

Newsletter June 2018

VAO News

Connect has Volunteers' Week 2018 all sewn up



The Connect Project's Art, Craft & Hobby group has been busy for the last few Wednesday afternoons, creating an eye-catching new banner to promote Volunteers' Week. The huge banner was designed and sewn by group members Kathryn MacIntosh, Deeanna Foran, Jessica Vasey, Jennifer Berg, Brandon Gillespie.

Connect Outreach Worker Caroline Evans explains, "The group was asked to create a banner for this year's Volunteers' Week, and I think they have really risen to the challenge, with this lovely, vibrant banner which can be used year after year. The Art, Craft and Hobby Group runs every Wednesday afternoon 1.30pm-3.30pm at VAO in Anchor Buildings and anyone aged 15-25 is welcome.

"You can come along on a Wednesday afternoon and make use of the project's art and craft supplies, or take along your own hobby to work on. Each week people have been working on a range of things, from machine sewing, to abstract art and Warhammer model painting."

Volunteers' Week is a chance to say thank you for the fantastic contribution millions of volunteers make across the UK. It takes place 1-7 June every year and is an opportunity to celebrate volunteering in all its diversity.

Tales from the Third Sector Interface (TSI) Network Supporting Volunteering For All

During Volunteers' Week, Voluntary Action Scotland published daily tales from the TSI Network about the support offered by TSIs to people and organisations to make volunteering happen for everyone all across Scotland.

VAO were one of their featured TSIs and they focussed on our Get Ready to Volunteer course run by Laura Leonard to increase youth volunteering. Click [here](#) to read the article.

A fab evening celebrating volunteers!

Youth Development Workers hosted a Quiz and Pizza evening to celebrate Volunteers Week. A big well done and thanks to all who came. Special mention to team Bampers for winning!



Local News

Eyes Open call by OIC chair of the Child Protection Committee

In the week that Orkney schools sound the end of term bell, Child Protection Committees across Scotland are encouraging the public across the whole country to be extra observant to help protect potentially vulnerable children when school's out for summer.

Child Protection Committees Scotland, a nation-wide grouping of child protection professionals, hopes their Eyes Open campaign will raise awareness that members of the public can play an important role to keep children safe from harm in the holidays. The group believes that everyone is responsible for child welfare in Scotland.

Independent Chair of the Orkney Child Protection Committee Andrew Lowe said: "Orkney children are about to take their annual summer break. For most local children this is a happy time filled with fun, but for some families the summer holiday is a time of increased stress and pressure. Some children are not supervised or cared for adequately, others might even experience serious neglect."

For information on Child protection click [here](#).

Click [here](#) for details of who to contact if you are worried about a child.

CHILD
protection committee orkney

It's everyone's job to
make sure I'm
OK!

If you're worried about a child or young person:

Speak to a teacher, social worker, police officer or health professional

Contact Orkney Health and Care Children and Families Services on
01856 873535

Phone **01856 888000** outwith office hours in case of emergency

Who's behind the Blue Door?



Kirkwall East Church	2 – 7 July
Indoor Bowling Association	9 – 14 July
Youth Café	16 – 21 July
East Mainland Kirk	23 – 28 July
Burray FC	30 July – 4 August

Also in the News

Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland fights for No Life Half Lived in Scotland

Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS), the charity that wants to reach the 1 in 5 with chest, heart and stroke conditions, has this week launched a new vision; No Life Half Lived. CHSS has an ambition that everyone in Scotland gets the care and support they need, when and where they need it.

There are over one million people in Scotland living with the effects of serious chest and heart conditions and stroke. Most people will not have access to the support or rehabilitation services that would help them live healthier lives and CHSS want to change that. By 2021 they will double the number of people they reach by launching the No Life Half Lived Rehabilitation Support Service, and increase the support available through their specialist nurses, community groups, advice and information.

Jane-Claire Judson, Chief Executive CHSS said, 'We want to help people breathe better. We want people's hearts to work as well as they can. We want to make sure that everyone has the best recovery they can after a stroke.'



**NO LIFE
HALF LIVED**
#NoLifeHalfLived

Read more about No Life Half Lived [here](#).

Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland have a short survey where they would like you to tell them about your experience of living with chest or heart conditions, or the impact of a stroke. The short [survey](#) runs from 20 June to 31 July. If you would prefer a paper copy please call 0131 225 6963 or [email](#).

Legislation & Guidance

OSCR publishes interim safeguarding guidance

The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has published interim guidance on safeguarding. Safeguarding is the action that an organisation takes to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults to protect them from harm.

This includes making sure that the appropriate policies and procedures are put in place. Safeguarding includes child protection but goes further and extends to all vulnerable beneficiaries.

Safeguarding Guidance: Keeping vulnerable beneficiaries safe explains what is meant by safeguarding and highlights key steps charity trustees can take to make sure that it is considered in an appropriate way. The guidance also looks at how charity trustee duties set out in the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 relate to safeguarding issues.

View the interim safeguarding guidance [here](#).

Funding & Finance



Carers Act Transformation Support Fund

The Carers Act Transformation Support (CATS) Fund is being managed by SCVO and will give third sector organisations with a role in the local rollout of the Act the opportunity to apply for small grants to improve their capacity to do so.

It is expected that transformation costs will centre on systems such as IT, accounting, data collection, data protection and recording and associated templates, paperwork and procedures.

The amount available for distribution via this grants programme for 2018/2019 is around £500,000, with grant awards of up to £10,000 available for single applications. Collaboration between organisations is welcome and larger awards will be considered where collaborative approaches demonstrate economies of scale, wider sector benefit and innovation. Find out more [here](#).

The Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund is OPEN

The Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) provides grants and support for community-led organisations to tackle climate change by running projects that reduce local carbon emissions, with initiatives including energy efficiency, sustainable travel, local food and resource efficiency.

Community-led organisations not currently in receipt of a CCF grant are invited to apply for funding of up to £150,000 per organisation, per year for 2019/20 and 2020/21. The deadline to submit an Expression of Interest, the first stage of the application process, is 5pm on 3 August 2018. Current CCF Grant Recipients should contact their CCF Development Officer at Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Find out more [here](#).

National Trauma Training Programme – Funding Update

More support for front line workers responding to psychological trauma was announced this month by Deputy First minister John Swinney. An additional £1.35 million from the Scottish Government will be invested to create a national training programme, developed for workers supporting people who have had adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and traumatic experiences in adulthood, such as physical or sexual abuse.

The programme will be led and co-ordinated by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) who will work with partners, including people with lived experience to create and deliver quality training resources.

Mr Swinney said: “This training will give front line workers the knowledge skills and confidence they need when responding to people affected by adversity and trauma – giving choice and control to people who need it most”.

The three year Scottish Government funding package aims to provide direct training to over 5,000 people across all sectors of the Scottish workforce. A national trauma training plan will be created and published before the end of 2018.

Click [here](#) for more information and a short animation on Trauma-informed practice for the Workforce. Please feel free to share it widely and to use it in training where useful.

Volunteering opportunities

Gardeners needed!

Orkney Children's Residential Services are looking for gardeners to help update the garden at Rendall Road.

Enthusiastic, motivated and energetic gardeners are wanted to help dig out borders and develop a blank gardening canvas into a pleasant garden environment.

Supervision and support will be provided by the staff at Rendall Road and gardening equipment will be provided.

If you are interested in helping to provide a pleasant and welcoming garden for the children to enjoy please contact Rob McGregor on 872 897.



CLAN are also looking for keen gardeners to help with the maintenance and upkeep of their beautiful garden at the back of the CLAN shop. You do not need green fingers but should be enthusiastic, willing to learn and ready to get stuck in!

Girl Guiding Orkney Need Leaders!



Girl Guiding Orkney are looking for 2 Team Leaders and 10 Leaders to lead and develop their activities in Orkney.

Team Leaders (Commissioners)

Girl Guiding Orkney are looking for two team leaders (this could be a role share) supporting and managing other volunteers by becoming a local commissioner - one in the West Mainland and the other would cover Kirkwall, East Mainland, Burray & South Ronaldsay. In this role, you'll be responsible for and accountable to the whole membership of your district and for

ensuring the delivery of quality guiding. This is a big responsibility and also a brilliant opportunity to have a real impact.

