

Charitymatters

December 2009 ISSUE 28

Leicester Civic Society

To Mr Gordon Goode

Welcome to Charity Matters, a free monthly eZine we think you will find a useful and informative resource. It is distributed monthly to approximately 30,000 selected charities based throughout the UK and is designed to help keep you abreast of issues of potential interest.

We welcome any comments you may have on how we could improve the content of our newsletter to ensure that it remains relevant to you. Please email us at theteam@ezinematters.com with your input.

Advertisements – up to 150 words per issue. The cost for one month is just £95+VAT, three months for £75+VAT per issue or order 6 months for only £66+VAT per issue.

NEWS

CHILDREN KILLED BY CHRISTIANS IN NIGERIA

Thousands of children in Nigeria, some as young as two and a half years-old, are being accused of being witches by Christian pastors, and subsequently being abandoned, tortured and sometimes killed by their families.

According to the specialist charity Stepping Stones, which provides refuge for the accused children, around 5 or 6 a day are being blamed for a range of unexplained tragedies in families, such as a sudden death. In one shocking case a father, told by a pastor that his son was a witch, killed his son by covering him with acid.

The readiness of adults to believe the claims made against their children has led to a number of unscrupulous individuals charging families "deliverance money" to

"exorcise the evil spirits"

The tragic plight of the accused Nigerian children has been the subject of two Dispatches documentaries on Channel 4

ORPHANED BY POVERTY

Most children in orphanages in developing countries are there because their parents cannot afford to look after them, Save the Children has revealed.

In central and eastern Europe the percentage of those with at least one parent alive is 98%, with 94% in Indonesia, 90% in Ghana, 88% in Liberia and 80% in Sri Lanka.

According to UN figures 8 million children live in orphanages and other institutions, with a greater likelihood of suffering stunted growth, behavioural problems, a lower IQ, and higher risk of abuse if disabled, than those at home or with foster parents.

DEATH AND SUNBEDS

Cancer Research UK have warned that prolonged sun bed use could be putting the health of 250,000 children at risk. Government estimates show that the habit kills 100 people a year in the UK.

The charity's surveys indicate that an average of 6% of 11 to 17 year-olds use sun beds, often due to peer pressure to get a tan, with the percentage doubling in cities such as Sunderland and Liverpool where half of 15 to 17 year-old girls said they used sun beds.

It has been estimated that sun bed use by under-18's increases the risk of developing malignant melanoma, a deadly form of skin cancer, by 75%.

BANKER STOLE FROM CHARITY

An investment banker has been given a two year suspended prison sentence after he admitted stealing £232,000 from the Dinam Charity, which had been set up by his grandfather.

Johnathan Davies, 65, used the money to fund purchases of wine, golf club memberships and private school fees for one of his daughters. Davies, the £37,000 a year secretary and a trustee of the charity wrote cheques out to himself over a 14-year period until other trustees noticed that the charity's debts had increased by 7,500% and called in the police.

TIME TO FIND A HUMANE WAY

The cruel and un-necessary branding of wild Exmoor ponies with a red hot iron has been in the news recently.

The pony welfare group, People 4 Ponies have called the practice "grotesque", and the RSPCA have called it "unacceptable"

Those who support it describe it as "a necessary hardship"

HOSPITAL REJECTS FREE CAKES FOR PATIENTS

Royston Hospital, part of the East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust, have rejected a donation of home-made cakes for their elderly patients, on grounds of health and safety.

The gift is part of a donation to the hospital that has been made by the Royston Runners for the last 24 years. Those wanting to participate in the annual 10 kilometre fun run have to provide cakes as entry fees, and some of these are auctioned off with a share of the proceeds going to the hospital, along with any unsold cakes. This year, due to the rejection, the Runners have given the cakes, along with a cash donation, to an appreciative local care home.

According to a report in the Daily Telegraph the hospital's management have since apologised, and reversed their decision, following the negative publicity.

PREMIUM RATE SCAM GROWS

Everyone should be aware of the following scam, becoming more widespread as Christmas approaches.

A card through the door indicates that a delivery service was unable to deliver a parcel and gives a contact number. This is actually a premium rate number originating in Belize and anyone calling it is billed at least £15 by their telecoms provider, which takes a cut of the money made from the scam, or the proceeds of crime as it is called.

Unfortunately our UK telecoms providers claim they are powerless to stop the scam, from which they profit, so it's down to their customers to look after themselves. Pass it on.

