

Newsletter May 2018

VAO News

Two local charities benefit from Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is now a permanent fixture on the local calendar and a project that has been very well received in Orkney over the last three years. The active citizenship programme (supported by the Wood Family Trust) facilitated by secondary schools in Orkney and supported by VAO Youth Development Workers, raises awareness among young people about philanthropy.



S3 pupils from Kirkwall Grammar School and Stromness Academy are involved in the project to consider the needs of their local community and identify a grassroots social service charity they believe make a positive contribution.

Six charities were represented at the Kirkwall Grammar School Final by seven

groups: Homestart, Orkney Charitable Trust (x2), Orkney Men's Shed, Orkney Blide Trust, Orkney Drug Dogs and Relationships Scotland Orkney who were the successful winners of £3000.

Staff from Relationships Scotland Orkney Helen Pepper (Child Contact Centre Coordinator) and Renate Andrews (Service Manager) commented,

'We are so incredibly proud and chuffed with how well our YPI team did. It was brilliant to see how they had taken the information we gave them and turned it into an outstanding presentation. They really captured the essence of the importance of child contact centres from a child's perspective in lots of ways, including an original animation and peer surveys. The skills and enthusiasm the team demonstrated was beyond our expectations and wowed the audience and judges. The money they won for us will make a huge difference to the families we are working with. We have made plans to continue to work with our YPI team so they can influence how we spend the money.'



YOUTH AND
PHILANTHROPY
INITIATIVE
SCOTLAND

The Stromness Academy Finals saw three groups present to their peers in front of a packed Lecture Theatre. Presentations represented CLAN, Orkney Youth Café and Vital Talk Orkney. Vital Talk Orkney came out on top to win the £3000.



Every young person involved showed enthusiasm, confidence and passion for the project and their chosen charity. It was apparent that relationships have been made between the young people and the charity representatives, highlighting what a great project this is for the Orkney community and for all involved.

1st to 7th June is Volunteers Week!

With thousands of great volunteering positions available in local communities across the country, from micro-volunteering to community based activities to online opportunities, Volunteers' Week helps organisations celebrate their volunteers' work and encourages volunteers to share their own stories.

The week can also help highlight how people can access volunteering opportunities and overcome any barriers they might be facing, so there's a real benefit in getting involved for charities large and small.



Orkney has thousands of volunteers from all walks of life and doing many fabulous things.

If you are a volunteer let us know what your story is.

If you are an organisation that works with volunteers let us know what you are doing to celebrate volunteering and the contribution that volunteers make.

We are also asking people to conduct a little thought experiment by trying to imagine an Orkney without volunteers; what do you think the community would look like without the dedication and skills of all those volunteers?

In addition, VAO are trying to get an up to date picture of the number of people volunteering in Orkney. If your organisation relies on volunteers to run your board/management committee and/or to deliver services or organise activities please take 5 minutes to complete this [questionnaire](#). Thank you in advance you for your cooperation.

If you would like to share your story or just have a chat about volunteering contact Rob at VAO on 872 897 or robert.mcgregor@vaorkney.org.uk

Community Learning and Development (CLD) Council promote the work of Connect

The CLD Standards Council has included on their [website](#) a Prezi presentation illustrating some of the work being carried out in the Connect Project and highlighting how CLD (especially in the Third Sector) can support vulnerable young people.

A right royal celebration

The adult befriending team hosted a royal wedding party at the Town Hall on Saturday 19 May. 36 folk attended and with sandwiches, cake and music from the Polka Dots a wild time was had by all – one of the befriendees said she *'didn't think Harry could have had a better day'*.



.....And, our Chief Executive, Gail Anderson, was at the 'other' celebration in the grounds of Windsor Castle. She was one of two community representatives from Orkney who received an invitation to attend.

She said "it was a surprise to be invited but I was honoured to be asked and considered that I was representing all the volunteers and community organisations that contribute so much to Orkney life.

The weather was glorious, very hot, and the crowds lining the streets as we walked to the Castle were almost overwhelming. Everyone was in good spirits, from the police to the Castle staff and we were made to feel very welcome.

Once inside the grounds we found a spot along the long road leading up to the Chapel and were there for the rest of the morning as movement was limited. There we met people from all walks of life and from all over Britain and there was a tangible sense of excitement. I very much enjoyed speaking to people and finding out where they were from and the reason they were there.

