

## Making A Difference

Saturday October 26th saw 24 different voluntary and statutory organisations gather together in the King Street Halls to “Get Inspired” (this year’s theme of Make A Difference Day). To inspire each other, to inspire the community about the work they do and best of all, to make connections.

The VAO managed project “Connecting Communities” was present in the form of Kasha Jarosz, who is collecting information from the community to collate in one place. This will detail the work that all the community organisations and statutory bodies who are working in the Health & Care sector do and will be a resource for all to use.

Lunches of soup, sandwiches and home bakes were provided by the young folk of the Connect project, “best soup I’ve ever tasted” was one happy eater’s comment! Monies taken will go into their Intergenerational Projects fund.

There was a happy buzz around the Hall that day and the groups were exchanging information, making new contacts and finding out where their work and that of others could complement one another. “I didn’t realise that Anchor Buildings and the Travel Centre had so many voluntary groups in there” was one comment. It is indeed, truly astonishing that the community provides so many vital services in the county for themselves. For example, support for those who have had a stroke or a heart attack, information on legal queries or entitlement to benefits, counselling for families with relationship issues, help for those over 60 needing grass cutting, shopping, cleaning, support for those with a mental health issue to name but a few.

“It was a great opportunity to meet other groups and have the chance to talk with each other in such a friendly and convivial setting. I have made connections that I can take forward”.

For more information on Voluntary Action Orkney, the Connecting Communities Project or on any of the Health & Care organisations who attended the day, contact VAO at 6, Bridge Street or phone 872897.



## Help and Support for Separated Families Kite Mark Award

Stuart Valentine, Chief Executive of Relationships Scotland the national body for counselling, mediation and family support in Scotland said about the success of achieving this prestigious award.

“I am delighted to confirm that the Relationships Scotland Network has been awarded the Help and Support for Separated Families (HSSF) Kite Mark. The purpose of the Kite Mark is to reassure the public that we work with them to reduce parental conflict and promote collaborative parenting to improve outcomes for children. Relationships Scotland is the first organisation, and currently the only organisation, in Scotland to have achieved this award.

The HSSF Mark provides reassurance to parents that when they use the services of an organisation with the Mark, they can trust it to help them collaborate with their ex-partner as they go through their separation journey. Organisations will need to meet a set of standards which demonstrate that they promote collaboration between parents and help them focus on the interests of their children.

Helen Moss, Manager of Relationships Scotland Orkney, said “We are very pleased to be one of the local services that make up the Network which has been given recognition for the work being done to reduce the conflict experienced by children and families affected by breakdown in couple and family relationships.

## Amendment from August Newsletter

The photo of Eric Gray meeting HRH The Princess Royal used in our August newsletter did not state that Eric was volunteering with Riding for the Disabled Orkney Group when he met Princess Anne. Princess Anne was in fact presenting him with a special rosette for being a volunteer during an official visit to Riding for the Disabled Orkney Group together with the Orkney Pony Club. We apologise for not correctly stating this at the time.

## New Commission on Ageing and the Voluntary Sector

Earlier this month the new Commission on Ageing and the Voluntary Sector was announced, chaired by Lynne Berry OBE and run in partnership with the International Longevity Centre–UK. The commission will provide long-term strategic thinking about the implications of an ageing population for the voluntary sector.

We know the UK is experiencing a huge demographic shift and the scale and nature of changes brought about by an ageing society present significant challenges and opportunities for all charities and their funders. We will be drawing together existing research, consulting with the sector and working with voluntary organisations to develop answers as to how the sector can lead the way in adapting to an ageing population.

More details will follow in the new few months and you can keep up to date on twitter [@AgeingComm](#) and via the hashtag #VolSecAgeing.

## Developing a theory of change

As an organisation do you know what you want to achieve but aren't quite sure how to get there? Our guide '**Making connections: Using a Theory of Change to Develop Planning and Evaluation**' is a great resource to help you get started.