As a commissioner, you'll provide inspirational leadership to your local team as you work together to create exciting opportunities for girls and young women. Of course, you'll also have lots of fun as you get to know the volunteers you support.

You will need to have an open and approachable manner, be reliable and trustworthy. Have excellent communication skills, an ability to manage time and prioritise tasks, good decision-making skills and an ability to motivate and inspire adult volunteers.

Leaders

Whether leading a unit, or helping out more casually, you'll run activities, games, projects and events that give girls the opportunity to discover their potential and the world around them. If you'd like to lead a guiding group, you'll be supported to complete our Leadership Qualification, with training on everything from planning your programme to child safety. We are looking for leaders for

Rainbow, Brownie & Guide units throughout Orkney to offer this amazing opportunity to more girls in our Community.

GGO are looking for individuals who are seeking a highly rewarding role where you'll develop great relationships with your team and your girls.

If you are interested in either of these fantastic opportunities please contact [Rob McGregor](#) on 872 897

For details of other volunteering opportunities, please visit the [VAO website](#) or contact [Rob](#) on 872897.

Have your say



Charity Tax Commission launches public call for evidence

The Charity Tax Commission has launched a consultation seeking views on whether and how the tax treatment of charities – estimated to be worth around £3.7bn a year – needs to be reformed.

The review, the first systematic look at charity tax reliefs in over 20 years, will examine the role charities play in society, and seek to identify ways to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the current system.

The call for evidence will close on Friday 6 July. As part of the consultation, the commission will also be holding a series of public evidence-gathering meetings across the UK during the consultation period. Click [here](#) for more information.

Consultation open on disclosure regime

Disclosure Scotland has launched a public consultation asking for feedback about proposals to simplify and modernise the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme.

The 12-week consultation closes on 18 July 2018. It is seeking views from stakeholders on a set of proposals, including how a mandatory PVG scheme would work, as well as membership duration and fees. Read more [here](#).

Disclosure Scotland will be in Orkney in July 2018.

They want to meet with as many folk as possible to look at the key areas of the current PVG consultation so come to meet them and have your say

- Thursday 12 July, John Rae room, Stromness Library, 10am to 12noon
- Thursday 12 July, VAO Board Room, Bridge Street, Kirkwall, 2pm to 4pm
- Friday 13 July, VAO Board Room, Bridge Street, Kirkwall, 1230pm to 2.30pm

ALL are welcome, both statutory and third sector.

To book a place, contact enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk

If you can't make one of these sessions, but are keen to speak to Disclosure Scotland about the consultation, they will be available from 09:00 to 11:00 on the morning of the 13 July and would be happy to visit an organisation at their premises.

Democracy Matters – conversations on how local decision making can be improved

Scottish Government have launched a conversation to help inform their planned work on a Local Governance Review. Conversations within communities of place, interest and experience are being encouraged and to help Scottish Government have provided some supporting information and a fund is available to help small groups host their own conversations.

These community conversations will help inform the shaping of legislation during 2019 and then the considering and implementation of any legislation that follows on how communities can better be involved in decision making.

A short [animation](#) summaries the review and the five questions being asked: "In modern Scotland power must work in a way that involves and benefits everyone. To get this right, we will review how responsibilities and resources can be shared across national and local government in a way that delivers the greatest benefit to Scotland's different places. However, the starting point must be with our citizens and the power and potential within our communities themselves."

Information about Democracy Matters is available [here](#).

Information about the fund to support individual conversations can be found [here](#).

Social Security and In-work Poverty Inquiry

The Social Security Committee has launched an inquiry into Social Security and In-work Poverty. Please click [here](#) for a link to the call for written views.

The Committee would be grateful to receive written submissions by Thursday 23 August 2018. If you wish to make a written submission please read the privacy notice about submitting your views to a Committee. This tells you about how the Committee process your personal data.

For any questions, the Social Security Committee clerking team can be contacted by [email](#) or on 0131 348 5320.

A Culture Strategy for Scotland – Update and Public Consultation

The Scottish Government has launched a public consultation on a draft Culture Strategy for Scotland. The draft strategy is bold and ambitious and commits to long term change through greater collaboration and integration across culture, communities and policy development. The [Consultation](#) will run until 19 September.

