



Voluntary Action Orkney

APRIL 2014

NEWSLETTER

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Local News and Events

Young Scot Awards

Three young people from Connect travelled to Glasgow for the final of the Young Scot Awards on the 10th April. Dan Clewett, Dave Hodgkinson and Craig Williamson represented all the young people past and present involved in the Inter-generational Befriending



project set up in partnership with VAO's Adult Befriending service.

The Connect Project was selected as one of the three finalists within the Heritage

category for the hard work they have done to preserve some of the community's most important heritage, the skills and memories of the older generations.

The young people met up with others traveling to represent Orkney, two young people from the West Mainland Awards group who were finalists in the Community Category and Kattel Roche who was representing Orkney's Youth Legacy Ambassadors.

The young people attended a Gala Dinner at the Crown Plaza hotel and then walked the red carpet to the Awards Ceremony held at the Clyde Auditorium.

The young people from Connect were thrilled when it

was announced that they had won the category. A huge congratulations must go to Dan Clewett who bravely made the acceptance speech in front of 1500 people.

After the Awards ceremony the young people rubbed shoulders with celebrities such as the stars of TOWIE, Nicholas McDonald and the GB women's curling team at a very glam after party.

It was fantastic to see young people representing their community and to share in their success. Well done.



SALTIRE AWARDS

Friday Friends 2013
Alice Scott, Isla Harcus, Isla Tait and Neve Leslie were presented with their 50 hour Saltire Certificate for their involvement with Friday Friends in 2013. All four girls showed commitment, enthusiasm and brought a real sense of leadership and team work to the group. Their volunteering will also count towards part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Friday Friends, Eunson Kloss
Five Saltire Awards were presented by Val from Eunson Kloss to young people

who have been volunteering with Friday Friends. Josh Emerson, James Muir, Owen Muir, Alan Craigie (pictured overleaf) all were given their 10 hours and Tara Simpson was awarded her 25 hours. The group attend Eunson Kloss on a Friday Afternoon to deliver activities for the residents.



Friday Friends, Eunson Closs

Girl Guiding

Sorcha Kirker received her 100, 200 and 500 hour Saltire Award for the volunteering she has completed with Girl Guiding. Sorcha has been volunteering with Girl Guides since 2008 in her home town of Bangor in Wales – since moving to

Orkney to study Archaeology at Orkney College she has been looking for new oppor-



tunities to get involved with. She has settled well into the community and is very motivated, conscientious and willing to give her time as a volunteer.

Volunteering in Orkney

The well-known fact that volunteering levels in Orkney are extremely high has been confirmed in the latest set of figures and statistics from the Scottish Household Survey. The survey is designed to provide accurate, up-to-date information about the characteristics, attitudes and behaviour of Scottish households and individuals on a range of issues. With a Scottish average of 29% of

respondents saying they had volunteered in the last 12 months, Orkney came out second top with a staggering 46% of people saying that they had volunteered in the last 12 months. This figure just goes to validate the tremendous work that volunteers and community groups carry out in the community. The full report can be found here <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002>

OSCR visit

Thanks go to OSCR for their visit to the county at the beginning of April. They were able to offer 2 open sessions for charity trustees, committee members or anyone interested in the work of OSCR and charities to attend. If you have any queries about OSCR subsequent to their visit and any of their regulatory requirements and/or Charity law, then do contact VAO, your local Third Sector Interface trained in Charity law.

Our Islands Our Future Conference Report

The report from the two day Our Islands Our Future Conference held last year in Kirkwall is now available from the OIC website at <http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/C/our-islands-our-future---publications.htm>



46 % of people in Orkney have volunteered in the last 12 months

Improved access to information on health and social care services

VAO News and Services

New Resources for Older Adults

Samuel Johnson once said, 'Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it.' One of the goals of Connecting Communities Project run by VAO in partnership with Orkney Health and Care (funded by the Change Fund) is to support the public in their search for information about health and social care

help available to older adults in Orkney. We have created two resources which are now available to everyone who is looking for this type of information. One can be found on a new website 'Growing



Older in Orkney' <http://vaoccp.wix.com/goio>

where in a section called 'Discover' you can do an online search using either InfoNet or ALISS and the other one is a printed Directory of Services for Adults, which can be collected from the VAO office. If you want to learn more about these options, please contact Kasha Jarosz at VAO.

VAO Staff changes

There have been some changes recently in the Admin team here at VAO. Shirley Ellis, who has been with us for 19 years retired at the end of March. We wish Shirley the very best for the future and hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement. We also said goodbye and good luck to Rachel Peace, Office Administrator at the Counselling Centre, who is leaving us to focus on her work with Age Concern Orkney.

Ewan Kennedy has joined us at Anchor Buildings as the new Office Administrator, with Karen Learmonth joining the team as our part time Administrative Assistant. Our dedicated volunteer receptionists will continue to provide their much valued reception cover in the afternoons. In the Counselling Centre, we welcome Cecily Cromby as the new Office Administrator. From left to right: Ewan, Karen and Cecily.



