

Dates for your Diaries

ROAR concert - Thursday 25th April, in the St Magnus Centre, raising funds for Orkney Down's Syndrome Group

Getting it Right from the Start – do you want to employ someone, are you expanding your organisation? Then come to this session to get everything in place before you advertise. May 8th at VAO from 6 – 9.30pm (a fee will apply)

Preparing for the Procurement Process (PPP) has been developed specifically for organisations in Orkney considering working together to bid for public sector contracts. By looking at successful tenders and the techniques for proving your organisation's value, this programme will enable you to confidently approach the tendering process for supplying public services. 13th and 14th May, 2 day course, venue tbc. For more information contact Edwina or Meghan at VAO 872897 or **Book at the Social Enterprise Academy on 01463 238088 or email kate@theacademy-ssea.org, www.theacademy-ssea.org**

Curriculum for Excellence sessions run by Youth Scotland on 20th May at Kirkwall Town Hall – 9.30 – 1.30pm or 6.00 – 9.00pm. To book a place visit www.youthscotland.org.uk

Volunteers Week (1st – 7th June) – VAO will be holding an event in the King Street Halls on Friday 7th June from 2.00 – 4.00pm. For more information contact Fraser Devine at VAO on 872897 or fraser.devine@vaorkney.org.uk

Incorporated or unincorporated Organisation

The trustees of the **Spirit of Enniskillen Trust** closed earlier this month because it had £250,000 of liabilities, principally to the **Northern Ireland Charities Pension Scheme**, and only £150,000 of assets, in the form of its building.

- Because it is an unincorporated association, it does not have limited liability, meaning its trustees are personally responsible for its debts.
- Pension schemes have a legal duty to ensure they recover as much money as they can, which could include pursuing the individual trustees.
- However, pursuing individuals is usually considered only after all other avenues have been exhausted, and only if it is financially worthwhile.

If you have any concerns about the legal structure of your organisation, contact VAO for advice.

Real Time Information Due to important Payroll Legislation changes and the introduction of Real Time Information reporting (RTI), from next month you will be required to submit your payroll information electronically to HMRC every time your payroll is run rather than just at year-end. To collect the required data, you will need to establish new systems and amend the way you manage your payroll.

Scout Community Week 3 – 9 June 2013

Scout community week is the modern version of Bob a Job Week and a chance for Scout Groups to do something for the benefit of the community.

The 2nd Orkney Scout Group (Kirkwall) is looking for a project to undertake and are willing to consider anything. They will arrange the manpower and work in partnership with the recipients to acquire materials.

There are some criteria to be met but this can be sorted with whoever responds. They would hope to include as many of their members as possible from age 6 – 14 but would be keen to involve members from the other organisation if possible.

They will also cover all insurance and adult supervision. If you have a project proposal or would like to talk over a potential idea contact Calum Swanson at calumswason@btinternet.com

Benefits Awareness The Turn2Us website offers tips for current claimants and non-claimants through fact-sheets, and step-by-step decision-tree tools to help people work out whether they'll be affected by any of the changes. The website also features an easy-to-use Benefits Calculator to help users work out or check which welfare benefits and tax credits they may be entitled to. For more information visit: <http://www.benefitsawareness.org.uk/#timeline>

The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme was passed into legislation last year and commences in April. It will allow charities to claim gift aid on small cash donations without the need for details of the donor's tax status. This amounts to 'gift aid on collecting tins'.

Voluntary Action Orkney with you, for you

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VAO into 2013-14

The end of the financial year always brings additional activities but one of the most enjoyable and productive is the VAO staff review and planning session. This year staff gathered at the Sands Hotel for a day long review of last year's work and drawing on informal and formal feedback from members and service users identified areas for development and improvement.



The photographs show some colleagues concentrating hard on their tasks.

Young Persons Befriending Project



Volunteers and Young People were treated to a tour of the projection room by Victoria Rhodes on their recent group outing to the Pickaquoy Centre to see Wreck-it-ralph.

It was quite a treat for the Young People and their Befrienders, especially since the projector currently used is only expected to be in use for the next couple of months until Picky transitions to a digital projector.

There are usually a couple of these group events a year, but the real essence of the Befriending Project is One to One matches, where a volunteer befriender will meet with a young person once a week or fortnight to go out and do a fun activity. The activities range from going for a coffee and cake to outdoor stuff to movies, or any activity that there is interest in.

The Young Person's Befriending Project is currently looking for volunteers to be included in the April/May Training sessions. No experience is necessary to become a volunteer befriender, but it can be a fun and supported way to gain experience working with Young People. For more information contact hannah.rendall@vaorkney.org.uk or john.clancy@vaorkney.org.uk or phone 872897.

Strategic Plan

The VAO board also met recently to review the strategic plan and agree the key strategic objectives for 2013-14.

Continue to work in partnership with OIC to secure a new building for VAO and associated third sector organisations

develop a communications strategy

work with partners to engage the sector in Reshaping Care for Older People

develop an HR service

Our plans will be available shortly from our website www.vaorkney.org.uk

25 hour Saltire Award



Congratulations to Katie Bevan pictured here receiving her 25 hour Saltire Award.

Katie has been volunteering with Stromness Primary netball club assisting with training and refereeing matches. Coach Leona Gordon said she has made her job so much more enjoyable, and she's noticed a big difference in Katie's confidence.



Need space for your next meeting?

