

News and information for Wales from:  
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## Week of events aims to increase engagement with democracy

**Monday 31 October sees the start of Parliament Week, which will see a range of UK-wide free events and activities – all with the aim of building greater awareness and understanding of democracy.**

In Cardiff, on Monday 31 October, there will be an all-day public workshop taking place at the National Museum, hosted by the UK Parliament's Outreach team. The morning session will focus on the work of select committees and will be presented by members of the Welsh Affairs Committee, including the chairman, David T.C. Davies MP. In the afternoon there will also be a workshop on the UK Parliament's scrutiny of legislation. A similar event will take place at Venue Cymru, Llandudno, on Thursday 3 November.

The Committee will be using these events as an opportunity to launch their inquiry into Support for Armed Forces Veterans in Wales, but it is also a chance for attendees to put questions to them. Members of the UK Parliament Outreach team will also be there to help you to find out more about how the UK Parliament works, and how the Welsh Affairs Committee examines matters which fall within the Secretary of State for Wales's responsibility, including relations with the National Assembly for Wales.

To reserve a place at this event contact the Parliamentary Outreach team on 0207 219 1650 or [parliamentaryoutreach@parliament.uk](mailto:parliamentaryoutreach@parliament.uk).

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## Latest survey shows Welsh third sector still concerned about the future

**The latest WCVA 'State of the Sector' survey, conducted in September 2011, showed that Third Sector Organisations continue to be pessimistic about the future.**

Overall, 43 per cent of over 400 organisations which responded felt that things were going to get worse in the next year, with nearly half (49 per cent) seeing a tougher financial situation. This is despite a reduction in organisations reporting that their financial situation had got worse in the last quarter from 35 per cent in June to 29 per cent in September.

The number of posts reported as being made redundant and the number of posts at risk also fell compared to January and June 2011.

More organisations that involve volunteers are reporting an increase in volunteers than are reporting a decrease, suggesting that, overall, people are still turning to volunteering to maintain or develop skills. However, examples of difficulties experienced by organisations show that the current economic uncertainties and the cuts in public expenditure are having a continued negative effect on the sector as a whole.

# WCVA Annual Conference & AGM – 24 November, Venue Cymru, Llandudno

**Titled *Fewer bucks but more bang*, this year's WCVA Annual Conference is on the theme of how groups can deliver more for less, and place impact and influence at the heart of their work in doing so.**

Taking place on 24 November at Venue Cymru in Llandudno, it aims to enhance the ability of third sector groups to demonstrate their impact, and improve their ideas and practical skills. The AGM will follow the conference.

A strong line-up of speakers is promised, including Carl Sargeant AM, Minister for Local

Government and Communities and Sharon Jones of CREST Co-operative.

Workshop topics include getting your message through to those in power, maximizing your use of digital media and demonstrating the role of volunteers in your impact. There'll also be plenty of time for invaluable networking.

To view the full programme and book your place, visit [www.wcva.org.uk](http://www.wcva.org.uk). For more information call WCVA Helpdesk on 0800 288 329, or search Twitter using hashtag #annconfwcva.

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## WCVA launches guide to third sector trading

WCVA has recently published a guide for third sector groups hoping to increase their funds through trading.

Titled *It's an idea, but is it a business?*, the guide is aimed at groups who are planning to start trading or already do, and plan to use any profits to achieve sustainability or for another charitable purpose. It covers subjects such as getting started, business planning, the role of directors,

financial monitoring and much more besides, and is rammed with invaluable advice and guidance.

'I hope the guide will help all those considering and undertaking trading within the third sector,' commented Graham Benfield, WCVA Chief Executive.

The guide is available to download for free at [www.wcva.org.uk](http://www.wcva.org.uk).



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