



Voluntary Action Orkney

JUNE 2014

NEWSLETTER

Local News and Events

It's AGM time!

Monday 16th June saw members, staff and volunteers heading to the Pickaquoy Centre for VAO's AGM. The programme for the evening was a short business meeting, followed by an open forum to discuss issues that affect member organisations.

The business was soon concluded with Gail Anderson, Chief Executive pleased to report that VAO continues to provide high quality,

responsive support and advice to Orkney's voluntary sector as well as offering vital services in the form of our Befriending and Connect projects. The Annual Report highlights some of the achievements in the past year and can be viewed at www.vaorkney.org.uk or by hard copy on request.

Due to Jim Campbell and Linda Lennie retiring during the year we had some vacancies on the board and were delighted to receive two nominations. Malcolm Graves was welcomed as a

new Director and brings with him a wealth of experience in community learning and development. Bashir Hasham returned to the Board and will no doubt play a significant role in the New Facilities project in the coming years. As many of you will know, we have submitted a proposal to Orkney Islands Council for an extension to Kirkwall Travel Cen-

Hasham, Thelma Irvine, Keith Johnson, Sandra Rodwell and Richard Thomas.

The open discussion was planned as a result of feedback from members, who wanted to find out more about how the Scottish Referendum result will affect the sector. Representatives from both sides of the debate were invited to attend



to contribute to the discussion and we are grateful to Liam McArthur, MSP, and Graeme Ramage and Robert Leslie of Yes Orkney for taking the time to join us.

tre, where a number of our tenants are currently located. This would allow us all to be based in one building and achieve the benefits that shared accommodation provides. The Stage 2 proposal will now be considered by OIC in September, so watch this space!

Our Board of Directors was therefore confirmed as Peter Scott (Chair), Ian Cunningham (Vice-chair), Jan Judge (Treasurer), Sheila Garson, Malcolm Graves, Elaine Grieve, Bashir

Other topics were the difficulties groups have been experiencing with banks, whether trying to invest funds, changing signatories, or the 'disconnect' between local branches and head office and the drive for enterprising activity in voluntary groups and the challenges this can bring. If you would like to discuss any of these topics further please feel free to contact us. In particular, we are keen to gather evidence on difficulties in dealing with banks.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AGM	1
Volunteers' Week Celebrations @ VAO	2
Volunteers' Week @ the Fossil Centre	4
Saltire Awards	4
Connect Project	5
Role of a Chairperson	5
Plastic Bags	5
Social Enterprise	6
Volunteering opportunities	6
Education & training	7
Dates for your diary	7



Celebrating Volunteers Week 2014 in style!

On Monday 2nd June we held a Volunteers Week event in the Kings Street Halls to thank all our volunteers and recognise their hard work and commitments of the past year. At VAO we're really lucky to have around 100 volunteers, if you include our volunteer receptionists (both in Anchor Buildings and the Travel Centre), our adult and young person befrienders, and our Board

members (who are also all volunteers).

The young folk from the Connect Project prepared a fantastic lunch of homemade soup, sandwiches and home bakes.

Gail Anderson, CEO of VAO, presented our volunteers with certificates and the event was rounded off with a few games of Volunteers

Week bingo - always a firm favourite.

We'd like to say thank you to the young folk from Connect for the super lunch, and of course to all our volunteers who week in, week out contribute their skills and time to make a difference to other people's lives and the Orkney community as a whole.



THANK YOU TO
ALL OUR
WONDERFUL
VOLUNTEERS



WE
COULDN'T
DO IT
WITHOUT
YOU

Volunteers' Week at the Fossil Centre Community Cafe



Volunteers and staff gathered at the Fossil Centre Community Cafe on Saturday 7 June to mark the end of National Volunteers' Week. Sixteen of the Cafe's regular volunteers were able to be there to celebrate the contribution volunteers make to the community venture, now in its 6th year.

Volunteers contribute to the enterprise in many and varied ways - from baking, waiting, washing up and helping with publicity to laundry, growing flowers and vegetables and looking

after the community craft sales. Many have been involved since the Community Cafe first opened in 2009.

"It was great to be able to say thank you to our dedicated volunteers - we couldn't do it without them. I think they enjoyed the chance to have a social get-

together - and of course an opportunity to eat some of our delicious cakes!" said Tamsin Bailey, one of the Community Cafe's founders.

The Fossil Centre and Community Cafe are open 10am - 5pm seven days a week until October.



Saltire Awards

Stromness Academy

Pupils from Stromness Academy received their Saltire Awards for volunteering last week. They're pictured with other classmates who were involved in community activities with Voluntary Action Orkney over the school year. In all, pupils from the Academy contributed over 1,500 hours of their time to local organisations over the past year, through involvement with the Brownies, Scouts,



Folk Festival, Netball Orkney, Pier Arts Centre and St Peters residential home to name a few.



School S6 Induction earlier in the month to encourage young people to volunteer and promote the Saltire Award. Included in the workshop was a short quiz and a discussion session on what volunteering opportunities are available in Orkney. Pictured, a tie break activity to see which team won the quiz – tallest line wins the sweeties!



Kirkwall Grammar

Youth Development Workers Brian and Laura attended the Kirkwall Grammar

AWARDS FOR
ACADEMY &
GRAMMAR
PUPILS

Connect Project

This month the young people from Connect received certificates for manual handling and a customer care course they completed at the college. Gail Anderson, CEO VAO, presented the certificates to the group.



