICN, Every Voice and Advising Islington Together report [‘It’s no fun being on benefits’](#).

The **Cabinet Office** and the **Big Lottery Fund** have an online [VCSE Strength Checker](#) that aims to help small to medium sized organisations to analyse their organisation and identify areas that could be developed to improve organisational strength.

[Make It Work](#) is a new advice service from **Citizens Advice Islington** for low-paid or recently self-employed people and owners of small businesses living or working in Islington.

The **Islington Community Wellbeing Development Service** has published a report on its last Quarterly Community Conversation, which had the theme: [BMER communities and Cultural Competency in Mental Health Services in Islington](#). The council’s Mental Health Commissioning Team [has responded to the report’s recommendations](#).

The [London LGBT Domestic Abuse Partnership](#) (DAP) is for LGBT people experiencing domestic violence and living or working in London.

**Bates Wells Braithwaite**’s new website [Get Legal](#) brings you a range of top-quality, affordable legal documents, available to download and customise to your specifications.

## Funding & Support

Following consultation, **Cripplegate** will be continuing its [Main Grants Programme](#) and in addition will be launching a new Development Partner Programme and has written a [brief guide to the changes](#). The [Community Chest grant programme](#), in partnership with Islington council and overseen by a panel including Islington Community Network members, is open for applications for 2016/17. The deadline for applications to the first round of funding is **12 noon on Monday 9th May 2016**.

The [City of London Growing Localities Awards](#), run by **City Bridge Trust** and **Lemos & Crane**, offer £5,000 prize money to projects based in any London borough that use nature to enhance the lives of

local citizens, young and old, as well as communities. The deadline for receipt of entries is **22 April 2016**.

Grants of between £500 and £1,500 are available from the **Hilden Charitable Fund** to run [summer play schemes](#) for the benefit of disadvantaged children aged five to 18 years. The deadline for applications is **20 May**.

**Starbucks Youth Action Applications** provide support and up to £1000 to help under-25 year olds not in employment or education to bring their social action project to life.

**UK Community Foundations** (UKCF) has created a £525,000 [New Beginnings Fund](#) to support refugees joining UK communities.

**Yapp Charitable Trust** makes [grants for core funding](#) to registered charities with a total annual expenditure of less than £40,000.

[BeyondMe](#) brokers relationships between teams of professionals ready to tackle causes they're passionate about and charity projects that can use their skills and time. By working on the project together the team and charity build a long-term partnership.

[Good Finance](#) is a new website that explains investment and finance options for charities and social enterprises.

**Better Community Business Network** provides [small grant awards](#) of up to £3000 per month to small but credible community projects, which are able to demonstrate the positive impact that they add to the local community

## Volunteering

**THiS TiME Creative Spaces**, a new charity for Children with Complex Needs is starting up in Islington and the surrounding boroughs and is [looking for trustees](#).

**Hilldrop Community Centre** is [looking for new trustees](#).

**Islington Volunteer Centre** can help you to find volunteers and volunteering opportunities in the borough: [www.vai.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.vai.org.uk/volunteering). **Islington and Shoreditch Housing Association** is [also now an accredited Living Wage Employer](#).

## London Living Wage

The Londonist has an [in-depth article on the London Living Wage](#) and its potential benefits for the capital's economy – including pictures of a LLW protest in Islington, and local accredited LLW employer Housman's bookshop.