Of course once the guests began to arrive excitement rose to fever pitch - Idris Elba, George Clooney, the Beckhams, Elton John, James Cordon, the cast of Suits and many many more, including Princes William and Harry, walked slowly to the Chapel, smiling, waving and chatting to people in the crowd.

Once all the guests and the groom, best man and bride, had made their way into the Chapel the crowd visibly relaxed. Everyone sat down and unpacked their picnics, toasted the occasion with sparkling wine or soft drinks and listened to the service, which was broadcast to the crowd. The service was excellent, the sky was blue, the sun was hot, the music exceptional; there was a real sense of involvement in the occasion and spirits were very high so much so that, at least in our area, everyone followed the order of service closely and exuberantly sang along with the gospel choir.

All in all it was a hugely enjoyable, if rather surreal, experience and I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to be there.'

VAO Small Grants Scheme Awards 2018–19 (supported by Repsol Sinopec and Liam McArthur, MSP)

The following applicants to the VAO Small Grants Scheme 2018-19 were awarded funding:

Arthritis Care Orkney Branch	£500
Cromarty Hall Trust	£337
Dementia Friendly Orkney	£500
Flotta Day Club	£200
Orkney Amateur Swimming Club	£500
Orkney Arts Society	£500
Orkney Care and Repair Trust	£500
Orkney Charitable Trust	£500
Orkney Deaf Children's Society	£500
Orkney Disability Forum – Tuesday Club	£500
Orkney Kickboxing Fund Raising Group	£480
Orkney Young Carers	£500
Police Scotland Youth Volunteers	£500
Sanday Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Group	£500
Sanday Afternoon Club	£500
ViQueen's Roller Derby	£500
West Adventure Club	£500

Local News

Who's behind the Blue Door?



Orkney Traditional Music Project 28 May – 2 June

Stromness Drama Club 4 – 9 June

Orkney Rugby Football Club 11 – 16 June

Kirkwall Amateur Operatic Soc. 18 – 23 June

Holm Toddlers 25 – 30 June

Also in the News

Charity will initiative to return later this year

Will Aid, which takes place every November, is a month-long drive. It sees legal firms across the county pledge a portion of their time to write basic wills, with clients donating their fee to a good cause.

The initiative, which does not have an age limit and is open to anyone who wants to write a will, takes place across the country and supports nine charities.

Will Aid started in 1988 and since then more than 300,000 people have made a will through the scheme and got the peace of mind that comes from protecting their loved ones for the future.

Charities supported through Will Aid include ActionAid, Age UK, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, NSPCC, Save the Children, Sightsavers, SCIAF and Trocaire.

Read more in [Third Force News](#).

Legislation & Guidance



A new free Digital Checkup tool will help third sector organisations improve their skills and use of technology

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) has created the Digital Check-up to help organisations measure the digital maturity of their organisation and prioritise the first steps to improve.

The supported assessment survey can then be used again at a later date to benchmark progress the organisation is making.

The Digital Check-up is aimed at small- to medium-sized organisations looking to improve how they use technology, whether that be how they design their services, communicate with their audiences, manage their internal processes or how they store and manage their data.

The SCVO digital team can also offer support to those who complete the Digital Check-up across a range of areas including leadership, culture and skills; tools and technology; content, marketing and use of data; and security and cyber resilience.

Read more in [Third Force News](#).

Year of Young People (YoYP) 2018: Toolkit for schools and CLD groups

This [toolkit](#) will give you some ideas about how your school or youth group can get involved – if you aren't already. It provides information on the aims and themes of the YoYP - telling you what's happening already. It has a few case studies of schools that are already using the YoYP to involve children and young people in some really exciting work. More examples will be added throughout 2018.

Scottish Government GIRFEC policy update

The Scottish Government GIRFEC team hosted a meeting in Edinburgh on 17th April to give an update on the Information Sharing Bill and other relevant matters. The following papers were shared at the meeting.

- [Agenda Third Sector Meeting 17April](#)
- [GIRFEC Update Presentation](#)
- [Statutory Guidance Framework Final](#)
- [Practice Development Panel](#)

Funding & Finance



Current Funding Opportunities

We have revamped our funding support page to make it easier to see what funding is available. Please visit our website by clicking [here](#) to see the current funding opportunities available, these are now listed by the month they close.

Volunteering opportunities

Take the Gardening Path!



Firth Church are looking for someone who is interested and experienced in gardening and capable of working independently. They would look after a small garden containing flowerbeds, flowerboxes, stone chip borders and concrete paths.

