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# Charity Finance Summit

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I am delighted to announce the line-up for Civil Society Media's sixteenth annual Charity Finance Summit. The 2023 programme has once again been developed in response to feedback and insight from sector experts, and will deliver up-to-date presentations in key topic areas of investment, VAT & tax, and risk & strategy, alongside those invaluable networking opportunities.

The cost-of-living crisis and an inflationary environment means organisations continue to face even greater pressure to deliver to an increasing number of beneficiaries while battling to maintain income levels, and control their own expenditure. Never has the goal of "doing more with less" been so apposite – and the ability to meet it so tested.

The finance function plays a central role in ensuring charities are able to fulfil their missions on a day-to-day basis, while developing resilience, enhancing stability and maximising the chances of future sustainability. Charity finance leaders are the individuals who most directly contribute to their organisation's financial health. Ensuring a charity is fit-for-purpose, can meet its objectives and deliver real impact, while supporting its own staff through the cost-of-living crisis requires both knowledge and a calm approach. Access to expert advice from professional advisers, as well as communicating and sharing ideas and experience with peers, can give both insight and reassurance. The Charity Finance Summit aims to play a part in facilitating this process, as charities continue to do more with less.

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference in October.

**Tristan Blythe**, editor, *Charity Finance*

### PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

08:45	Registration
09:20	Conference welcome
09:25	Opening keynote
10:10	Morning sessions
12:50	Lunch
13:50	Afternoon sessions
16:25	Closing keynote
17:00	Networking reception



### Charity Finance WEEK

**2-6 OCTOBER 2023**

In October 2023 we will be celebrating excellence in charity finance practice through a dedicated week of events, content and thought-leadership initiatives.



#### CHARITY FINANCE WEEK EVENTS

**03 OCT** BEST PRACTICE REPORTING TRAINING

**03 OCT** WEBINAR WITH SAGE INTACCT

**05 OCT** CHARITY FINANCE SUMMIT

To view the full programme and other events visit:

[civilsociety.co.uk/CFWeek2023](https://civilsociety.co.uk/CFWeek2023)