Working with Scotland's Communities survey



Education Scotland and the CLD Standards Council have commissioned research into the community learning and development workforce. They are keen to hear from the widest possible range of practitioners, volunteers, employer organisations and stakeholders. Your views are important for them to be able to understand who is doing what across Scotland. This helps to better advocate for community learning and development, and better support the workforce, volunteers, employers and organisations with the training and development needs.

Please click [here](#) to complete the Working with Scotland's Communities survey.

NSPCC Scotland Parents' Survey

The NSPCC is carrying out a [survey](#) to find out more about the families that live in your area, what their needs are and how NSPCC can best support them. The information learned from this survey will help inform their local campaigns and make sure that the work they are doing is relevant to where you live.

The survey should not take more than five minutes to complete. Please feel free to share the survey with other parents.

If you have any questions please contact [Carla Malseed](#), Local Campaigns Manager.

Education & Training

Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau – Universal Credit Training 23 or 24 August



Orkney CAB are offering a one day Universal Credit Training session before the introduction of full service in September. It is designed for front-line staff who would like to know more about the process in order to correctly advise their clients or to know when to signpost them on for help.

The course will cost £25 per head and this will include lunch and refreshments. The course will be held on the following dates (please note that attendance is only required on one day):-

Thursday 23 August 2018 – 9.30 to 3.30 or
Friday 24 August 2018 – 9.30 to 3.30

If you would like to reserve your space please contact [Orkney CAB](#) on 01856 875266. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and the closing date for bookings is 5pm on Friday 10 August. Please notify us of any special dietary requirements or access needs at the time of booking.

Women's Aid Orkney Domestic Abuse Training

Women's Aid Orkney will be running a number of Domestic Abuse training sessions this autumn. They can provide in house training for organisations or at Women's Aid Orkney. Dates are as follows:

In house training from 13.00 – 17.00 on:
4, 18 September
2, 16, 30 October
13, 27 November
11 December

At WAO from 13.00 – 17.00 on:
14, 28 September
12, 26 October
9, 23 November
7, 21 December

Please contact info@womensaid.org.uk to book. The sessions are free until end of 2018 and can be tailored to your needs.

Professional Development Awards through Orkney College starting in September

Orkney College will be delivering two Professional Development Awards in 2018/19 on [Dementia](#) and [Autistic Spectrum Disorders](#).

The certificate in supporting individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorders can attract more or less 100% funding through a part time SAAS fee grant.

The Certificate in Promoting Excellence in Dementia Skilled Practice can attract part funding of ITA £200.

Please click on the links above for more information.

Digital Champion Training

Are you an organisation working with people in your community who are facing social exclusion? With your established and trusted relationships you're well placed to help people benefit from getting online by developing their essential digital skills.

One Digital can provide you with high quality and tailored training to help your staff feel confident in supporting people facing digital exclusion. They help to give you the skills to support your clients to get the most from being online. Don't worry, you don't need to be a digital guru; it's all about your people skills.

"Helping others to learn and use the internet for their own benefit is enormously satisfying and gives me a real boost."

They can tailor the training topics where possible to best meet the needs of you and your clients. This could include topics such as accessibility, gaining employment, financial inclusion, health and wellbeing and communicating with friends and family. You will also get free access to the Digital Champions Network, and online learning community with courses, resources and a community of other digital champions available to help.

Find out more [here](#).



Introductory Dyslexia Module

Members of the Specific Learning Difficulties Network along with colleagues from Education Scotland, Dyslexia Scotland and the CLD Standards Council have recently developed a free online learning opportunity to increase awareness of dyslexia in CLD practice.

The module will be available to anyone within a CLD role wishing to undertake professional learning around the issue of dyslexia and will incorporate links to current practice based on practitioners' experience, teaching strategies and resources. Click [here](#) for more information or contact [Lindsay MacDonald](#).

Dates for your diary

Orkney's Got Young Talent

30 August 2018, Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall

Orkney's Year of Young People Ambassadors are holding a concert to showcase the talents of children and young people (aged 8-25) from across the county, through music, song, dance, poetry, storytelling, etc.

If you are interested in performing, helping at the event or know young people who may be interested, please contact [Cheryl Rafferty](#) or [Walter Gorman](#) before 16 July on 873535.

