

Voluntary Action Orkney

Supporting the Orkney Community

Dec 13



A very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2013 from all at VAO



People Management

VAO's new HR Service
Contact us for more information

We believe people are an organisation's greatest asset and Human Resources (HR) plays a key role in supporting and developing individuals. We understand that each organisation is different and our flexible approach delivers a cost effective HR service in line with employment law and best practice, whatever size of organisation you operate.

Following recent enquiries, and through our own market research, we have decided to offer this service to local organisations within Orkney. We understand the Orkney Community and economy and therefore have created an accessible, low cost, responsive service with a flexible fee structure.

We provide assistance with: Recruitment, HR Advice, Policies, Training and Development.

Whatever your issue, no matter how small, don't hesitate to give us a call. Phone 01856 872897 or email hannah.ker@vaorkney.org.uk for more information.

Pier Arts Centre receives Quality Volunteering Award

This month, the Pier Arts Centre was awarded with VAO's Quality Volunteering Award.

Quality Volunteering is a quality standard for all organisations who involve volunteers in their work, and enables organisations to comprehensively review their volunteer management, policies and procedures and once awarded, allows them to publicly demonstrate their commitment to volunteering and volunteer management.

Pictured here is Gail Anderson CEO of VAO, alongside Carol Dunbar Pier Arts Centre Education Officer and Neil Firth Pier Arts Centre Director.



If you would like to find out more about our Quality Volunteering Award, please contact Fraser Devine on 872897 or email fraser.devine@vaorkney.org.uk

Photo Competition

This photo was taken at an Intergenerational Befriending Group during reminiscence work.



Although initially a little unsure about how he would communicate with the lady who had hearing difficulties, the young chap soon found out she had been a cook in the army.

This is the career he wants to try and his whole perception of the lady changed as he realised she was a really interesting person who could tell him lots of stories.

We were very lucky to capture this in a photo which we have titled "Changing perceptions".

The photo was entered into "Generations Working Together" photo competition where it won first prize of £150 for the Befriending Service.

ROAR Christmas Carols

The ROAR group have been keeping themselves busy by putting together a few festive performances.

Here they are performing at St Rognvalds' house.



ROAR are also playing at the Gilbertson Day Centre on Monday.

Orkney Young Carers in Festival DVD

Some of Orkney's Young Carers feature in the newly released DVD of this year's Scottish Young Carers Festival, which took place in West Linton back in August.

The DVD can be accessed at: <https://vimeo.com/76441759>

Young Carers Support Worker, Kara Leslie said: "The festival, which is organised by The Princess Royal Trust and is fully funded by the Scottish Government, gives Young Carers the annual opportunity to have a break from their caring responsibilities, to meet up with other Young Carers and to have their say on the issues impacting on them and their families."

Seven Young Carers from Orkney attended the festival, where they joined almost 800 other Young Carers from across Scotland.

"The DVD of the festival perfectly illustrates the fun that was had, and highlights the very important part Young Carers play in our communities," added Kara

Children and young people, who have a caring role, eg, for parents, siblings or grandparents who might benefit from support are welcome to get in touch with Kara at Orkney Young Carers on 01856 870500 or at youngcarers@crossroadsorkney.co.uk.

How separated parents can make the best of Christmas

Christmas should be a magical time of year for families, a chance to come together, open presents and have fun. For families who have gone through the turmoil of separation or divorce it can mean heightened emotions and stress as they try to do what's best for their children despite their separation. What starts out as good intentions can often leave children in the middle of a bitter tug of war.

So how can you ensure that you spend a meaningful time with your kids over Christmas, even if they don't live with you anymore. Read the full article at: <http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/RSO/news.asp?intent=viewstory&newsid=4068>



Need space for your next meeting?

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

Dates for your Diaries

VAO will be closed from 25th December to 2nd January inclusive.

January 15th 2014 - Social Enterprise Network session, final arrangements to be decided.

January 29th 2014 - **Secretary Training, VAO 6.30pm to 8.30pm.** Are you new to the role or been doing it for a while and unsure if what you do is correct? Would you like to identify how to produce effective agendas and efficient minutes? A fee will apply.

Invitation to 'get in touch'

We are always happy to hear from you, with an email, impromptu drop in, a phone call or a planned meeting. Take the chance to chat over your worries or concerns in a confidential and supportive setting with the folk that understand the issues that voluntary organisations face. Let's try and iron out those difficulties together. Contact Meghan or Edwina on 872897.

Micro-Tyco Encourages Local Social Entrepreneurship

Local groups in Orkney are being encouraged to bring out their social entrepreneurial side in February 2014 by signing up for a unique and exciting 'Micro-Tyco' challenge.

Micro-Tyco is a rapidly growing initiative of WildHearts, a national organisation which works worldwide to launch companies which serve for the good of humanity.

On 1 February 2014, teams from schools, colleges, youth groups and businesses across the UK are given a microloan of £1 seed capital, with the challenge to transform this into as much money as possible in just one month. At the end of the competition, the funds generated return to the WildHearts Foundation to fund business loans and training for some of the poorest people in 40 countries and five continents across the developing world.

In two years, Micro-Tyco has provided 1,900 loans of £1 to participating groups, with more than £500,000 generated in return. Now, the organisation is encouraging groups in Orkney to sign-up and apply their business skills to help some of the world's most needy people.

Micro-Tyco was recently described by Michael Russell MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, as one of the most innovative and engaging projects he had ever seen.

For further information visit: www.wildheartsinaction.org or contact Kezia Rudge at kezia@wildheartsinaction.org.

NHS Orkney have given VAO a number of used stationery items (files, folders etc) that are no longer required by them. Should any organisation want some of these items, please contact Cath Russell at VAO.

Water and Sewerage charge Exemption for Charities

The Scottish Government is proposing to exempt all charities with a turnover of less than £75,000 per year from water and sewerage charges.

Currently only charities that qualified in 1999 under existing legislation are exempt; however the Government is proposing to extend the scheme to all newly formed charities when the current scheme comes to an end in March 2015. This would exempt up to a further 5,000 organisations.

For more information visit: [Government Proposes Water and Sewerage Charge Exemption for Charities \(26/11/2013\) - News - j4bCommunity](#)

J4bCommunity

J4Community provides information on grants for the voluntary and community sectors. For more information visit:

<http://www.j4bcommunity.co.uk/Logon.aspx?WCI=htmRegister&WCU=URI%3dLaunch.aspx%253fwuserid%253dQPL9924G41%2526dscod%253dJ4BGR3%2526newsitemid%253d252-N48953>

Scottish Government's annual report on the impact of welfare reform

The report contains research and figures on the impact of welfare reform across Scotland. It's a useful source of intelligence for the sector's work and can be found at <http://scvo.cmph.org/!xx5cOMdvw3OPJqsHSYb3tg>

Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland factsheets

Can be viewed at: <http://www.cpag.org.uk/scotland/factsheets>