

Voluntary Action Orkney

with you, for you

August 13

TSI Impact Report



Last week Voluntary Action Scotland launched a major new report demonstrating the increasing impact that third sector interfaces make in communities across Scotland.

Voluntary Action Orkney is the local TSI and some of our achievements are featured throughout the report.

The report, entitled '**The Impact We Make The Potential We Have - A report into the impact of Scotland's 32 third sector interfaces**' looks at the importance of having a strong network of local third sector infrastructure bodies in order to maximise the potential of Scotland's local charities, community groups and volunteers.

Aside from demonstrating the sheer scale of activity supported by TSI's a less well understood role in brokering local action stands out as making a difference, particularly towards the challenge of reshaping public services.

A copy of the report can be viewed at: <http://vascotland.org/report.pdf>

VAS received press coverage which can be viewed at <http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2013/08/local-third-sector-groups-increase-their-influence/>

VAO at the Dounby Show



Our annual visit to the Dounby Show was a great opportunity to meet people and explain what we do. It was a glorious day and it was great to see so many folk coming along to say hello. Over 30 Saltire Challenge certificates were awarded to young people who either made a lavender bag or planted a seed. **Our MSP Liam McArthur also had a go and was presented with a certificate.** All the items made on the day were given to the residents of Smiddybrae.

We introduced this year the walkabout 'Jigsaw Puzzle Quiz Board' which posed some questions about local voluntary groups to the amusement of those invited to take part.

Saltire Awards



Elizabeth Drever recently received her 100 hour Saltire Award for volunteering at 1st Holm Brownies.

Emma Nicolson received her award for 200 hours volunteering at CLAN. Emma also volunteers at St Colms.



Could you be a Buddy?

Buddy Volunteers are people who volunteer their time to help and assist people who want to start volunteering but are unable to for various reasons.

Buddy Volunteering focuses on helping vulnerable adults to become volunteers in the community by giving them extra individual support. The support required will differ from volunteer to volunteer and could be short or longer term depending on their needs.

People supported by the Buddy Volunteering include disabled residents, those with learning difficulties, mental health service users, ex-offenders, refugees, substance mis-users and those who are long term unemployed.

If this sounds like something you would like to be involved in please contact Rob McGregor at VAO 872897 for an informal chat.

Volunteer meets HRH The Princess Royal



Volunteer Eric Gray found himself in the media spotlight when his meeting with HRH The Princess Royal was captured on camera by local photographer Ken Amer.

The photo attracted interest with 26,688 views and over 1000 likes on Radio Orkney's Facebook page. It has also attracted lots of attention on Buckingham Palace's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheBritishMonarchy>.

Eric said: "I was really looking forward to meeting her for the second time - I met her a few years ago. It was a great day. She was really nice and I am very fond of the photo and would like to get it framed." As a reminder of his day, Orkney Islands Council's Communications team presented Eric with a framed copy of the photo at the Blide Trust on Monday 19th August.

Dates for your Diaries

Chairing a meeting – Is it challenging, not sure of the correct way to do it; 4th September 2.00-4.30pm at VAO, a fee will apply.

Orkney HIEF & Highland LGBT Forum Roadshow – this free event will provide a greater understanding of issues surrounding gender and sexual orientation; 5th September 9.30am – 4.30pm at the St Magnus Centre. For more info and to book your space: [Highland LGBT Forum and HIEF Roadshow 2013 « Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations](#)

Annual Community Halls Meeting – elementary food hygiene and basic first aid, £5 per person, 7th September. For more info contact Meghan or Edwina at VAO.

First Aid Training – Run by the Red Cross, facilitated by VAO. September 13th /14th (TBC)

Guardianship & Powers of Attorney – a free workshop for families of disabled children; 26th September 10am–12pm (followed by a buffet lunch). A coffee and cake drop in session will then be held from 1-3pm. For more info and to book a space email scotland.office@cafamily.org.uk or phone 0131 659 2930.

Veterans Road Show Seminar

VAO attended the ‘Veterans Road show’ this week which was held in the Town Hall. The event was well attended with a good turn out from both statutory and third sector organisations.

The event highlighted some of the potential difficulties veteran servicemen can face in the transition back into ‘civvy’ life. The message was very much about signposting veterans to the correct organisations who could provide further help.

For more information on how to help veterans in Scotland visit: <http://www.veterans-assist.org/>

Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme

HMRC have produced detailed guidance notes for the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme launched on 6 April 2013. Using GASDS, eligible charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs can claim payments from HMRC on small cash donations of twenty pounds or less that they receive from 6th April 2013.

The new guidance sets out to clearly define the difference between GASDS and the Gift Aid Scheme and it forms chapter 8 of their guidance for charities. This is in addition to their initial information about GASDS. For more info visit: [info:http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/guidance-notes/chapter8/index.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/guidance-notes/chapter8/index.htm)

Plunkett Scotland receives funding

Recent Rural Network partners Plunkett Scotland are to benefit from an award of £50,000 from the Prince’s Countryside Fund to promote community ownership and co-operative enterprise as one solution to the challenges facing rural Scottish communities. Examples could include the local shop, pub, petrol pumps, vital transport link, renewable energy, broadband, food or forestry based enterprises. Support will be provided by a network of trained mentor-advisers.

Plunkett Scotland partnered with the Scottish National Rural Network earlier this month to run a successful networking event on small rural enterprise. For more info visit: <http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en/node/8080>



Need space for your next meeting?

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

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