



# Voluntary Action Orkney

SEPTEMBER 2014

NEWSLETTER

## VAO News

### VAO at the European Parliament

Gail Anderson and Edwina Lloyd travelled to Brussels last week to present information on VAO's experience of applying the OWLS framework (Outcomes that Work

for Learners and their Stakeholders).

Gail explained, "OWLS is a tool to assess the impact in the workplace of educational and vocational training. VAO was asked to join the development team to test

the framework and to comment on its effectiveness from a third sector perspective. In doing so we also identified areas for improvement in our own external and internal training processes. On completion of

the pilot we were invited to present our findings at a seminar for MEPs and of course we were delighted to accept. It was a very exciting trip and we thoroughly enjoyed working with and learning from our European colleagues."

Pictured are the OWLS team with members from the UK, Iceland, Lithuania, Austria, Belgium and Iceland at the entrance to the European Parliament. (Edwina and Gail are in the back row, left.)



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## Funding & Finance

### National Minimum Wage Local Energy Challenge Fund deadline approaching

National Minimum Wage Rates will increase from 1 October. The standard adult rate will increase to £6.50, the development rate for those aged 18-20 to £5.13, the young workers rate for those aged 16-17 to £3.79 and the apprentice rate to £2.73.

There are just three weeks left to apply to the first phase of the Local Energy Challenge Fund. This fund will support large-scale local low carbon demonstrator projects which show a local energy approach linking lo-

cal energy generation to local energy use. This could include projects looking to develop innovative distribution and storage solutions, and with an overall aim to create more local value and benefit. The deadline for applications is **10 October**. Find out more [here](#).

## Maternity rights

Employed fathers, or the mother's partner, will be given the right to take unpaid leave to attend two antenatal appointments. This right will come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014.

VAO provide impartial advice for employers on a range of employment rela-



tions, employment rights, HR and management rights. For any further information please contact [Hannah](#).

## Employment rights of charity employees and volunteers

Workplace Law have produced a report considering the legal status differences between volunteers and employees and highlights key considerations for organisations to bear in mind when re-

cruiting volunteers. The report can be found [here](#).

## Grow Wild - Community Project

Grow Wild is awarding funding to community groups that want to bring people together to transform a communal space by sowing and growing UK native plants. The groups that are awarded funding will be notified in February 2015 ready to start their project in March and finish by October 2015. For more details please visit their [website](#).

## Local Charities



1 in 6 people will have a stroke. It can happen at any age.

Whilst there have been improvements in the number of those having a stroke and dying from a stroke, it is still Scotland's 4<sup>th</sup> biggest killer and there are over 120,000 people in Scotland living with the effects of stroke. About a third of people who survive a stroke will be left with a moderate to severe disability, so they will be reliant on the services and

support of their family, friends and wider community.

As a charity working in Scotland to prevent stroke and help all those affected by stroke, we work directly with stroke survivors and their families and carers, with health and social care professionals and with scientists and researchers. We campaign to improve stroke care and support people to make the best recovery they can. We fund research to develop new treatments and ways of preventing stroke. To get involved in our work, please email us at [Scotland@stroke.org.uk](mailto:Scotland@stroke.org.uk) or call:

0131 555 7244

Many people who've been affected by stroke find help and support from others who have had similar experiences. Stroke Support Group Orkney offers peer and social support through monthly meetings and a variety of activities. We invite people to come together, share experiences and try out new things. Whether you are a Stroke Survivor, carer or someone who is interested in supporting the work, you will be made welcome. For more information please contact Fiona Craighead by [email](#) or call 876360.

*1 in 6 people will  
have a stroke*

*Admin job @ RSO*

## Job Opportunities

### Administrator

Temporary, Maternity Cover

10 hours per week (flexible)  
Salary £17,156 (pro rata)

Relationships Scotland Orkney is an independent charity which offers a range of specialist services to help and support children and



families affected by relationship difficulties, family breakdown and the misuse of alcohol and/or drugs. Services include; Family Mediation, Child Contact Centre,

Couple Counselling, Play Therapy, and Counselling for Adults, Children and Young People.

We are looking for a suitable person to provide maternity cover for this important role within the organisation, for a period of 9 months, with the possibility of an extension to

1 year and beyond.

The post holder must be computer literate with experience of working with Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and Publisher. They will be expected to manage and maintain financial records, client and membership databases, and regularly update policies, procedures and the service website. Excel-

lent communication skills are required, both written and verbal, as well as an ability to communicate confidently with people at all levels, within the organisation and with other agencies.

Closing date for applications is 8 October at 5pm. Interviews will be held on 17

October. Application packs are available from Voluntary Action Orkney, 6 Bridge Street, Kirkwall, KW15 1HR or via email from [Hannah](#) at VAO. Should further information about the post be required, please contact Helen Moss on 877750 or by [email](#).

## Volunteering

### 'Make A Difference Day' 2014

Community Service Volunteering - CSV 'Make a Difference Day' is one of the national events in the volunteering calendar. This is when volunteers come together to DO something which will make a difference to other people's lives. In these uncertain times, the need for community spirit is greater than ever. We hope to encourage everyone to make a difference throughout the month of October. Nothing more typifies these values than those of volunteering.

