



Valuing Your Volunteers

Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO)

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VAO is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland No 143208 and a registered Scottish Charity No SCO10691

Session overview

- What is Volunteers' Week
- Why Volunteers' Week is important
- Campaign resources
- Things to think about
- Case studies – Connect / Restart Orkney
- Discussion / Sharing Ideas



#VolunteersWeek

What is Volunteers' Week



- UK-wide campaign recognising contribution of volunteers and the significant impact they make
- Held annually first week in June - Monday 1 to Sunday 7 June 2026
- Launched in 1984 (running over 40 years!)



Why Volunteers' Week is important



- Celebrating and recognising volunteers
- Inspiring and recruiting new volunteers
- Bringing people together to share stories
- Recognising the impact of volunteering



Celebrating & Recognising Volunteers



- Volunteers should be celebrated all year round but Volunteers' Week provides an opportunity to highlight and thank them for the amazing work they do.
- Volunteers feel appreciated and more connected to the organisation = *supports volunteer retention.*
- Relationships are crucial – ask your volunteers how they would like to celebrate.

Inspiring & Recruiting New Volunteers



- Word of mouth - positive and enthusiastic volunteers will talk about their experiences and naturally encourage new volunteers to come forward.
- Use Volunteers' Week as a platform to promote volunteering roles, launch new projects, etc.
- Sharing volunteers' stories – give people an insight into the work you do, the experience of your volunteers, and what they get from it.

Bringing People Together



- Within the organisation – shared experiences of volunteers and staff.
- Within the community – being part of a national initiative.
- Shared learning through the stories provided over the week.

Recognising the Impact of Volunteering



- On individuals - e.g. health & wellbeing, connected to community, developing skills, employment, etc.
- On groups and organisations – capacity building, expanding reach and impact, funding support.
- Community as a whole – e.g. stronger and healthier communities, greater civic engagement, culture change.

Campaign Resources



www.volunteersweek.org

- A new online shop for 2026
- Social media assets
- PR & comms templates and tips
- Printable bunting and posters
- VAO Activity Ideas Sheet
- #VolunteerOrkney



Things to Think About



- Time
- Budget
- Staff or volunteer capacity
- Volunteer feedback



Case studies: Connect Project & Restart Orkney



Employability Orkney- Restart Orkney
4 June 2025 · 🌐

🌟 Volunteers' Week 🌟

Every Monday, Linda rolls up her sleeves and dives into organising and tidying up our beloved Glam Tin Shed. She's been an amazing addition to our crew. Linda gets along with everyone and from her previous work experience understands the full ethos behind Employability Orkney. Here's what Linda had to share about her volunteer experience with Employability Orkney.

"Volunteering's a grand way to chip in with your local community and meet a whole bunch of different folk. From my own work, I've had the chance to help out young folk and volunteering here. It's a real joy watching more youngsters pick up new skills and grow in confidence at Restart. Every day brings something new, keeping things lively, and you never ken what donations might roll in. It's a grand place to volunteer as there is so many different folk from many different ages and backgrounds and they all work together really well."



Thank you for listening!

Questions / Discussion / Ideas Sharing



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