Our central location and competitive rates make VAO an ideal venue contact us for rates...

Cheque presentation by 'ROAR'

Young volunteers are pictured presenting a cheque for £250 to Ruth Omand on behalf of Gogo Olive.



The money was raised at a concert held in November in the St Magnus Hall.

The night was organised by 'ROAR', a project run by Voluntary Action Orkney for volunteers from S6 at KGS.

Connects Autism Support Project

A new Support Worker, funded from the Scottish Strategy for Autism's Autism Development Fund, has joined VAO's Connect Project team, to provide individual support to young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Autism Support Worker Kara Leslie will be based both in the Connect project and out in the community, and will be able to provide one-to-one support to young people with ASD who are making the important transition into adult

I i f e .

This will be very much an outreach role to begin with: Kara will be engaging with young folk, finding out their needs and interests and tailoring programmes to suit the individual young people she is working w i t h .

She'll work with young folk on a range of activities designed to develop and promote transferable skills, develop their interests, improve their confidence, self-esteem, communication skills and coping strategies - as well as supporting them in dealing with new people and situations. For more information contact Kara on 872897 or kara.leslie@vaorkney.org.uk

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland

Is highlighting the benefits of self-management in long-term health conditions.

For more info visit: www.myconditionmylife.org

Recruitment

The appropriate adult service in Orkney, supports individuals with mental health issues, learning difficulties, brain injury or Alzheimer's, when dealing with Police Scotland, to ensure that they are fully aware what is happening to them. The service is currently holding a volunteer recruitment drive, and is looking for people who would be interested in finding out more about this role. Volunteers should have an understanding of people who have mental health issues or learning difficulties, and should be someone who is completely independent of the police and, where possible the interviewee. The organisation is holding an open day/information session on Thursday 25th April, 7 - 9pm at the St Magnus Centre. In the meantime, if you would like to find out more about this volunteering role - please contact Fraser Devine at fraser.devine@vaorkney.org.uk or 872897.

Community Jobs Scotland

SCVO is pleased to announce that Community Jobs Scotland is now open for another round of applications from third sector employers.

This round of Community Jobs Scotland (CJS) aims to create 1,000 jobs for young people with third sector organisations. The opportunities will be available between May 2013 and March 2014.

For more information: <http://www.scvo.org.uk/employability/cjs-news/community-jobs-scotland-expression-of-interest/>

What's a SCIO?

The SCIO (Scottish Charitable Organisation) is an optional legal form for current registered Scottish charities and new organisations applying to become a charity. Scottish Ministers introduced the new SCIO legal form in April 2011 to allow charities to be incorporated but to be administered and regulated by a single body, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Charitable companies limited by guarantee, which are also incorporated, report both to OSCR and to the Registrar of Companies (Companies House).

For more information contact Edwina or Meghan at VAO on 872897.

Voluntary Arts Week

Whatever your chosen art or craft form, Voluntary Arts Week is your chance to celebrate, collaborate and inspire others to join you.

To find out more about Voluntary Arts Week visit www.voluntaryartsweek.org



Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration of the fantastic contribution millions of volunteers make across the UK and it's taking place from the 1–7 June 2013.

This year's Volunteers' Week focuses on saying 'Thank You' to the millions of volunteers who regularly contribute to society, and to recognise the way that organisations celebrate the work of volunteers across the UK.

During the week, June 1st to the 7th, thousands of events are held across Scotland and the UK to recognise, reward and thank volunteers for all their effort and time given in the past 12 months. The Week provides a chance for all organisations, Voluntary or Statutory, large or small to say "thank you" to their volunteers, where they can publicly recognise the services made by them.

So, this is the time of year for all local organisations who have volunteers, to do something throughout the week to show their support and thanks to them. We hope that Volunteers' Week 2013 is going to be bigger and better than ever and VAO would love to hear about any plans you may have to celebrate the week.

It's up to you to decide exactly how you join in, the list of ideas is endless! You really can do what you want, but if you would like some help or advice, please contact Fraser Devine at Voluntary Action Orkney on 872897 or fraser.devine@vaorkney.org.uk, or visit the Volunteers Week webpage at www.volunteersweek.org.uk/ where you can also download posters, logo's and certificates.

Get involved in The Big Lunch 2013

The Big Lunch is a one-day get-together for neighbours and communities, funded by the Big Lottery Fund and run by the Eden Project. The idea is simple: to encourage as many people as possible across the UK to have lunch with their neighbours for a few hours of community, friendship and fun.

In 2012, 8.5 million people took part in Big Lunch and Big Jubilee Lunch street parties and community events! Lunches will be taking place across the country on June 2nd this year- but you can take part and hold an event whenever suits you. To bring the idea to life, we created films of events that took place in 2012, including a Big Lunch in Govan held by Starter Packs, which you can find here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/biglunch>

What can you bring to the table?

As part of our work, we try and reach community organisations and non-profit groups who are already doing fantastic work in their local areas and who might be willing to give the idea a go themselves.

We offer a **free Big Lunch pack**, full of information, hints, tips and resources to help you get started. Just visit www.thebiglunch.com or call 0845 850 8181 to speak to one of the Big Lunch team to request a pack. We can also talk about you through our channels (our blog, newsletter, website, social media) writing your story up as a case study or adding you to our Friends page- <http://www.thebiglunch.com/partners/friends.php>

As well as the pack we have specific resources for charities available which may be useful too, so please get in touch!