The Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation invites not-for-profit groups in England and Scotland to apply to its Spirit of the Community Awards 2015

The Spirit of the Community Awards were launched in 2013 by the Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation which was founded in 2008 by Yorkshire Bank. The Awards were created to support the people and communities in which the banks work and to recognise organisations that ‘go the extra mile’.

Registered charities, not-for-profit community organisations and constituted voluntary groups in England and Scotland can apply for an award as long as their project is located in, and benefits, a community where the banks operate.

Projects must address one of three categories:

- **Financial education** - The focus is on initiatives that advance financial education including initiatives that promote accessibility to both financial education and financial services.
- **Employability** - The focus is on initiatives that build on and develop skills in individuals to equip them for the workplace and help them become ready for work.
- **Environment** - The focus is on projects seeking to protect or improve the environment.

The total awards available for 2015 is £150,000 with half going to groups in England and half going to groups in Scotland. An overall winner will be selected for each category in England and and Scotland and will receive £10,000. Three highly commended groups will be selected from each category and each will receive £5,000.

Applicants should be able to show:

- There is a need/demand for the project and how the project will effectively respond to, or meet, the need.
- They are taking an innovative approach to addressing the issue which should be unique in the community.
- There are positive and practical benefits for the wider community.
- They have evidence of how the project will be managed and monitored.
- They have a practical vision for the longer term sustainability of the work of the project.

The deadline for applications is 6 March 2015. Winners will be notified in May and the Awards will be made this summer. An application form and further information can be found on the Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation’s website at: [http://www.ybonline.co.uk/about-yorkshire-bank/community/charitable-donations-about-us/](http://www.ybonline.co.uk/about-yorkshire-bank/community/charitable-donations-about-us/)

**Localgiving to Run Match Fund Campaign in January and February**

Online giving platform Localgiving has announced it will run a 24-hour £5 match fund campaign on 28 January and 25 February, providing a chance for 1,000 small, local charities in the UK to double their donations.

Since its launch in 2009, Localgiving.com, a not-for-profit social enterprise, has generated £5.5 million in online donations for local charities throughout the UK. It has done this by providing a platform to raise voluntary income (freely given donations) for small local charities and community groups that become a member. Localgiving is also known for its annual Grow Your Tenner matched giving campaign which normally runs in October with funding from the Cabinet Office.

The new #GiveMe5 campaign will double 1,000 £5 donations made during a 24 hour period: starting from midnight and running for 24 hours on 28 January 2015 and again on 25 February 2015. Each £5 donation made on these specific days will be placed into a random draw. One thousand donations will then be randomly selected and they will benefit from an additional £5 of match funding. Localgiving will inform charities by email within three working days if their donation has received match funding.

Charities and local community groups that want to take part must have an active Localgiving membership. Groups that want to sign up can do so via the Localgiving website. There is an annual £72 subscription fee to join.

Membership is open to a wide range of charities and community groups, both registered and unregistered, including registered charities, community interest companies (CICs), companies, partnerships and any unincorporated organisations that undertake charitable activities in the UK.

To be eligible, groups must:

- Operate on a local/regional community initiative. (National charities are not eligible).
- Have a local/regional management committee and a UK bank account.
- Have charitable aims that are not solely for the advancement of religion or party politics, for medical research or animal welfare.
- Not be an unregistered statutory body, such as a school.

Full details can be found on their website at [https://localgiving.com/aboutus](https://localgiving.com/aboutus)

**Launch of new fund: ASDA Community Capital**

Small investment amounts, at competitive rates with flexible terms? No security needed? No interest or capital payments for a year, and one year interest free? Really? Yes, Asda Community Capital has arrived!

Social Investment Scotland has teamed up with Asda to launch a new fund aimed at supporting social enterprises to make the step change they need to increase their impact. This social investment fund is unique, a first in Scotland and has been launched with the proceeds of the Scottish Government’s single use carrier bag levy, introduced in October 2014. Asda is using the net proceeds of this levy to deliver lasting social impact in communities in Scotland.

Tayside and Fife CPD Partnership - Action Learning as a Tool for Leadership and Learning

Action learning is a dynamic learning process that:

- Offers participants new insight into old problems
- It is peer led, generating ownership for solutions
- Generates a deeper insight into challenges in the workplace through double loop learning, which creates new thinking about how we learn and ultimately how we practice
- Is applicable to a wide range of professional practice settings and staff groups

The Tayside and Fife CPD Partnership wants to engage managers and practitioners in an experiential learning opportunity; one that introduces the theory, principles and mechanics of action learning and running an action learning set. Participants in the programme will then be expected to facilitate action learning sets and report on progress in a review and evaluation session. This CPD opportunity is in four parts:

1. A short pre-training task, designed to prepare participants to “hit the ground running” immediately following the initial training day.

