

Newsletter June 2019

Local News

Volunteers' Week Celebrations

It was Volunteers' Week from the 1st to 7th June and VAO celebrated the contributions it's volunteers make to their community with a number of thank you events, from a coffee and cake morning to a pizza and quizzing evening to a lunch time stroll and a sandwich and pizza lunch!

The Young People's Befriending Project gathered up some volunteer Befrienders and Befrienders in training. They went for a lovely lunch time stroll, caught up on everyone's news and enjoyed some pup cuddles! Then a sandwich and pizza lunch, where current Befrienders were presented with their Volunteers Week certificate and thanked.



To thank their young volunteers and mark Volunteers Week, The VAO Youth Development team put on a Pizza and Quiz night. On the night, five teams battled it out, with 'The Old Beans' shading it by one point from The 'Young Ones and the Old One', while 'Orkney Swaggregates' took the prize for the best name. There was a lovely atmosphere with a real mix of folk and some keenly competitive streaks on show. During the pizza supper certificates and a few cheques were also presented.

Volunteers from VAO reception team, Orkney Walking Groups and The Learning Link got together for a Coffee and a Cake morning at VAO's offices to swap experiences and enjoy more pup cuddles with Josh!



VAO helping to reduce period poverty

VAO are delighted to announce that we are participating in the distribution of free sanitary products. Sanitary items are available for all Orkney third sector organisations and for members of the public. Please just pop past our offices in Anchor Buildings, Bridge Street, Kirkwall for a supply.



Could Highland Park help fundraise for your charity?

Highland Park Distillery will be holding a market place event on 11 July at 1.00 in the Ayre Hotel to enable their employees to choose a local charity to fundraise for. This is a great opportunity to find out how your charity can get support from Highland Park employees either through volunteering or fundraising. All fundraising contributions will be matched by the Edrington Group and The Robertson Trust.

All spaces have now been taken, but please contact [Rob](#) on 872897 if you would like to find out more for future opportunities. Please note that this is an opportunity for registered charities only.



Who's behind the Blue Door?



St Rognvald's House

1 – 6 July

Rendall Kirk

8 – 13 July

Orkney Climbing Club

15 – 20 July

Palace Players

22 – 27 July

Samaritans

29 July – 3 August

Also in the news



Launch of highlands and islands air transport survey report

Air travel has been described as a 'lifeline not a luxury' for people living and working in the Highlands and Islands in a new report published by Scottish Rural Action (SRA) and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).

The report was commissioned by the Scottish Government's Air Departure Tax Highlands and Islands Working Group to find out the views of people who live and work in the Highlands and Islands about the importance of air travel. The report analysed the experience of 1460 people who took part in research conducted last autumn. The respondents felt that flights are 'embedded' within island life, enabling essential medical and family transport, and contributing to valuable business and economic activity that sustains many remote rural communities.

Click [here](#) to read the report.

Legislation & Guidance



Child protection checks to be strengthened

Legislation aimed at strengthening the protection of children and other vulnerable people has been introduced at Holyrood.

The Disclosure (Scotland) Bill will make it mandatory for anyone working with children or vulnerable adults to be checked under the PVG scheme.

Lifetime membership of the scheme will also end, with PVG certificates instead having to be renewed every five years, and the application process will be simplified.

Automatic disclosure of minor criminal offences, for example those committed as a young person, would also end with decisions taken on a case-by-case basis.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Social Security Scotland - Best start grant school age payment now open for applications

Social Security Scotland's new Best Start Grant School Age Payment is now open for applications on-line and by phone. A stakeholder toolkit is also now available.

The payment itself will provide families in Scotland, who are on a low income, with £250 to help with the costs of a child starting school. People can apply around the time a child normally starts Primary 1 and if they get certain benefits or tax credits. For this year that means if their child is born on or between 1 March 2014 to 28 Feb 2015. Applications can be made from 3 June 2019 until 29 February 2020 either [online](#) or by contacting the Freephone helpline on 0800 182 2222. The helpline is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm.

Social Security Scotland have created a specific Best Start Grant School Age Payment toolkit containing materials for your use. This includes fact sheets on eligibility and how and when to apply, posters, articles that can be used in local newsletters and staff updates and social media posts. These can all be accessed on their [website](#) along with previous toolkits.