VAO News & Services

The role of the Chairperson

The Chairperson's role consists of two separate parts: **Planning and running meetings**, being sure everything is covered and decisions are made when required, keeping order, helping the group deal with differences of opinion and conflicts, being sure that everyone who wants to has a chance to speak.

Ensuring the organisation as a whole makes and sticks to priorities and policies, serv-

ing as a spokesperson for the group, making essential or emergency decisions between meetings and helping workers to deal with difficult situations.

The Chairperson has no more authority on a Board than any other member, and cannot take decisions without the full consent and permission of the Board as a collective. It is the Board of Trustees that govern a charity and who's duty it is to further the chari-

table purposes in their Constitution. They have collective responsibility for actions and decisions taken.

Being Chair of an organisation can be a daunting task, but knowing that you aren't alone can make the responsibility easier. Keep your committee informed and don't forget to delegate! If you are a chairperson and would like to know more, please don't hesitate to contact [VAO](#) to get more information.

Legislation & Guidance Update

Attention all retailers

As you probably know, The Scottish Parliament has passed [legislation](#) that requires ALL retailers in Scotland (food and non-food) to charge a minimum of 5p for each new single-use carrier bag (including paper, those made from some plant based materials and plastic). The charge will be effective from 20th October 2014.

[Zero Waste Scotland](#) is supporting Scottish retailers to help them understand their legal requirements under the Regulations. For more details please visit the [carrier bag charge Scotland](#) web-

site or contact them by [email](#) or phone: 0808 808 2268

They have also developed the Carrier Bag Commitment, a voluntary agreement designed to assist businesses in meeting their obligations to record, store and produce records as required. Further

details can be found [here](#).

Zero Waste Scotland will also be delivering a number of **retailer training sessions** throughout the country in July and August, offering practical guidance and question and answer sessions. They are currently finalising locations and would like to know whether there is demand for an event here in Orkney. The event would be held in the evening and last 1 – 1.5 hours. As they need interest from 15-20 delegates before committing to an event, please email [Kirsten Nicolson](#) if you would be interested in attending.



5p BAG CHARGE
FROM 20th
OCTOBER 2014

Social Enterprise

What is social enterprise - how can we tell if we are one?

The term social enterprise is being used a lot by government, both local and national, as a potential solution for all sorts of society's ills. The 'Big Society' is a term that's also used to describe a way that communities can earn money and help their members at the same time.

So what is it? A social enterprise is any organisation that sells goods or services and puts the profits back into the organisation rather than to shareholders. Think of a community hall, it earns money by letting out rooms

and then uses that money to run the hall or to repair and maintain the facility. That's social enterprise! A youth club that charges participants to attend and uses that money to buy snacks or go on trips; that's social enterprise too! A bus company that charges travellers and then uses that money to buy another bus or expand its routes; social enterprise!

In Orkney, this is not a new way of doing business, it's just going by another name. Charities can be social enterprises, companies can be

social enterprises, an unincorporated organisation can be a social enterprise; an individual can be a social entrepreneur! VAO is here to help all of you to run your organisation effectively and look at the ways you do earn money and help you do that well. If you think you might be a social enterprise, please get in [touch](#) and we will be happy to talk it through with you.

Please see Dates for your Diary for details of the next Social Enterprise Network Meeting.

Social Enterprise UK Awards

There are now less than two weeks left to apply to the awards.....so don't miss out, apply today!

The awards are open to social enterprises and include specific awards that investors, corporates, public sector bodies and charities may also apply for. All categories are open to organisations from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The awards are free to enter and should be applied to by the organisation putting themselves forward for the award.

Sue Perkins will return to host the UK Social Enterprise Awards ceremony in London on 26th November.

For more information please visit [Social Enterprise UK](#)



Volunteering Opportunities

Arthritis Care Scotland are looking to recruit motivated volunteer Leaders to deliver Tai chi for Arthritis in their local community. They are offering a course which consists of a 6 week learn at home programme followed by two days intensive training in Glasgow on the 9th and 10th of August 2014 where you will learn a basic form of T'ai Chi consisting of 6 - 12

easy to follow movements as designed by Dr Paul Lam. For further information please contact takecontrol@arthritis.org.uk or call 07769681783.



TAI CHI FOR
ARTHRITIS



Education & Training

Infant Massage

Midwives, Health Visitors, Family Support Workers and Early Years practitioners have recently undertaken a four day course in Infant Massage, funded by the Childcare Partnership. 14 professionals attended and once they have completed their written and practice assessments they will be Certified Infant Massage Instructors (CIMI) and members of the International Association of Infant Massage. The team hope to be

able to offer Infant Massage instruction to parents and primary care givers throughout Orkney. Participants gave very positive feedback on the training – “far exceeded expectations”, “everyone who works with babies and families should go on this training” – and the trainer, Ewa Westman is

happy to return to Orkney next year if there is demand. For further information please contact [VAO](#).



Scottish Crofting Federation Courses

July (date TBC) 2014
Conservation and Environment, delivered by the RSPB

20-21 September 2014
Entry Level Crofting Course

13 September 2014
Dry Stone Walling, delivered by Kevin Critchlow

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



Dates for your Diary

Social Enterprise Network

11.30am 16 July @ VAO Anchor Buildings.
It's time for our quarterly social enterprise network meeting! As always there will be muffins and coffee and an opportunity to meet

other organisations facing the same challenges as you and learn from each other about what is working, what isn't and explore ways of working together. Anyone involved in an organisation that is selling

goods or services is at its core, a social enterprise and these meetings are for you! Please get in [touch](#) to find out more and don't hesitate to come along and share your story.

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