Legislation & Guidance Update

Procurement Reform (Scotland) Bill

The Procurement Reform Bill passed through stage 2 in mid-March with several amendments which relate to awarding contracts for health and social care services: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4/Bills/Procurement%20Reform/b38as4-stage2-amend.pdf>

The amendments state that “a contracting authority may award a contract for a health or social care service without seeking offers in relation to the proposed contract,” meaning that a local authority can choose to award a contract for health or social care without putting the contract out for competitive tender. In addition, the amended bill states that “Scottish Ministers must publish guidance on the carrying out of regulated procurements relating to contracts for health or social care services” and that contracting authorities must have regard for this guidance. The deadline for stage 3 amendments has yet to be confirmed.

Self-Directed Support

Following the commencement of the Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act on the 1st of April, local authorities across Scotland have a statuto-

ry duty to offer choice and control to those who require social care to live independent lives. The Act makes four options available to people which are designed to offer choice and control over the way they direct their support. With only around ten per cent of homecare service users in Scotland currently receiving direct payments, it is hoped that an emphasis on enabling people to direct their own care will prompt a shift that enables people to have greater autonomy over their lives. The Stroke Association have published their own guidance which brings together information on Self-Directed Support, advocacy and life after stroke: http://www.stroke.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/SDS_SCOT%20A5_Jan2014_Web.pdf

Employers beware... employment tribunal changes

Employment tribunals will now be able to order employers who lose tribunal claims to pay a financial penalty. The penalty will be awarded where an employer's breach has 'aggravating features'.

Also, Acas 'early conciliation' came into effect from 6 April, subject to transitional provisions. This means that anyone

thinking about making an employment tribunal claim will need to contact Acas first. Acas will then offer 'early conciliation' to try to resolve the dispute quickly and cost effectively. [View our free fact-sheet](#) for an overview of recent reforms. Members can get more detail on these changes from [updated FAQs](#).

New guide published to help charities avoid cheque fraud

Charities can take simple steps to avoid falling victim to cheque fraud, according to the Cheque and Credit Clearing Company (C&CCC), the cheque clearing body for England, Wales and Scotland. They said research from the umbrella body, The Payments Council, showed that 90 per cent of charities used cheques regularly. The C&CCC has published a new guide detailing what charities can do to safeguard themselves from fraud. Tips include drawing a line through all unused space on cheques, making sure cheques are not visible through the windows of the envelopes they are posted in and using the word 'zero' in place of 'nil', as this can easily be changed to 'nine'. For further details visit the Cheque and Credit Clearing Company [website](#).

29 May

Dementia

Awareness

Session @ VAO

4 June

Adult Protection

Session @ VAO

21-22 Sept

Entry Level

Crofting Course

@ St Magnus

Centre

Funding News

**Big Lottery Win
for Relationship
Scotland Orkney**

**£1 million for
Scotland's
Food Banks**

**'It is essential that
we gather the
views and
experiences of
social enterprises
and understand
what they want
and need to
thrive'**

Relationship Scotland Orkney

Relationship Scotland Orkney have recently been awarded almost £430,000 over a 5 year period following an application to the Big Lottery. The funding will be for the Family Connections Project which incorporates the development of the Child Contact Centre. Integral to this will be the new role of a Family Link Worker who will provide ongoing support to children and families affected by relationship breakdown and other issues. The Child Contact Centre service will expand to Stromness and the West Mainland in year 2 and in years 3, 4 and 5 RSO will provide a peripatetic service to some of the outer isles.

Community Action on Climate Change

Community groups taking action against the damaging impacts of climate change are to benefit from an extra

£1.5 million. The money will bolster the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF), enabling more carbon-cutting projects with a local focus to get underway. The cash boost, which takes the total budget for 2014-15 to £11.8 million, was announced alongside confirmation of the latest tranche of successful CCF projects, including the first Junior Climate Challenge Fund awards, by Minister for Environment and Climate Change Paul Wheelhouse.

Help for those in food poverty

People who have to access Scotland's food banks will receive help through a support package of £1 million over the next two years, the Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirmed this month.

Around £500,000 will be given to organisations who work with those in need, and are helping to address the un-

precedented demand for food banks, through the Scottish Government's two-year 'Emergency Food Aid Action Plan.' £500,000 will also be given to the charity FareShare which redistributes food from supermarkets to communities and charities. According to The Trussell Trust, the number of people who used food banks between April 2013 and February 2014 rose to 56,000, compared to around 4,100 people in that same period in 2010 and 2011. For more detail please visit: <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scottish-Welfare-Fund-helps-over-56-000-households-b7b.aspx>

Software warning for charities

Charities are being warned that support for Windows XP operating system ended on 8 April. This means there will be no more official security updates and bug fixes for the operating system from Microsoft.

Have your say.....

Social Enterprise Survey

A new national survey for social enterprises in Scotland has been launched by [Social Enterprise Scotland](#). The short survey covers policy and related areas, social investment and communications. The aim of the survey is to gather the views, experiences and expertise of social enterprises across Scotland to provide a resource for social entrepreneurs, policy-makers and support bodies.