Social Security Scotland's Local Delivery Team are also on hand to attend events, meetings or staff training opportunities. Please contact them by email at localdelivery@socialsecurity.gov.scot

Free Evidence Bank shares perspectives of young people

Children in Scotland has launched their Children and Young People's Evidence Bank website.

The Evidence Bank was originally developed by Children in Scotland as an internal resource to directly capture the voices of children and young people on a range of diverse subjects, recorded during their Participation and Engagement and project work.

But thanks to supportive discussions with the Corra Foundation and funding from the National Third Sector GIRFEC Project, it is now an online resource that practitioners and researchers across Scotland and beyond can use. Click [here](#) for more information and [here](#) to access the Evidence Bank.

New app to help young people with learning difficulties

Young people with learning difficulties now have access to an app to advise on safety and sexual health.

CKUK Common Knowledge and Scottish Drug Forum have launched Be Safe Have Fun - the first sexual health and safety app developed exclusively for young people age with autism and learning difficulties.

The new app is an accessible learning tool that guides young people over the age of 14 to ask themselves some questions before they get involved in any sexual activity.

The motivation for the app stems from a gap in many young people with autism and/or learning difficulties' knowledge or understanding of issues relating to both sexual health and consent.

The app is fully accessible and has text to speech, videos and photographs featuring young CKUK volunteers, quizzes and is full of good advice about staying safe around the laws concerning sexual health and consent.

Click [here](#) for more information from Third Force News.

Funding & Finance



Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund

Grants of between £20,000 and £120,000 are available to museums and galleries in the UK for time-limited projects that demonstrate the significance, distinctiveness and power of collections to people.

The Fund, provided by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and administered by the Museums Association (MA), awards nearly £1.2 million per year to around 10 to 16 high-quality projects, focusing on collections that are typically held by accredited museums or a partnership of museums and other organisations.

Eligible projects can be up to three years in duration and must:

- Work with an existing collection or collections to improve understanding of them and increase their use; and
- Through that collections work, involve, inspire and have value for people, communities and audiences.

Click [here](#) for more information.

How charities can prepare for digital tax filing

The Government launched new tax rules earlier this year. Called Making Tax Digital (MTD), the legislation currently applies to businesses making over 85k in taxable turnover. Charities have been given a later deadline of October to get ready.

Making Tax Digital is part of the Government's vision to create a truly digital Britain. So it's important the charitable sector gets up-to-speed with the latest technologies to ensure it doesn't get left behind.

Click [here](#) to read more in Third Force News.

Access to childcare fund

Children and families will benefit from £3 million in funding to deliver community-based out-of-school care, Communities Secretary Aileen Campbell has revealed.

The announcement comes ahead of a parliamentary statement this week on tackling child poverty. The new Access to Childcare Fund will provide equal opportunities for children to benefit from play-based experiences which can often be out of reach for families on low incomes.

Click [here](#) to read more in Third Force News.

Scottish Child Payment

The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government this month announced a brand new benefit – the Scottish Child Payment – that will provide low income families with £10 a week for every eligible child.

Further details on the Scottish Child Payment are included in the news release which can be found [here](#). The Scottish Government's social security [webpages](#) also contain details of the new benefit. This includes a policy position paper which sets out the development of the Payment and anticipated policy impacts (available [here](#)), plus an analytical report which explores the wider policy options (available [here](#)).

UK theatres small grants scheme accepting applications

Capital-improvement grants of up to £5,000 are available to charities and not-for-profit groups that run theatres in the UK.

Provided by the Theatres Trust and supported by funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the Charles Michael Holloway Trust, the UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme offers grants for projects that:

- Address urgent building repairs.
- Improve operational viability.
- Introduce environmental improvements.
- Enhance physical accessibility.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they run a regular theatre programme of professional, community and/or amateur work, presenting no less than 30 performances a year, and that the funded improvements will add value to the organisation's work in the local community. Click [here](#) for more information.

Armed **forces Covenant Fund Trust's** positive pathways programme open to applications

One-off grants are available to Armed Forces charities for projects and activities that support the mental health and wellbeing of veterans in the UK.

The £9 million Positive Pathways Programme is one of two funding programmes that form the Trust's Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. The Fund, which launched in 2018, is provided by the UK Government and aims to give veterans more choice and control over their own personal recovery journeys; enabling them to take part in activities that are personally meaningful, while receiving good support with their mental health and wellbeing needs.