The gardener would be expected to be there for a minimum of one hour per week but can do longer if they wish. A general induction of the building and grounds will be given when the volunteer starts.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Rob McGregor at VAO on 872 897.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Rob

Ness of Brodgar Visitor Team



The Ness of Brodgar welcomes many visitors on-site during July & August. An important part of the visitor experience is the team who meet and greet visitors, letting them know when tours are, where to go on-site, how to help support the dig and generally give visitors a warm welcome to the Ness.

Volunteers are needed to help meet and greet visitors at the Ness of Brodgar dig site this summer

from 4 July to 22 August. The site is open every day except 11 August and we have 2 Open Days; 15 July and 19 August

We need people to meet visitors to the site, make sure they get parked safely, direct them to tours, show them the shop, tell them about sponsoring a square and answer any questions they may have. If you are confident, outgoing and like meeting people from all over the world and have some spare time, this is the perfect way to spend the summer in Orkney.

The week is split into different sessions:

Monday - Friday 10.00 - 13.00 or 13.00 - 16.30 (or all day if you prefer)

Sat/ Sun - the shop is open only for the duration of the tours at 11.00 and 15.00

Training will be given for this opportunity to be involved in one of Orkney's great experiences.

Salvation Army Shop needs Volunteers

Friendly and helpful volunteers are needed to help out at the Salvation Army Shop in Kirkwall. The shop is tucked away in Anchor Buildings, just off Bridge Street and is a delightful and easy going place to volunteer. No experience is needed as full training will be provided. So if you would like to develop your retail skills and enhance your people skills in a friendly environment this is the opportunity for you. The shifts available are Monday morning and Saturday afternoon.

If you are interested in this volunteering opportunity please contact Rob at VAO on 827 897.

Stromness Shopping Week Seeks Volunteers!

Stromness Shopping Week needs 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 17th to the 23rd 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 Kay Macnair on 850122 or Rob at VAO on 872897.

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

Have your say

NHS Grampian Baird Family Hospital and Anchor Centre Project – Consultation

NHS Grampian are seeking comments and opinions on the Baird Family Hospital and Anchor Centre, Aberdeen. This new facility will serve Orkney patients needing specialist care from 2021. Come along to Voluntary Action Orkney on Tuesday 5 June between 2 and 4pm to have your say!

The Baird & ANCHOR Project is a £163.7 million capital project at NHS Grampian, delivering a new hospital to provide specialist care in Maternity, Reproductive Medicine, Neonatology, Breast and Gynaecology services, as well as a new centre for Oncology and Haematology day and out-patient services.

Early Years Assistance, Consultation on the Best Start Grant Regulations

A consultation on the draft Regulations to implement the Best Start Grant which will be a form of Early Years Assistance under the Social Security Bill.

The purpose of this consultation is to test the Early Years Assistance (Best Start Grant) Regulations and identify any gaps, issues or unintended consequences. Click [here](#) for more information.

Enter The National Awards for Play in Scotland

Could you be a Nancy Ovens Trust Award winner? These awards celebrate and encourage those providing stimulating and innovative play experiences for children. Winning an award is a great achievement and shows that you have raised the bar to make play an outstanding experience for children in your home, project or community.

The awards recognise the innovation in play in communities around Scotland. Individuals and community groups can now apply for awards in:

- Play at nursery and school.
- Play in the home.
- Play in the community.
- Positive support for play.
- Year of Young People's Award.

Please click [here](#) to read the Nancy Ovens Trust Guidelines 2018. The closing date for entries is 18 June 2018.

Education & Training



Children Affected by Substance Misuse training

Thursday 7 and Friday 8 June, 9.30am - 4.00pm, Kirkwall Town Hall

This two day opportunity seeks to develop the knowledge and skills of workers in contact with children and families affected by problem drug and alcohol misuse. This includes health visitors, teachers, substance misuse workers and social workers, including criminal justice workers.

This learning and development event is designed to give participants the opportunity to build upon and share their knowledge of the impact of substance misuse on parenting capacity and child development. The importance of sharing information will be a key focus along with the opportunity to reflect on practical ways of improving practice. Participants will also be given the opportunity to hear the voices and words of affected children.

Please click [here](#) for more information.

How to Tender' Training

Tuesday 12 June, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall

Using PCS and other portals: 09.15 - 12.15

Public Contracts Scotland is the national public sector tender portal for Scotland. It lists contract opportunities for all public sector bodies and has a "Quick Quote" function for lower value contracts. This workshop will help you ensure you are comfortable using this site as well as other portals throughout the UK and Europe. Click here to [book](#).

