

VAO appoint new Directors

At the recent AGM the Chairperson thanked retiring directors, Bashir Hasham, Eric Green, Inga Croy and Alison Skea for their contribution to VAO's work and welcomed new directors Sheila Garson, Elaine Grieve, Sandra Rodwell and Richard Thomas.



They will join Peter Scott (Chairperson), Jan Judge (Treasurer), Ian Cunningham (Vice Chairperson), Keith Johnson and Linda Lennie to form the new board.

However we are keen to fill the three remaining vacancies so if you are interested in joining the board or would like to find out more please contact Gail Anderson at gail.anderson@vaorkney.org.uk or telephone 872897.

Visit to Edinburgh Castle



Becky Cant from Kirkwall was recently nominated by Voluntary Action Orkney to attend an event at Edinburgh Castle to celebrate her achievements as a volunteer. The event was addressed by First Minister Alex Salmond and was to recognise young people throughout Scotland who are involved with the Saltire Award. Becky achieved her Saltire Summit Award in November 2012 through her involvement with the ROAR group, a project run by VAO.

The main aims of ROAR are to give young people responsibility and experience of organising events for people their own age as well as the wider community.

Brian Cromarty, Youth Development Worker at VAO said, 'Becky has a great attitude, she's always first to volunteer and will take on the hard work as well as the exciting stuff with the same enthusiastic smile'. Becky commented that she was pleased to have been nominated and enjoyed visiting Edinburgh Castle and meeting new people who also volunteered. She said, "Alex Salmond was very natural and spoke of his own experiences relating to volunteers and the Voluntary Sector, in particular the difference that volunteers had made to his father's life.

'Attending the event at Edinburgh has made me realise how much of an effect volunteering has on others and that it really does make a difference'.

She reflected on her volunteering last year and said:

'The highlight for me was to know that the money we raised through one music gig helped three people to be engaged with education in Malawi. It's just great that young people can get involved, have fun with their friends and do something positive to help out'.

Becky continues to volunteer while at home in Orkney and will be helping to organise a ROAR event in the summer months.



Need space for your next meeting?

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

The Big Lottery is looking for projects in Orkney to apply to the Support and Connect fund. Support and Connect is part of the Investing in Communities portfolio. It is a £10 million fund which aims to improve the support available locally for people experiencing hardship and material need.

Support and Connect will support the following types of projects:

- welfare advice
- financial skills training and services
- action to address food poverty
- provision of clothing and household goods action to address fuel poverty.

Activities funded under Support and Connect should be completed by 31 March 2015.

If you would like some help with an application or if you aren't sure if your project will meet the criteria, visit: <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/scotland/support-and-connect> or phone Meghan at VAO on 01856872897.

The Big Lottery Fund Scotland

A review of its investment in family support projects had recently been published.

The report makes a number of interesting points, notably that the independent nature of voluntary organisations is a key strength that allows them to adapt to each service user's unique circumstances. It also identified that some key challenges to effectiveness can be a lack of capacity to meet demand and demands placed on the organisations by having to seek external funding.

The report highlighted the importance of the voluntary sector in delivering services to families experiencing a range of hardships and that the sector's ability to work in partnerships with statutory bodies as well as building strong relationships with service users was of utmost importance in improving the lives of vulnerable people.

If you would like to see a full copy of the report please visit:

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/search?lang=en-GB&q=Investing+in+families&type=All&order=r&>

100 Saltire Award



Elizabeth Drever recently achieved her 100 hour Saltire Award for volunteering at 1st Holm Brownies. She has been volunteering since October 2011 every week as a helper alongside

leaders Allison Mainland and Karen Hume. During her presentation the Brownies were asked 'what makes Elizabeth a good volunteer'? All were keen to answer:

"She always helps us, she takes us on great walks, she helps with our badges, and she is fun!"

All three leaders at Holm Brownies give a lot of time, commitment and energy and it's great to be able to recognise and thank them for their efforts.

Well done to Elizabeth for achieving her Saltire Award.

Third Sector Internships

The Third Sector Internship Project provides the opportunity for third sector organisations to have a specific piece of work/project undertaken by an intern, and the intern salary costs funded by TSIS. TSIS are currently seeking expressions of interest from third sector organisations who are looking for support to carry out a specific piece of work/project, can host a part-time intern commencing January 2014 and ending June 2014.

It is a fantastic opportunity for third sector organisations to identify a specific piece of work/project that would add value to the organisation and with TSIS support, recruit and appoint a motivated intern to join your organisation to carry out the work. The duration of the internship will be determined by the project/piece of work you have in mind, but the maximum hours TSIS can fund is 350.

More details about TSIS including eligibility, FAQs and case studies can be found at www.3rdsectorintern.org.uk or by contacting Irene Connelly, TSIS Project Officer (SCVO) at irene.connelly@scvo.org.uk or 0141 559 5027.

Relationship Web-Chat Service launched

Scotland's first free national relationship web chat service is now live. This is a new way to get immediate support for relationship problems online at <http://therelationshiphelpline.org/> or by free-phoning 080 8802 2088.

For more info contact Jennifer Graham on 07557304987 or email Jennifer.graham@therelationshiphelpline.org

The Scottish Land Fund

has now been extended for a further year, to March 2016, with an additional £3m allocated for projects. Support can be given for purchase costs, including fees, together with revenue support for up to 2 years, maximum £50,000. This is intended to help applicants further develop their plans for the land once it has been purchased.