The Positive Pathways Programme offers fixed one-year grants of £35,000 or two-year grants of £70,000 to registered charities or Community Interest Companies (CICs) that are primarily supporting past and present members of the Armed Forces and their families.

Funding can be used towards the costs of activity-based projects (such as sports, arts or outdoor activities) that will have a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of veterans throughout the UK. The Trust will prioritise applications from small and local (rather than national) organisations, and those whose projects are led or partly led by veterans.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Have your say



Corra Foundation would like to hear about your experience of their grant process

The Corra Foundation wants to hear your views to help ensure that the Foundation continually improves. It is important to them that the application information and processes they provide are accessible, easy to understand and follow

If you have applied to any of their grant programmes in the last few years please take a few minutes to complete their [survey](#).

Section 38 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015; duty to notify and provide information about victims - Consultation

The consultation on section 38 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015; duty to notify and provide information about victims, is now open. The consultation will close on Friday 06 September 2019.

You can access the consultation [here](#).

Click [here](#) to read the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy – Second Annual Progress Report which was published on 16 June 2019.

VAO job opportunities



VAO's Connect Project provides individually customised skills development, training and volunteering opportunities for young people aged between 15 and 24 who require more choices and more chances to support positive transitions from adolescence to adulthood. Young people are supported to build resilience, confidence and transferable skills through a range of one to one, group work, complementary activities and community participation.

We are recruiting a Project Co-ordinator and Support Worker. Both jobs will be based in Kirkwall.

Connect Project Co-ordinator

35 Hours

£27,894 (including DIA and pension contribution)

The Project Co-ordinator will liaise with other agencies to assess, intervene and support young people in addressing the issues that may affect them. You will work closely with a small team of development workers to devise and deliver a range of individual development opportunities including volunteer placements for individuals.

You will contribute to the development and continuation of the Connect Project including budget monitoring and preparation and submission of funding applications.

You should have the ability to relate to young people and understand the issues that affect them and have a sensitive approach to dealing with individual needs.

You must be flexible, have experience of project management and have the ability to work collaboratively within a small staff team and a range of stakeholders. A current UK driving licence and transport is essential for this role. This role is fixed term until March 2020, however funding applications are pending.

Closing Date: Friday 5 July 2019

Interview Date: Monday 15 July 2019.

Click [here](#) for more information and an application pack. Application packs are also available from Voluntary Action Orkney, 6 Bridge Street, Kirkwall, KW15 1HR. For further information please contact Gail Anderson on 01856 872897.

Connect Project Support Worker

35 Hours

£23,833 (including DIA and pension contribution)

The Project Support Worker will work closely with the Co-ordinator to devise and deliver a range of individual learning opportunities and volunteer placements. You should have the ability to relate to young people and understand the issues that affect them and a flexible and sensitive approach to dealing with individual needs. You must be flexible, motivated and have the ability to work collaboratively within a small staff team. A current UK driving licence and transport is essential for this role. This role is funded until March 2020, however funding applications are pending.

Closing Date: Friday 5 July 2019

Interview Date: Monday 15 July 2019

Click [here](#) for more information and an application pack. Application packs are also available from Voluntary Action Orkney, 6 Bridge Street, Kirkwall, KW15 1HR. For further information please contact Lindsay Johnson on 01856 872897.

Volunteering opportunities



Evergreen Tuesday Club volunteers wanted!

Evergreen Tuesday Club is a vibrant club that supports the members by making a cuppa, chatting and reminiscing with the members, helping out with activities such as quizzes, games and other activities, setting up chairs and tables and helping to clear up after the group.

Volunteers are needed who are chatty, reliable, organized and capable. An induction and ongoing support will be provided.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact [Linsey Drever](#) on 872897.

Stromness Shopping Week seek volunteers!

Stromness Shopping Week need volunteers to help out on various activities including selling raffle tickets, assisting at the week's events such as the pet show, the sandcastle competition and others. Volunteers will also be required to take cash and help out with children's games.



New volunteers will be placed with an experienced volunteer on stalls and events and will be given instruction before the event starts.

Volunteers who are outgoing and enjoy working with people, having fun, getting stuck in and helping out where needed are invited to get along and have a fantastic time!

The Shopping Week runs from the 21st to 29th July and travel expenses can be paid where needed. Most events take place at the Stromness Pierhead.