READER REPLY

1) From Sue Albery

Hi

I would like to support Dr Parsons in his concerns over the activities of charities who send postal appeals to elderly people. My mother died this year aged 95 she supported several charities but received an ever-growing number of appeals from other charities often to her irritation containing free gifts.

She believed and I would agree with her that her contributions to her charities of choice, all well respected established organisations had triggered these other appeals.

Since her death they have continued in spite of returning the envelopes indicating that she is deceased.

As someone who works for a small charity I feel strongly that these practices create a negative attitude to charity fundraising.

Regards Sue Albery

2) From Dilys Griffiths

Dear team,

I read with interest the letter of Dr D Parsons in the Nov issue. I have had exactly the same problem with BT continuing to send bills and with some charities and junk mail of course, when my mother and an elderly second cousin died. It took roughly six months of returning them 'to sender' as unsolicited mail - even the charities - to reduce the flow. Two years later one charity has continued! I bin them now and have moved so hopefully i won't have to deal with them again.

Best wishes, Dilys Griffiths

3) From Norman Bartlett

While sympathising with Dr Parsons, I suggest he has been a little too kind in his

dealings with unasked-for suppliants and given himself unnecessary work. Whether it comes from a charity or commercial firm makes no difference whatsoever. He should simply put a line through his mother's address, write RTS (return to sender) in large letters on the envelope and pop the missive back in the letter box, unopened.

It will get back to Melksham (presumably a mailing house) or where ever and eventually the mailings will stop. Returned mail is dealt with by senders or their agents in different ways. Usually the returned mail will be accumulated for cleaning the mailing list from which it comes. When? It depends on how much has been accumulated, perhaps weekly, monthly, quarterly or when it gets to 1,000 or 5,000.

Errors in mailing lists are like a virus. They spread surreptitiously as addresses are rented from one agency to another, lists are merged and lists created. Some errors persist for ages. Once every 2 or 3 years we get a mailing to the previous residents of our house. We moved in over 30 years ago!

regards Norman Bartlett

4) From Tony Smith

So much of Government legislation affects Charities. While individual charities should not become political there is a niche for your team to evaluate government legislation on our behalf and even take sides.

Regards Tony

5) From Gillian Crow

Sir,

Your attack on Gordon Brown, following the trend – or is it a downright campaign? – to discredit our Prime Minister is unworthy of your publication. There does seem to be a co-ordinated campaign by the British media to get him ousted from office, in the same way that our press has waged campaigns on successive Prime Ministers and Opposition leaders ever since the days of Margaret Thatcher. This is not democracy; it is the rule of the press barons. Please do not become part of this. You may or may not know that Gordon Brown is a highly respected politician in just about every country except ours – because everything he does is twisted by the media to his disadvantage.

Please, let us be ruled by the electorate, and not by the dictates of the media. Starting with you.

Gillian Crow

6) From Gillian Crow

This is the second month you have used your ezine 'Charity Matters' to denigrate our Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.

This is surely not what you should be about. You are obviously politically biased, one might say politically motivated.

I do not want to subscribe to a political propaganda ezine, especially one masquerading as a charity one. If you are going to continue in this vein, our charity will no longer wish to subscribe.

Gillian Crow

7) From Ray Jackson

Hi

I loved the article from the BLT (British Liver Trust) even the acronym wasn't a healthy option. Fortunately I do not drink wine so these offers pass me by. I just wondered if Guinness would prove to be healthier option. If that was the case I would certainly consider taking them up on their offer.

Cheers Ray Jackson MBE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GET AN EVENT QUALIFICATION IN 2010

The Society of Event Organisers (SEO) have announced dates for their qualification courses in event organisation in 2010, all hosted at 16, Park Crescent London.

- o The 4-day Certificate in Conference Organisation (CCO) on April 6/7/8/9, August 24/25/26/27 and November 19 and 26, and December 3 and 10.

- o The 8-day Diploma in Conference Organisation (DCO), for delegates who hold the CCO, on August 3/4/5/6/10/11/12/13.

- o For those marketing a venue to the sector the Certificate in Conference Venue Marketing (CCVM) on August 17/18/19/20.

All course fees are subject to a 20% discount for SEO members. Free sign up and full details at www.seoevent.co.uk

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- www.ezinematters.com- Charity Matters- Marketing Matters

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