# MORNING SESSIONS

08:45	Registration, refreshments, networking & time to visit exhibition			
09:20	Welcome from <b>Tristan Blythe</b> , editor, <i>Charity Finance</i>			
09:25	<b>The future of UK economic thinking</b> <b>Professor Tony Travers</b> , visiting professor in LSE department of government and director of LSE London As charities increasingly face having to do more with less, Professor Travers will draw on his vast experience as a political economist to present some thoughts on the wider public finance environment within which they operate. A well-respected commentator on the public sector and local government, his key research interests include public service reform. He is currently an adviser to the House of Commons Children, Schools and Families, and Communities and Local Government, select committees. He is a board member of the Centre for Cities and an honorary member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy.			
	Stream A – VAT & Tax 1	Stream B – VAT & Tax 2	Stream C – Risk & Strategy	Stream D – Investment
10:10	Chair's welcome: <b>Richard Bray</b> , finance regulatory & taxes manager, CRUK	Chair's welcome: <b>Ian Allsop</b> , contributing editor, Charity Finance	Chair's welcome: <b>Rob Preston</b> , news editor, Civil Society Media	Chair's welcome: <b>Tristan Blythe</b> , editor, <i>Charity Finance</i>
10:15	<b>1A. Employment tax update</b> <b>Nick Bustin</b> , director of employment, haysmacintyre This session will provide an update on topical employment tax issues, which may include announcements made by the government and HMRC, trends including recent IR35 cases, hybrid working, and salary sacrifice arrangements and cost-of-living issues.	<b>1B. VAT update</b> <b>Socrates Socratous</b> , VAT consultancy partner, Buzzacott Hear about the latest VAT developments, updates on new cases, and other topical issues including barter transactions.	<b>1C: Legal and regulatory update</b> <b>Shivaji Shiva</b> , partner, VVW This session will ensure you are up-to-date with key legal and regulatory changes, including the Charity Commission's guidance on both social media and responsible investment, the latest news on the implementation of the 2022 Charities Act, and other less high-profile developments that you may have missed.	<b>1D: New inflationary era? Ensuring sustainable withdrawals for the next decade</b> <b>Gareth Pearl</b> and <b>Olivia Marlow</b> , investment directors, Rathbones What does the uncertain outlook for growth and inflation mean for investment returns, and how can charities ensure their withdrawals balance current and future needs?
10:55	Networking and refreshment break			
11:25	<b>2A. VAT inspections at charities</b> <b>Alan Collins</b> , VAT manager, Bishop Fleming What kinds of questions do HMRC ask? This session will highlight some practical examples and case studies.	<b>2B. Taking responsibility for tax in a charity</b> <b>Vikki Watts</b> , tax director and <b>Parul Anand</b> , VAT director, BDO What are the key governance issues affecting the sector that you need to be aware of? This session will focus on effective approaches to tax risk management and ensuring efficiency of delivery.	<b>2C: How to deliver a successful digital transformation project</b> <b>Taylor Stevens</b> , senior project manager, Xledger, and <b>Bex McGann</b> , head of finance, Comic Relief This session will discuss the potential perils and pitfalls of implementing a digital transformation project.	<b>2D: Positioning portfolios for the changing world order</b> <b>Rob Clarry</b> , investment strategist, Evelyn Partners The current world order was thrashed out in the aftermath of World War II. But growing and important economic powers, notably China, did not sign up for this framework and want the world's economy to work differently. Russia's attempts to redraw the map of Europe provide further confirmation we have moved into a new paradigm. This tension is likely to lead to a long-term realignment of the global economy, with new rules and new thinking. This session will shed some light on these themes, and provide some ideas for how investors might navigate growing geopolitical risks.
12:05	Transit time			
12:10	<b>3A. Working with corporate partners</b> <b>Luke Savvas</b> , partner, Buzzacott A review of the tax considerations of fundraising initiatives with corporate partners, such as commercial participator agreements, and entering into joint ventures.	<b>3B. What does good compliance look like?</b> <b>Debbie Jennings</b> , VAT director, Moore Kingston Smith This session will include a look at the new penalty regime, practical considerations for charities, and discuss recommendations for demonstrating reasonable care and managing risk. VAT is a self-assessed tax, so the taxpayer, ie the charity, needs to take necessary steps to ensure compliance, while taking advantage of all potential VAT efficiencies.	<b>3C: Moving beyond crisis mode: how charities can adapt to a landscape where change is constant</b> <b>Alison Taylor</b> , CEO CAF Bank and CAF Charity Services CAF's research into how the cost-of-living crisis has affected charities and charitable giving in the UK will be covered in this presentation. It will examine the impact on finances, look at how charities might need to adapt, and provide some ideas about actions charities could take to help them emerge stronger and more resilient.	<b>3D: Investing for a brighter future</b> <b>Conan McKenzie</b> , portfolio manager and <b>Victoria Matthews</b> , managing director, BlackRock Energy, food, and climate are inter-related crises that have the potential to create feedback loops from which it is very hard to escape. Higher energy and food prices are directly and indirectly impacting the operating costs of charities, as well as their fundraising and investments. This session will explore the opportunity to help alleviate these issues by directing capital towards innovative companies, and also to deliver long-term sustainable returns.
12:50	Lunch, networking and time to visit exhibition			



A brilliant day with minded individuals discussing interesting charity finance related topics.

Natalie Swallow, Macmillan Cancer Support



It had been a few years since I last attended this event and it was great to be able to connect with so many other professionals working in charity finance and to discuss the critical issues facing us as a sector.

