

DIGITAL WM NEWS

Compiled and collated by RnR Organisation

Vol 1 Issue 3 Mar 2017



Digital WM News is a monthly compilation of #techforgood news, events/training, offers/tips, people, reading and vacancies of interest to people in the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sectors from around the West Midlands – circulated via email; subscription details on P.4



News

Third Issue of Digital WM News & comments on Second Issue

Welcome to the third issue of our new monthly newsletter which we hope will help people in the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sectors around the West Midlands to get more out of technology and the web. We love hearing what our readers think about it. Comments on Issue 2 included "Love it!".

We'd also love to have your news, events/training, offers/tips, people, reading and vacancies for consideration in future issues.

Deadline 21st of each month

- **Pauline Roche, RnR Organisation**

OPEN DATA DAY 2017 IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

Celebration of Global Open Data Day including presentations on VCSE sector. Full report [here](#)

KIRSTY MARRINS: 10 INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN IN CHARITY DIGITAL

Kirsty Marrins marked International Women's Day by highlighting the leading digital female figures in the sector for Third Sector [here](#)

268 WOMEN IN THE UK WHO COULD SPEAK AT YOUR TECH EVENT

"This is just a tiny sample of the thousands of women working in tech in the UK, including startup founders, vendor executives, CIOs, security experts, developers, technologists, lawyers and academics". Includes list of 32 academics, freelancers, trade bodies, thinktankers and non-profits

Full list compiled by Charlotte Jee [here](#)

DIGITAL MATURITY BENCHMARK FOR THE CHARITY SECTOR

A [tool](#) allowing organisation's to understand their current level of digital maturity compared to where they want to be in the future, and some analysis – from Tom Kluge's [blog](#).

iSANDWELL – SUPPORTING DIGITAL SKILLS IN THE REGION

Do you have an idea for a digital project that will help your organisation better interact with the people you support in Sandwell? It could be anything from staff training, toolkits for working to even the design of digital platforms - there is

no such thing as a bad idea, be as big and bold as you like. Use [this form](#) to submit your ideas

This is a follow-on from the first iSandwellCamp on March 9th 2017, a Sandwell Council initiative, powered by local social innovators, [New Union](#)

CHARITIES AND DIGITAL REPORTS

This month saw the publication of 3 important reports focussing wholly, or in part, on charities and digital:

1. Facing forward: How Small and Medium-Sized Charities can Adapt to Survive – Lloyds Bank Foundation report

Government, funders and large charities must take urgent action if small charities are to survive turbulent times ahead according to new analysis published by Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales.

... A greater need for digital and technological skills, falling public trust in charities and the need for charities to make their voices heard to ensure that the government's vision for a "shared society" involves the voluntary sector are also highlighted as issues.

Full report, published Mar 22nd 2017, available [here](#)

2. Charity Digital Skills report

Zoe Amar Communications have been working with Skills Platform to map digital skills across the UK charity sector. They surveyed just under 500 charity sector professionals in January to February this year.

Key findings include:

- 57% cite lack of skills and 52% cite lack of funding as the biggest barriers to getting more from digital.
- 50% of charities say that other organisational challenges are being given more attention. Digital is not seen as a priority.

- 75% of charities think growing their digital skills would help them increase fundraising, whilst 71% see opportunities to grow its network and 69% to deliver its strategy more effectively.
- 80% of respondents want their leadership team to provide a clear vision of digital and what it could help them achieve, whilst 66% want a good digital strategy. Almost three quarters (71%) of charities cite their board's digital skills as low or having room for improvement.
- Unless boards and leadership teams develop their digital skills, 66% are worried that they will miss out on opportunities for digital fundraising. If their board and leadership team do not increase their digital skills, more than half are worried about giving competitors an advantage (53%), losing touch with their audience (53%) or their charity becoming irrelevant (53%).

Full report published Mar 22nd 2017 available [here](#)

[Free toolkit](#) being launched April 7th

3. House of Lords (HoL) Select Committee on Charities report – no. 7 from NCVO's edited list of 42 recommendations

7. Charities and digital technology

- Charities should actively consider including a digital trustee role on their boards. We note the potential benefits to board diversity that would be likely to result from adopting such an approach.
- We recommend that infrastructure bodies share knowledge and best practice on innovation and digitisation across the sector and coordinate training opportunities, at minimal cost, for charities with limited digital experience.
- We recommend that the Big Lottery Fund provides support to enable this.

See full blogpost by Karl Wilding of NCVO [here](#)

Full HoL Select Committee [report](#) published March 26th 2017

Lloyds Bank Foundation [response](#) to HoL report

Want to hear more about the HoL report?

Hear Lord Rooker (Select Committee member) speak about report at CTWM AGM at BBC Children in Need, Mailbox, Birmingham, 17.45pm Apr 6th – free tickets [here](#)

BRUM YOUTH TRENDS 2017 REPORT LAUNCHED

This report, by youth engagement agency Beatfrees, allows young people in Birmingham



Events/Training

Apr 3rd

[The Black Country Skills Factory](#)
[Bite Sized course in Excel - Pivot Tables: Increase your analysing power](#)

Apr 5th

[PSIAMS](#)
[Transformation & Social Value powered by PSIAMS Systems](#)

Apr 5th

[Brum City Drive 2017](#)
[Hackathon](#), 12.30-17.30, Impact Hub Birmingham (Pre-Hack meetup, Mon Apr 3rd, 18.30-20.00, Impact Hub Birmingham – all welcome)

to have a platform to share their opinions, which is valuable data for all providers and potential partners. At the launch event, Beatfrees presented a snapshot of the data and encouraged attendees to identify opportunities and challenges in working with this demographic. Full report [here](#)

TECHNATION 17

Tech Nation 2017 is the most comprehensive analysis of the UK Digital Tech Ecosystem

Read the section on the Midlands [here](#)

Apr 5th

[West Midlands Code Club](#)
[Code Club Social and Meetup – Birmingham](#)

Apr 10th

[NetSquared Midlands: Tech for social good](#)
[Social media session: Facebook for community groups](#)

Apr 11th

[Decoded in partnership with DataKind UK & CAST](#)
[Decoding Digital Leadership for Charities](#)
Pivotal Software, Old St, London

RNR ORGANISATION BROKERAGE: One of the roles we envisage for this newsletter is to bring together practitioners in our core activities of digital skills development and voluntary sector (asset-based) development.

We currently support and deliver this activity through a variety of programmes and networks including Net Squared Midlands, Charitable Trusts West Midlands, West Midlands Open Data Forum and general advice and training to VCSE organisations.

We therefore see the opportunity of using this 'Offers/Tips' section to broker connections between people with skills who want to support VCSE organisations and VCSE organisations who need this type of support.

Interested? Please email us at RnR.Organisation@gmail.com about your interest and use the word 'Brokerage' in the subject line. Thanks.



People

Good to learn that there's some diversity in ICT across the region - Director for Transformation, Customer Service and ICT at Coventry City Council is **Lisa Commane**. She manages a team of technologists as a non-techie, having spent the majority of her career in project management for areas of the organisation such as major projects and finance. More details about Lisa [here](#)



Reading

[Harnessing The Power Of Technology To Bridge The Digital Skills Gap Among Young People](#) by Vicki Hearn, Nominet Trust



Vacancies (listed by Closing date)

Apr 3rd

[Head of Communications](#)

Vegan Society

Apr 16th

[Digital Design Change Officer](#)

Coventry

Apr 24th

[Radio Presenter](#)

[United Christian Broadcasters Ltd](#)

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