If you are interested in being a Shopping Week volunteer please

contact Gina Tait at stromnessshoppingweek@outlook.com or PM Stromness Shopping Week on Facebook or Contact Rob McGregor at 872 897

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

Education & Training

Out of The Shadows multi agency training delivered by Families Outside
Monday 5 August 2019, 1.30-4.30pm, MacGillivray Room, Orkney Library and Archive, Kirkwall

This training is free for participants and aims to promote better outcomes for families by raising awareness of the issues facing families when a significant person is sent to prison; and by increasing understanding of ways to support them.

By the end of the session, participants will;

- Understand the policy context of support for prisoners' families
- Understand the issues experienced by families when someone goes to prison
- Understand the particular wellbeing challenges faced by children and young people
- Recognise the role of stigma as a barrier to families seeking/getting support
- Gain knowledge of support sources and good practice
- Have increased confidence in working with and supporting families affected by imprisonment

The session is interactive and includes a range of exercises, presentations, case studies and small group discussion. Participants will receive information packs and supporting resources.

This course is aimed at Social Work and Social Care, Health, Teaching, Housing, Police, Prison and Voluntary sector colleagues.

If you would like to attend, please advise [Allana Bell](#) at the earliest opportunity.

Dates for your Diary



Community asset ownership information event

24 July, King Street Halls, Kirkwall

The Scottish Government's Community Land Unit will be in Orkney to provide information on routes to asset ownership available to community groups. The session will cover Community Right to Buy and Asset Transfer routes.

If your group would like to know more about asset ownership through either community right to buy or asset transfer, please register for an information session. The session will be held on the 24th of July in the King Street Halls. The morning will focus on aspects of Community Right to buy followed by Asset Transfer aspects in the afternoon.

There is a limited opportunity for individual appointments with the Community Land Unit, and booking is essential. To find out more, please contact [Meghan](#) or to book your place please contact enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk or call 872897.

Focus on....Orkney's volunteers



During Volunteers' Week we shared stories from some of Orkney's volunteers. Here is what Mark Tennant told us about his experience as a volunteer walk leader.

Why did you want to get involved in volunteering?

After walk week 2016 I joined the Stromness Walkers Group and decided I'd like to help rather than merely take part.

What and where do you volunteer?

After a year or so of being secondary lead on the Stromness Walk I took over the Kirkwall walk when the original leader was obliged to give up the role.

What made you chose that volunteering opportunity?

Initially it was to prevent the group of enthusiastic walkers disbanding, then I got to know them as friends and found I looked forward to the walks.

How did you go about finding out about how to get involved?

The contact details were all on the Paths for all health walks 'timetable' that I picked up at the 2016 walk week, so I just sent an email to the local area contact.

What training and induction did you receive?

After 'registering' with VAO who undertook the necessary checks I attended a training session at the Balfour Hospital and was given a 'walk leaders' pack with arm bands and laminated cards with details of what leaders may expect of walkers and what walkers may expect of leaders.

What would be a typical session – what would you be doing?

After checking the weather forecast I email a request for the walk [or walk cancellation] to be announced on Radio Orkney. I then post an appropriate notice on the Orkney Walks forum on Facebook and email the regular walkers with the details and send a text to any walkers who lack email or Facebook access. I would then arrive at the meeting point 15 minutes ahead of the walk time to greet the walkers and get them to sign the walk register. After discussion regarding the preferred route we set off with me ensuring that everyone keeps together and everyone is safe and enjoying the walk. When we return to the meeting place I get everyone to 'sign out' and wish everyone a safe journey home and express hope to meet again the next week.

What's your favourite part of what you do?

Part of what makes the difference between a health walk and any other type of walk is encouraging people to keep coming back even if they're not as fit as they'd 'like to be'. Making sure the less able ones feel they are welcome and seeing them return week after week is very gratifying.

Why do you do it?

See above.

How has volunteering benefited you?

I've always enjoyed helping people - it's just the way I am.

Would you recommend volunteering to others?

I'd have to say a qualified 'yes'. Volunteering wouldn't suit everyone but for those it suits it is an excellent way to meet 'like-minded' people.

What would you say to them?

Think about why you want to volunteer. If it's because you want to help people then just 'go for it'.

How does volunteering make you feel?

There are two main ways to do things, being told to do something or volunteering to do something. Volunteering makes me feel I'm in control but also that any who joins my walking group [or whatever] is also there voluntarily so no-one feels coerced.