David Jones, Science Museum Group



# AFTERNOON SESSIONS

	Stream A – VAT & Tax 1	Stream B – VAT & Tax 2		Stream C – Risk & Strategy	Stream D – Investment	
13:50	<b>4A. International remote working</b> <b>John Williams</b> , employment tax director, Moore Kingston Smith What are the risks and opportunities of international remote working? This session will cover employer responsibilities for both UK and local tax, payroll implications, alternative hiring options, and recommended policy.	<b>4B. Recovering VAT on costs – basic principles</b> <b>Phil Salmon</b> , head of VAT, haysmacintyre This session will introduce the basic principles relating to the recovery of VAT on costs, including partial exemption and business/non-business methods.		<b>4C: Reinforcing compliance with AP automation</b> <b>James Smith</b> , head of commercial UK, Kefron Both Pancreatic Cancer UK (PCUK) and Mencap have utilised accounts payable (AP) automation to enhance operational efficiency and manage financial risks more effectively. This session will explore how AP automation benefits charities, unravel the connection between AP automation, compliance and risk management, assess measurable outcomes from PCUK and Mencap, and examine how to measure the impact of AP Automation.	<b>4D: AI revolution: how might AI impact charity investments?</b> <b>Andrew Maxwell</b> , investment director, charities, Investec This thought-provoking presentation will delve into the potentially profound impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the investment industry, and explore its implications for charity investments. AI has the capacity to reshape the landscape of investment management, introducing cutting-edge technologies and advanced analytics that may revolutionise portfolio management, risk assessment, and impact measurement. But the path ahead is uncertain, both investment managers and charities. [Please note title and synopsis of this presentation were created with the help of ChatGPT, but will be given by a human being!]	
14:30	Transit time					
14:35	<b>5A. Getting the most out of fundraising income – the tax considerations</b> <b>Paul Knight</b> , partner and <b>Parul Anand</b> , VAT director, BDO Tax and gift aid can impact the money your charity actually receives from all your hard work when fundraising. To ensure you get the most out of your income, this session offers some top tips on managing the tax on diversification and partnership working.	<b>5B. Tax implications of reorganisation, including property</b> <b>Jon Sparkes</b> , partner, Bishop Fleming As charities evolve they will often come up against the need to reorganise their existing operations and corporate structures. These changes will usually have tax implications and this session consider some common issues that arise, as well as the bear traps to avoid.		<b>5C: Beyond automation: taking digital finance transformation to the next level</b> <b>Darren Cran</b> , COO, AccountsIQ Automation is just the start of your charity's digital finance story. Once you've built that foundation, the next chapter is where the more impactful transformation emerges. This session explores what happens when finance – and the wider organisation – is empowered with real-time visibility of data insights. By sharing the right data with the right people at the right time, charity finance leaders become facilitators and not just problem solvers.	<b>5D: Inflation and volatility – what does this mean for charity portfolio construction?</b> <b>Ajay Johal</b> , investment director, Ruffer We are entering in an environment starkly different to the one we have experienced for the past 40 years, one of more volatile – but higher – inflation. What does this mean for charities looking to build resilient portfolios that can serve their beneficiaries for the future? This session will discuss how the investment landscape has changed, question whether the current typical charity portfolio will work, and suggest some rules that could be followed to help weather the storm.	
15:15	Networking & refreshment break					
15:35	<b>6A &amp; B: HMRC Panel: Latest updates and your questions answered</b> Charities are operating in an increasingly complex regulatory environment where good practice is essential to ensure the financial health and reputation of an organisation. This session will help you to safeguard your finance function by staying top of the recent VAT and tax developments affecting charities. Representatives from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will present short updates on key areas, and the prerequisites for compliance. They will then be available to answer your questions on a range of taxation topics including VAT, employment tax and gift aid.				<b>6C: Linking risk to strategy</b> <b>Simon Hopkins</b> , director of finance and corporate resources, Versus Arthritis Versus Arthritis has recently restructured its approach to risk management to put much greater emphasis on major, thematic risks as well as addressing operational risk. This piece of work is part of much bigger exercise to look at the charity's underpinning business management practices, known as the foundations review. This session will discuss the thinking that led to this change, as well as how this approach provides a more intuitive link to Versus Arthritis' new strategy which was launched in early 2023.	<b>6D: Never say never again: Bonds are back (sustainably)</b> <b>Madeline King</b> , head of research and engagement, LGIM The low bond yields of the past decade left charity investors focused on equities in the belief that there was no strategic alternative. But has the recent sharp rise in yields changed all that? And if so, how can investors look to invest in bonds sustainably?
16:15	Transit time					
16:25	<b>Closing keynote: A force for the future – Artificial intelligence and charities</b> <b>Ravi Gurumurthy</b> , chief executive, Nesta The latest extraordinary developments in artificial intelligence are widely acknowledged as having the potential to fundamentally transform the world as we know it. This wide-ranging tool is already being applied across numerous sectors and changing the way we learn, work and interact. The crucial question is how to maximise the benefits for public good while avoiding the biggest risks and managing the ethical implications. This session will consider the latest wave of developments in machine learning and how this might influence and impact the future of our sector.					
16:55	Chair's closing remarks, <b>Tristan Blythe</b> , editor, <i>Charity Finance</i>					
17:00	Networking reception					

“ A great opportunity to meet with like-minded professionals and to understand how we have got to where we are and what we need to do to move forward.

Kevin Gunton, Julian Support



“ Really relevant and thoughtful presentations addressing the concerns of charity finance professionals in 2023.

Nicola Silverleaf, The Honorary Treasurers Forum



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