Tender Procedures and the ESPD: 13.00 - 16.00

Understand the various types of tender and examine the new ESPD. The first half of this workshop covers the various types of tender procedures in detail, including processes and timescales. The second half deals with the selection stage and completing the European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) [formerly the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire PQQ]. Click here to [book](#).

Professional Development Award in Youth Work 2018/2019 – delivered in Orkney

The PDA in Youth Work offers a nationally recognised, SQA accredited qualification at SCQF level 6 and is a great opportunity for those people who are currently working with young people to gain a qualification in youth work. The market value of this course is over £500 but with support from OIC's Achievement Generators programme and funding from the Orkney Children & Young People Partnership this course is being offered free. Click on the links for more [information](#) and an [application form](#).

For those interested in this exciting opportunity please note that applications have to returned by 22 June 2018.

Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)

Are you a front line service who accesses people's homes or meets them face to face? Do you have an SLA with OIC? Then this training is for you. The session takes about 1 1/2 hours and dates and booking information are available below.

These sessions cover the Counter-Terrorism and security Act 2015, which places a statutory duty on "Authorities" defined under the Act, of which OIC are one, to carry out functions with regard to the Strategy, particularly the PREVENT work stream. Prevent is part of the government counter-terrorism strategy, it's designed to tackle the problem of terrorism at its roots, preventing people from supporting terrorism or becoming involved in terrorism themselves.

OIC are working jointly with NHS Orkney to ensure that employees and the voluntary sector can access this training and it is possible to book onto a session at NHS Orkney or OIC. For training held at OIC and Orkney College please contact learn.develop@orkney.gov.uk to book your place. For training held at NHS Orkney please contact ork-HB.Learning@nhs.net. More information on Prevent can be found [here](#).

Orkney Islands Council, School Place

13 June 2018 10.30am – 12 noon

NHS Orkney, Balfour Hospital

5 June 2018 12.30pm – 2.00pm

21 June 2018 11.30am – 1.00pm

Orkney College

6 June 2018 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Dates for your diary



VAO AGM 11 June

VAO's AGM will be held at 7.00 pm on Monday 11 June in the Lifestyles Centre, Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall.

This year no directors are required to step down therefore no nominations to the board will be sought.

We are pleased that Robert Mitchell, Third Sector Unit, Scottish Government, will be in attendance to explain the Government's response to the recent review of Third Sector Interfaces and to outline how we intend to work together over the coming year.

Also, our Youth Development Workers, Brian Cromarty and Laura Leonard, will give a presentation on their very positive work with young volunteers.

So, in addition to the short business meeting there will be interesting information about our work and our future direction. Please let us know if you are able to attend by [email](#) or phone on 872897.

The Great Get Together

The Great Get Together is taking place over the weekend of 22-24 June. The objective is simply to bring people together and emphasise that what unites us is greater than what divides us. It was inspired by Jo Cox and falls on the anniversary of her death. Find out how to get involved [here](#).

What Volunteering Means to Me



Have you ever thought what Orkney would look like without volunteers? To begin the work to celebrate Volunteers Week in June (1 to 7 June 2018) VAO is running a series of articles, featuring a different volunteer each month, which will highlight the immense and varied contribution volunteers make to the Orkney community. This month's featured volunteer is Sharon Winters, a volunteer with the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS), at the Balfour Hospital.

How long have you been volunteering?

I have been volunteering for seven years.

Who do you volunteer for? What do they do?

I volunteer for the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS). I help run the shop and take the trolley round. The trolley brings patients a snack, a drink and toiletries (and the Orcadian!) at the Balfour hospital. We also have a trolley service for the service users at the Gilbertson Day Centre and the residents at St Rognvald's House. We also provide an escort service for patients travelling to appointments off isle.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

Meeting people, keeping active and making a difference.

What do you enjoy least?

Not having enough volunteers!

What advice would you give to anyone thinking of volunteering?

Give it a go, you may enjoy it and they will enjoy having you as a volunteer!

What has surprised you most whilst volunteering for your organisation?

It actually surprised me that I enjoyed volunteering so much.

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

Before I started as a volunteer the trolley service at the Balfour had been discontinued as there weren't enough volunteers to continue the service. I was able to restart the service and now the trolley service has been up and running again for over two years and we are able to provide it every week day. It really makes a difference for those patients who want a wee treat to cheer themselves up or need some toiletries but are unable to get to the shop.

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

It wouldn't be the great place to live that it is now!