BBC Children in Need visit Orkney, August 2018

BBC Children in Need are coming to see you in Orkney this summer! BBC Children in Need awards grants each year to organisations supporting disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. If you are needing funds for working with children and young people, come and talk to them. Visit the [website](#) for more information on the funding streams – better still, make an appointment to speak to them face to face!

Tuesday 28 August, VAO Board Room, Kirkwall
2pm to 2.45pm presentation and Q&A
3pm to 5pm one to one meetings with Janet Morton

7pm to 7.45pm, presentation and Q &A
8pm to 9pm one to one meetings with Janet Morton /
Florence Burke



Thursday 30 August, Stromness Library, Stromness
2pm to 2.45pm presentation and Q&A
3pm to 5pm one to one meetings with Janet Morton / Florence Burke

Please contact [VAO](#) on 872897 to register your attendance at one of the information sessions and/or a one to one session.

There will be a short presentation by the funder, followed by an opportunity for general questions and answers. Following that will be an opportunity for individual appointments. If you would like to know more, or to book a place at a session please get in touch!

If you would like to meet/get in touch with Children in Need but are unable to attend the session above, please let us know and we can make additional arrangements outwith those times. They can even come to see you!

OIC Meet the Buyer Event – 10 October 2018

Orkney Islands Council and Business Gateway Orkney are holding a Meet the Buyer event on 10 October 2018. This is following on from the successful event in October 2017 where there were over 50 attendees.

The purpose of this event will be to offer an opportunity for suppliers or aspiring suppliers to meet the Council and its public Authority partner organisations, to

- learn more about how to do business with us
- the Changes to Scotland's Public Procurement Legislation
- the Council's contracts register and forward plan detailing future contract opportunities, use of lots to improve accessibility for SMEs
- How to register with Public Contracts Scotland and to explore potential framework agreement opportunities.

A representative from Scotland Excel, the leading framework provider for Scottish Local Authorities will be in attendance, as well as representatives from Business Gateway Orkney and other speakers to be confirmed. Following feedback from the last event there will be an increased focus on meeting with specific service areas to discuss the forward plan of anticipated developments and contracts to be let over the next two years.

The event will take place on the 10 October 2018 at the Orkney Library and Archive, Kirkwall for the full day including a programme of focused workshops.

In the meantime OIC welcome suggestions from local suppliers as to information or subject matter which could be made available at this event which would assist organisations to do business with the Council. Please contact OIC by [email](#) or phone on 01856 873535 ext 2640.

Please click [here](#) to access a list of the Council's contract award notices on the Public Contracts Scotland portal to see the wide range of supplies, services and works contracts awarded by the Council and the current list of future contracts/forward plan available on the [Council Website](#).

What Volunteering Means to Me



We had such a great response from volunteers to our request for interviews for Volunteers' Week, it would be a shame not to share them all in the newsletter. Here we have Roy Goodram telling us about his experience as a volunteer Cubs leader.

How long have you been volunteering?

I first started volunteering with VAO about 5 years ago. We did gardening sessions at Eunson Kloss and also at the Clan garden.

Who do you volunteer for? What do they do?

I currently volunteer with Orkney District Cub Scouts as a Helper/Leader. We do walks, activities at the group sessions, trips, days out and all sorts of outdoor activities.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

I enjoy the feeling I get at the end of the night when you see the Cubs leaving the building with a smile on their face and you know you have done a good job. I enjoy it so much that my wife and daughter have also started volunteering with the Beaver Scouts. Volunteering is a family affair!

What do you enjoy least?

Nothing, I enjoy it all.

What advice would you give to anyone thinking of volunteering?

Try it, and if it isn't for you then you haven't lost anything but it is definitely the one of best things I have done. If you enjoy working with children then you can come and see us at the Scouts and have a chat.

What has surprised you most whilst volunteering for your organisation?

No real surprises. I do not enjoy being idle so volunteering is ideal for me in keeping me busy and giving me a worthwhile pastime.

What is the most important thing you have learned whilst volunteering for your organisation?

Enjoy what you are doing. Volunteering should be something that's makes you happy and content.

What do you think Orkney would be like if there were no volunteers?

I think a lot of people would be very lonely. Volunteering gives a lot of people a way of making friends and connecting with other people as well as doing something important for their community.