This year to mark a change, the VAO team is planning to



come together for a morning or afternoon and deliver a short project which in some way will make a difference to the lives of the people involved. We've still to decide what it is we'd like to do, but if your community group has a small project which could

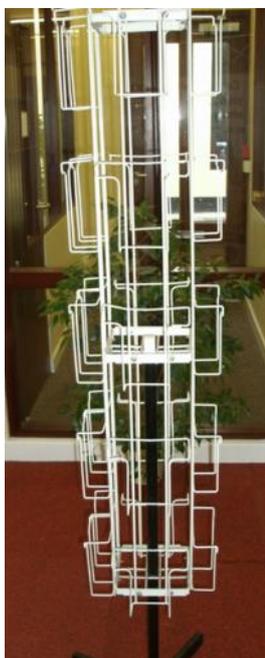
be delivered by approx. 10 to 15 people in a morning or afternoon, we'd love to hear from you.

So what is it that you've got planned for Make a Difference Day? We'd love to hear from you. In Orkney we have an extremely high number of volunteers and voluntary organisations, and it's a great reflection of the community spirit in the amount of time people are willing to give up, in the interest of helping others.

If you would like to find out more about Make a Difference Day, please call 872897 or email [VAO](#).

MAD Day!

## Freebies!



### Leaflet stand

This leaflet stand is available free to any charitable organisation that wants it! If you are interested please contact [VAO](#) on 872897.

### Shredded paper



We have a growing mountain of shredded paper to dispose of. If you could use some for animal bedding, artwork, messy play (or indeed any other purpose), please email [Cecily](#) or call 873937.

Shredded  
leaflets....

## Education & Training

### Entry Level Crofting Course, St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall 20-21 September 2014

A bright sunny Saturday in September saw 15 folk from all over the UK (Newcastle, Buckinghamshire, Caithness and even Rousay!) gathering at the St Magnus Centre, eagerly awaiting a series of lectures over 2 days on livestock, the history of crofting, financial controls and realities, what community means, wildlife and tree planting and a myriad of other topics.



'A very worthwhile course'

'An inspiring weekend'

*inspiring weekend", here are some other comments.*

*"The whole tone of the course*



*was set with the friendly pre-course emails and the excellent organisation, together with comprehensive handouts and presentations meant that even a total non-crofter like me enjoyed every moment of the two days."*

*"Susan's encyclopaedic knowledge and ease of communication*

*was inspiring, what a girl – Steve, what a star inviting me into his house and opening his books for inspection, thank you thank you thank you."*

*"I am very*

*grateful for the warm welcome and informative sessions. Thank you"*

Thanks also go to all the tutors that took part, the St Magnus Centre for their warm welcome and the Blide Trust for their lovely soups (not forgetting Ed's cakes!).

Did you miss this? Don't worry, you can perhaps join in with one of the last 4 courses remaining this year! These are:

**Hen keeping, 11 October 2014**

**Land Management, 12 October 2014**

**Organic Crofting, dates TBA**

**Pig Butchery, dates TBA**

Another successful course from the Scottish Crofting Federation, facilitated and managed by VAO took place and was very well received by the participants. Described as "A very worthwhile course" and "A really



## Dates for your diary

### Orkney Social Enterprise Conference - 6 October 2014

A unique opportunity to hear from national support agencies, talk about the challenges and opportunities facing your organisation, network and make connections with other organisations doing business with a difference in Orkney. Please contact [Meghan](#) for more details.

### Scottish Social Services Council Pop Up event – 10 October 2014

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is responsible for registering people who work in social services and regulating their education and training. Their role is to raise the standards of practice by social service workers and increase the protection of people who use social services. Their vision is of a competent, confident workforce

that is capable of delivering high quality services that has the confidence of the public, those who use services and their carers.

Do you want to find out more about the SSSC? Then pop along to their event in Kirkwall on Friday 10 October, where you'll get the chance to ask questions and meet their Chief Executive.

For more details, visit the SSSC [website](#) and to book a place please visit [Eventbrite](#).

6 October

Social Enterprise  
Conference

10 October

Scottish Social  
Services Council  
Pop-up

## Relationships Scotland Orkney Family Connections Project launch – 10 October 2014



*BETTER CONNECTIONS -  
STRONGER FAMILIES*

Relationships Scotland Orkney are launching their new Family Connections Project on **Friday 10 October** from 1pm – 2pm (Light lunch and refreshments available from 12.30pm) in The Supper Room, Kirkwall Community Centre (First Floor, lift available), Broad Street, Kirkwall  
Come and hear about this

exciting new addition to our services and meet our team! Please let [Cecily](#) know if you are able to attend by 8 October.

Funded by Big Lottery Fund & Lloyds TSB

## Orkney Equality Forum – 13 November 2014

Orkney Equality Forum is holding an Equality and Diversity Conference in Kirkwall on Thursday, **13 November 2014**. The aims of the Conference are to share knowledge and understanding of local issues, challenge discrimination and assumptions and raise awareness of harassment. There will be speakers

from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Stone-wall Scotland, Blide Trust and Orkney Minds and there will be workshops on 'Disability and Reasonable Adjustments', 'Bullying and Hate Crime' and 'Stereotyping, Prejudice and Discrimination'.

The programme is currently in the process of being finalised but it is anticipated that the Conference will start at 9.30 and end at approximately 3.15. There is no charge and lunch will be provided.

If you or anyone from your group would like to come to the Conference please get in touch with [Marie Love](#) by 6 October.

*10 October  
RSO Family  
Connections  
Project launch*

*13 November  
Orkney Equality  
Forum*

**Voluntary Action Orkney**  
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**[www.vaorkney.org.uk](http://www.vaorkney.org.uk)**