The Fund can be used for properties that are subject to the Community Right to Buy legislation, as well as general land and property that comes to the market or is subject to private negotiation. It can also be used to acquire assets from the Council through its disposal of surplus assets programme.

Telephone enquiries can be made to the Big Lottery on 0300 123 7110. Once the project and applicant has been deemed eligible the applicant is referred to a Scottish Land Fund Advisor, who will make contact with them and help them with the development of their project.

The local Land Fund Adviser for Orkney is Su Cooper who can be contacted with initial enquiries and to provide advice on the Fund. Phone 01463 244202 or email su.cooper@hient.co.uk

UK Honours

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised for their valuable voluntary or community work. Then why not consider nominating them for a UK Honour.

Honours can be awarded for all sorts of work, paid or unpaid but your nominee must still be involved in the activity for which they're nominated. **Has your nominee:**

- made a difference to their community or field of work
- improved the life of those less able to help themselves
- displayed moral courage and vision in making tough choices and hard applications
- How do they compare to others doing the same work

For more info: <https://www.gov.uk/honours>. Forms can be sent to the Scottish Government Honours Secretariat at 3D South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ or by email to honours@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Free Training Opportunities

Xchange Scotland is a charity based in Glasgow which primarily works to provide affordable and accessible international volunteering and non-formal education opportunities.

Xchange have recently received funding from Youth Link Scotland to offer free training opportunities throughout the summer. These sessions will provide your organisation with both the information and space to explore how adding an international dimension to your work can benefit your staff and client base.

For more information contact Michael on 0141 237 4767 or email Michael@xchangescotland.org

Regulators consult on SORP

Charities across the country are being urged by the Regulator to play their part in reviewing how charity accounts are prepared.

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and the Charity Commission for England and Wales have announced a consultation on the new Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice).

The micro-site, www.charitySORP.org allows charities and their advisors to give feedback and to download the SORP modules that are relevant to them.

Legal Action against Charity Trustees

There has been a drastic rise in legal action against trustees says a leading expert. The High Court reported a 14% increase in action against Trustees in relation to the Trust Property and Investments for the year 2012, a 658% rise since the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008 and the start of the global financial crisis.

Charity Trustees who are personal trustees and do not have the protection of a 'Company Limited by Guarantee or Charitable Incorporated Organisation' may suffer exceptionally serious consequences, as they could find themselves personally liable for the losses and actions of their investment managers.

The Charity Commission published guidance for trustees in October 2011 and set out that if a charity trustee delegates their investment duties to an investment adviser, then failure of their Duty of Care could leave them personally liable for any actions and losses the adviser incurs.

Dates for your Diaries

Dounby Show – 8th August – visit VAO at the show

Treasurers Training – (Are you new to the role, do you need a refresher, or new to charity accounts?) 14th August 7.00-9.30pm at VAO, a fee will apply.

Secretary Training – (Taking minutes, not sure of the correct way to do it?) 22nd August 2.00-4.30pm at VAO, a fee will apply.

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.

Scottish Government LEADER Programme

Is looking to put community groups at the centre of plans to develop rural Scotland. Community groups are being encouraged to forge partnerships to identify proposals for their areas. It is part of the revised approach to the new LEADER programme, which enables local groups to help decide the best way to deliver financial support to rural communities.

For the full Scottish Government press release, and full details for becoming involved visit:

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Follow-the-LEADER-231.aspx>

Independence Referendum OSCR guidance

OSCR has published our new guidance for charities on how to approach the referendum on Scottish independence. Essentially, their view is that charities are allowed to speak out on this issue providing they meet the requirements of charity law. For more info visit:

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/publications-and-guidance/charities-and-the-independence-referendum/>

The new guidance sets out the legal principles, explains key issues that charities must consider, and provides supporting examples to illustrate situations that may be encountered

Community Right to Buy

In her last article Heather Holmes from the Scottish Government's Community Right to Buy Branch focused on defining the community and community interest in land. To view this months article visit: <https://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en/node/8069> where Heather discusses mapping and defining the boundaries of the land that a community body may want to register. For more information visit: <https://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en/node/8069>

Scotland Rural Development Programme

The first consultation on the shape of the new Scotland Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 has now closed. SCVO has lodged a response. To view the consultation document visit: <http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/sites/default/files/SRDP%20consultation.pdf>

If any other Third Sector organisations have lodged responses to the consultation we would be grateful if these could be emailed to norman.macaskill@scvo.org.uk.

Norman would be happy to discuss the consultation and the SCVO view on the implications of the current proposals to rural communities and the wider Third Sector across rural Scotland.

HMRC consultation

HMRC has recently launched a public consultation on its proposal to make the qualifying rules for the Community Amateur Sports Scheme (CACS) clearer.

The scheme provides a number of charity-type tax reliefs to support local amateur sports clubs. These include business rates relief, relief from Corporation Tax on certain types of income, Capital Gains and Gift Aid relief on donations of money by individuals. In order to access these reliefs, clubs must meet certain conditions and must register with HM Revenue and Customs.

To read the proposals and give your feedback visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/community-amateur-sports-clubs-casc-scheme>