

Voluntary Action Orkney

with you, for you

June 13



VOLUNTEERS' WEEK
time to say thank you

In recognition of the valuable contribution made by our volunteers throughout the year, VAO held a Volunteers' Week celebration on 6th June in the King Street Halls. We had a fabulous afternoon tea, provided by Orkney Blide Trust, followed by hugely enjoyable quizzes. Gail Anderson is pictured opposite, presenting certificates to some of our 90+ volunteers; there were trustees, receptionists, befrienders and students who carried out a memories project.



We are aware that the diverse services and activities provided by voluntary organisations simply could not continue without volunteers. So Volunteers' Week, which is held during the first week in June each year, presents an ideal opportunity to say a huge thank you to volunteers for the commitment and hard work they have given during the previous year.

Development Worker

Kasha Jarosz has joined VAO as the 'Connecting Communities' development worker.



Kasha will work with statutory services, third sector organisations, communities and older people over the next two years to gather detailed information about the services and activities already available in Orkney and to

make that information accessible. She will also work with communities and partners to identify and promote what is working well and to support innovative solutions to fill any gaps.

Kasha will be in touch with many of you over the coming months but in the meantime if you have any questions, comments or contributions to make to this work contact Kasha on kasha.jarosz@vaorkney.org.uk or call 01856 872897.

This project is funded by the Change Fund as part of the reshaping care for older people programme.

For more information visit:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/ResourceDoc/1095/0097691.pdf>
a n d
<http://www.jitscotland.org.uk/action-areas/reshaping-care-for-older-people/>

Volunteering Placement Worker

We'd also like to welcome Robert McGregor to the VAO team.



Robert McGregor is our new Volunteering Placement Worker, and his role is to help people find suitable volunteering roles.

Rob will also have a particular focus on supporting volunteers who need that little bit of extra help to get them on their volunteering journey.

Rob can be contacted on 872897 or by email: Robert.mcgregor@vaorkney.org.uk



Need space for your next meeting?

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

100 Hours Saltire Award

Rebecca Symonds gained her award through volunteering at VAO as Receptionist, as well as taking part in other volunteering within the community.



We also had to say goodbye to Rebecca who has decided to stop her Reception volunteering to concentrate on two part-time jobs before heading off to University in September.

We'd like to thank Rebecca for all her hard work and commitment and wish her all the best for the future. Rebecca joined VAO while in sixth year, to help gain practical office experience.

Rebecca had this to say about her volunteering experience at VAO:

"I first heard about volunteering opportunities for young people at a lunch time information event held by Voluntary Action Orkney's youth development workers at school. The information given was very clear and useful. I became interested in volunteering as I felt this would be a very rewarding opportunity helping organisations and people and gaining a Saltire award as recognition of the hours I have volunteered.

During my time volunteering as a receptionist at VAO offices, I have gained a lot of experience working as part of a team in a busy organisation, dealing with the public and completing general administration tasks and duties. This has allowed me to gain a job as a receptionist as I now have the experience required. Volunteering is a great opportunity to gain experience for future employment opportunities which I highly recommend if anyone is struggling to find employment.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time volunteering helping the public and the organisation with general administration tasks and working as part of a friendly, welcoming and patient team."

Funding Secured by Relationships Scotland Orkney

Helen Moss Service Manager of local branch, Relationships Scotland Orkney explained that the Scottish Government had recently awarded funding of £3.5m over 2 years as part of a new Strategic Partnership with Relationships Scotland, national body for counselling, mediation and family support.

Helen went on to say, 'this is very welcome news indeed', we've been fortunate to have had some financial support from Orkney Islands Council as well as from the Scottish Government. This new Partnership with the Scottish Government is an excellent result. It is a very clear indication of the importance that they place on our work and the contribution it makes towards improving the lives of children and families.

Counselling and Family Mediation are only two out of a range of services offered by Relationships Scotland Orkney that can help with relationship difficulties whether at work, in the home or in the wider community.

For more information e-mail enquiries@rsorkney.org.uk or phone 877750.

Victims of domestic abuse to get more support under single police force

The head of Scotland's new single police force has vowed to make it easier for victims of domestic violence to report crimes.

Speaking at the Scottish Women's Aid annual conference, chief constable Steven House, said the new service will make better use of community facilities to help women who are experience violence at home.

Lily Greenan, manager of Scottish Women's Aid, said "We greatly welcome the commitment of Stephen House and Police Scotland to providing a robust police response to domestic abuse throughout Scotland. We are pleased to see the extension of remote reporting, which has proved beneficial to women in the pilot areas, and given them more of a sense of control over the reporting process."

To read the full article visit: <http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2013/02/victims-of-domestic-abuse-to-get-more-support-under-single-police-force/>

Dates for your Diaries

Legal High Training – 3rd July 9.30am to 4.30pm in the Grainayre Room, The Pickaquoy Centre. To book a space email katiespence@nhs.net or phone 888116

Committee Skills – 10th July 2.00 – 4.00pm at VAO

Setting up & starting put – how ‘social enterprise’ is different 21st July 2.00 – 4.30pm at VAO

Outcomes Training – 24th July 2.00 – 4.30pm at VAO (a fee will apply to all VAO training)

Graphic Facilitation - 10th July 10.00 – 4.00pm, SCLD offices, Merchant Exchange, Glasgow. For more information or to book contact john.s@scl.co.uk or call 0141 559 5732

Social Enterprise contributions

Social enterprises contribute £44m a year to the economy of Scotland’s capital city, a new report has found.

Over 120 social enterprises in Edinburgh tackle a range of social problems, from creating opportunities for disabled people through arts to tackling environmental issues and providing employment and training for young people.

The report, found that social businesses in Edinburgh employ on a paid or voluntary basis around 4,400 people, more than the Scottish Government and twice as many as the police.

To read the full report visit:
<http://www.thirdforcenews.org.uk/2013/06/social-enterprise-brings-in-44m-to-capital-city-economy/>

New Fundraising Platform Launched

A new fundraising platform has been launched after discovering an estimated £75 million a year is being lost through online platforms.

Working in collaboration with ‘PayPal Giving Fund’, Believe.in lets registered charities keep 100% of all funds raised as well as the Gift Aid.

For more information visit:
<https://believe.in/public/what-we-believe>

Apply now for SCVO/GCU master's in citizenship and human rights

Are you interested in promoting the principles of human rights, do you want a human rights qualification that recognises and supports the vital day-to-day work you already do?

SCVO and Glasgow Caledonian University are working together to deliver a work-based learning master's in citizenship and human rights.

Registration is now open for August 2013.

For more information visit:
<http://www.scvo.org.uk/about/scvo-equalities-human-rights/msc-in-citizenship-and-human-rights/>
or contact Matt Tyrer on matt.tyrer@scvo.org.uk or 01463 251727

National Minimum Wage Increase

The Government has announced that from 1st October 2013 there will be an increase in the National Minimum Wage rates.

- 21 and over it will rise from £6.19 to £6.31
- 18-20 year olds will rise from £4.98 to £5.03
- and under 18s will rise from £3.68 to £3.72

The National Minimum Wage applies to all employers regardless of the size of the organisation.

For more information visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

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