Fraser Kelly, Chief Executive of Social Enterprise Scotland, said, "It's essential that we gather the views and experiences of social enterprises and understand what they want and need to thrive. We can then use this information to better inform our policy and campaigning and get the best deal for all social enterprises. Social enterprise is a way of doing business that confronts the economic challenges we face and contributes to economic growth, as well as having big social impacts." The survey is open to

any social enterprise in Scotland and can be [accessed here](#).

Welfare Reform Committee

Welfare Reform Committee - Your Say: Long Term Conditions: The Committee is taking evidence on the impact of welfare reform for those with long-term conditions and their carers: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/68298.aspx#sthash.RS9lZqj.dpuf>

Education & Training Opportunities

MSc Later Life Studies

The University of the West of Scotland is launching an MSc Later Life Studies part-time blended learning postgraduate programme from September 2014. The programme aims to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence of staff, carers and older people by introducing international debate around ageing, demographic changes and globalisation. It is aimed at health, allied health, social care, gerontology, policy and social work professionals in addition to those who have personal experience e.g. as a carer or an older person. For more information please contact the University on uni-direct@uws.ac.uk or call 0800 027 1000.

Opportunity to travel to USA

The Fred Edwards Trust has launched a new Transatlantic Fellowship in partnership with the Scottish Community Development Centre and the Highlander Research and Education Centre in Tennessee, USA. Titled 'The Power of One: Inspiring People to become inspiring people', the aim of the Fellowship is to invest in key individuals who are emerging as citizen leaders within their own communities in Scotland - as well as those who can inspire others and promote active citizenship, especially within areas of high deprivation. For more information please visit www.scdc.org.uk/news/article/new-transatlantic-fellowship-scottish-citizens

21-22 September
Entry level Crofting
@ St Magnus Centre

Scottish Crofting Federation courses



Saturday April 26th was the inaugural day of the year's Scottish Crofting Federation courses facilitated and organised by VAO. Seven hardy folk (plus tutor Jenny and Edwina, Local Course Director) braved camping facilities and a downpour to plant cell grown trees and remove rabbit proof tree protectors down at Happy Valley.

True grit spirit was shown as all coped magnificently with the weather (thanks to Joe who offered the use of his kitchen for warmth!), and



Dementia Awareness

29 May - Dementia Friendly Orkney are offering a Dementia Awareness session at VAO, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. For more information or to book a place on this or the Adult Protection session, please contact enquiries@VAO.org.uk

29 May
Dementia Awareness
session @ VAO

thoroughly enjoyed tutor, Jenny Taylor's instruction and vast knowledge of not only Happy Valley, but also of tree planting throughout Orkney. The weather cleared and the beauty of Spring was very much in evidence.



Look out for other SCF courses coming your way this year! Polytunnel course on May 3rd is FULL!

There are still places available on the **Entry level crofting weekend course, 21-22 September 2014** at St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall.

For more information or to book a place, please contact enquiries@VAO.org.uk

Adult Protection

4 June - Anne Mathieson Principal Social Worker, Adult Services, OIC, will deliver a session on Adult protection to anyone working with adults or in any community group that has vulnerable adults attending. From 5.30 pm to 6.30pm at VAO.

4 June
Adult Protection
session @ VAO

29 May
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Dates for your diary

Volunteers' Week

Volunteers' Week is an annual event which takes place from the 1st to the 7th June. It celebrates the contribution made by the millions of volunteers across the UK.

2014 marks the 30th anniversary of "Volunteers' Week" and the week provides a chance for all organisations, Voluntary or Statutory, large or small to say "thank you" to their volun-

teers, where they can publicly recognise the services and contribution made by them.



We hope that Volunteers' Week 2014 is going to be bigger and better than ever, and VAO would love to hear about any plans you may have to

celebrate the week. Everyone is invited to join this national celebration of volunteers and volunteering, it's up to you to decide exactly how you join in.

We'd love to hear from you if you have any plans for the celebrating the event, or if you'd like some idea's then get in touch with Fraser Devine at the office in Bridge Street or on 01856 872897 or enquiries@VAO.org.uk

Voluntary Arts Week

From 9 – 18 May, Voluntary Arts Week will celebrate creative activity across the UK and Republic of Ireland – and all cultural groups are invited to join in.

Whether you're part of a choir, knitting group, drama company or amateur orchestra – anyone who gets creative purely for the love of it can take part in Voluntary Arts Week. The idea behind the week is to showcase current activity – and encourage newcomers to join in.

Get your group on the Voluntary Arts Week map...



We want to highlight participatory arts and crafts events happening during Voluntary

Arts Week, so whether you're planning something special or just want to promote your usual activity/meet-up, list it for FREE on the Voluntary Arts Week events page and we'll help spread the word. Listing your activity is quick and easy, get started here - <http://voluntaryartsweek.org/list-event/>

For more information about Voluntary Arts Week visit www.voluntaryartsweek.org



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