2. A one day training event to take place on Wednesday 18 February 2015 in venue TBC. This event will comprise:
   - Input to introduce the theory and process of action learning
   - A demonstration of an action learning set in practice
   - Experience of facilitating an action learning set (for some participants) and participating in an action learning set (for all participants)

3. Participating in a series of action learning set discussions. Each of these discussions is likely to last for approximately 2 hours

4. Participating in a review activity which will explore the learning which has occurred during the programme and assist participants to forward plan the use of action learning in their own management and CLD practice.

Places on this programme are limited to 20. These places are nominally allocated to five for each of the local authority areas participating in the Tayside and Fife CPD partnership.

If you would like to participate in this action learning programme, please contact VAA or alternatively Isobelle Stratton at StrattonIJ@angus.gov.uk or 01307 476352.

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BRECHIN TOWN CENTRE DESIGN CHARRETTE: 4-7 FEBRUARY 2015

At: Damacre Centre, 26 Damacre Rd, Brechin, DD9 6DU

As you may know Angus Council has selected Brechin as the focus for a major locally driven design charrette to actively involve local people in planning the future of the town centre. A charrette is an intensive consultation that engages local people in shaping the future of their community.

The Design Studio, where the design team will be working to progress and review options, will be located at the Damacre Centre. Over the four day period the public, designers and specialists will be working together, ‘hands on’, to prepare a long term vision, framework and action plan for Brechin Town Centre, with the ideas translated into plans and drawings.

In preparation discussions and survey work in Brechin have already been undertaken. This includes a meeting with the Pupil Voice Group at Brechin High School where the pupils are very keen to be actively involved in the charrette.

The Charrette Programme - The charrette offers a number of opportunities for the public and interested parties to get involved and have their say about the future of Brechin Town Centre. The timetable below:

Launch Event: 4.30pm & 7.30pm Wednesday 4 February 2015. Opportunity for everyone to view the initial exhibition, find out more about the events, help shape the agenda and take part in group discussions.

Future Walk: leaving Damacre Centre at 9.30am finishing 12 noon Thursday 5 February 2015. Walk & Talk Tour of Brechin Town Centre with Brian Mitchell/Brechin Civic Trust for the public and interested parties.

Key Stakeholders & Interested Parties Workshop: 1pm (sandwiches) for 1.30pm - 4.00pm Thursday 5 February 2015. Opportunity for key agencies and Angus Council officers/members to take part in group discussions on the emerging themes, challenges and way forward.

Business & Community Workshop: 5pm - 6.30pm/7.30pm - 9.00pm Thursday 5 February 2015. Opportunity for businesses to discuss achievements, challenges, opportunities and next steps.

Land/Building Owners & House Builders/Developers Forum: 10.30am – 12 noon Friday 6 February 2015. Opportunity for individuals with an interest in regenerating/developing property to discuss challenges, opportunities and a way forward.

Traffic & Transport Walkabout & Workshop: 10am-12 noon Friday 6 February 2015. Opportunity for agencies, Angus Council officers and community representatives to take part in a walk and group discussions on the emerging transport challenges and opportunities.

One to One Discussions: 1pm - 2.30pm Friday 6 February 2015. The Design Studio will be open to stakeholders and interested parties for final one to one discussions.

Work In Progress: Review Workshop & Exhibition: 10am – 12 noon Saturday 7 February 2015. Opportunity for everyone to view how the exhibition has progressed and hear a presentation of work in progress and ask questions.

Final Presentation of Brechin Town Centre Vision, Framework & Action Plan: Thursday 19 February 3pm - 4.30pm & 7.30pm - 9pm. The exhibition opens at 2pm. This will be final opportunity to hear a presentation of the proposals and agree next steps.

Members of the community, local businesses and interested parties are encouraged to attend particular individual events as well as visit the Design Studio. Design Team members will be available to encourage feedback on and refine emerging proposals.

The design charrette will take full account of recent work which has already been undertaken in the area to develop a vision and plan for Brechin, including the Local Development Plan, work undertaken by the Brechin and Area Partnership over the last two years and the Brechin Townscape Heritage Initiative investment.

Come along and have your say, you will be made welcome. For further information contact Sarah Kettles, Communities Manager – Brechin & Montrose Email: Kettlesss@angus.gov.uk, cldBreachin@angus.gov.uk or on Tel: 01356 627460. You can also get updates and follow the discussion on Twitter @brechintalks using #brechintalks.

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Arbroath Musical Society

11 - 14 February 2015
Webster Memorial Theatre, Arbroath

Tickets available from the Box Office on 01241 438500
£12 / £10 concessions & £35 family (2 adults & 2 children)
http://www.webstertheatre.co.uk/boxoffice.htm

Monty Python's SPAMALOT

A new musical 'ripped off from the movie picture MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL'

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW FROM the Webster Theatre Box Office!

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If you would like to post any information in the Bulletin please contact Beth Cargill on 01241 875525 or email beth@voluntaryactionangus.org.uk

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