It will give you an introduction to the 'theory of change' approach to planning, monitoring and evaluation; explaining what it is, and why and how you should use it.

Download the guide for free at: [http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/Publications-Research/publications-free-downloads/making-connections?utm\\_source=CES+Subscribers&utm\\_campaign=3dcd898f42Training\\_bulletin\\_July137\\_9\\_2013&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_889429593c-3dcd898f42-296035013](http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/Publications-Research/publications-free-downloads/making-connections?utm_source=CES+Subscribers&utm_campaign=3dcd898f42Training_bulletin_July137_9_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_889429593c-3dcd898f42-296035013)



## Charities Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 9th November

Kirkwall Town Hall, 10am to 3pm

*Come along and start your Christmas shopping and support a good cause at the same time!*

*Includes Santa's Grotto (12noon to 2pm)*

## Orkney Food Bank

A group of volunteers are in the process of establishing a local emergency foodbank in Orkney. They are hoping to have the service running by November and have systems in place to be able to issue a 3 day emergency food parcel across Orkney Mainland to users who present a food voucher.

For more information or to claim a voucher the following organisations are best placed to identify those in need:

- Social Services
- Job Centre
- GP's, District Nurses, Health Visitors and local Hospital
- Victim Support Agencies
- Women's Refuge
- Homeless Hostels
- Charity or Council run accommodation organisations
- Welfare Agencies
- Partner Charities
- Community Mental Health Teams
- Churches or Christian Centres
- Carers

## National Minimum Wage

As of 1st October 2013 the following regulations will come into effect:

- Adult rate will increase by 12p to £6.31
- 18-20 year olds will increase by 5p to £5.03
- 16-17 year olds will increase by 4p to £3.72
- Apprentice rate will increase by 3p to £2.68
- Accommodation offset increases from £4.82 to £4.91

## Corporate responsibility - call for views

Corporate responsibility is sometimes known as corporate social responsibility. It is defined as the responsibility of an organisation for the impacts of its decisions on society and the environment above and beyond its legal obligations, through transparent and ethical behaviour.

This call for views seeks to gather your thoughts and ideas on aspects of corporate responsibility. It looks at what government, business and others should and could do in order to realise the full benefits that corporate responsibility can bring.

It covers themes including:

- voluntary reporting and disclosure of non-financial information
  - responsible supply chain management
- corporate responsibility in small and medium sized enterprises

Your comments will contribute to a framework for action on corporate responsibility. We intend to publish the framework by the end of 2013.

**Respond online** at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VRMVGf3> or **complete a response form** at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/consultation\\_response\\_form\\_data/file/62/bis-13-964rf-corporate-responsibility-call-form.doc](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/consultation_response_form_data/file/62/bis-13-964rf-corporate-responsibility-call-form.doc) and email it to [corporate.responsibility@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:corporate.responsibility@bis.gsi.gov.uk) or write to :

Edward Greatrex,  
Business Environment Directorate  
Department of Business,  
Innovation and Skills,  
Level 3,  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

## Proportionate monitoring of charity accounts

OSCR took up their powers as Scotland's Charity Regulator in April 2006 and since that time, they've been working with charity trustees and their advisors to drive up standards and support the sector in meeting legal and accounting requirements.

They've seen a real improvement in the quality of accounts prepared by Scottish charities. For example, in 2006-7, only 28% of charity accounts submitted to them were acceptable. Now the proportion of compliant accounts is some 80%.

In light of their experience, they're reviewing how they monitor accounts submitted to them. In the interim, they're implementing some short term changes to their monitoring policy - which can be viewed at: <http://oscr.cmail2.com/t/r-l-bkiujut-quyljikdk-b/>

From 2 September, they've changed their response to accounts submissions. They will still review every set of accounts that charities submit to them to ensure that they allow OSCR to publish accurate figures on the Register. Where there are deficiencies or apparent errors, they will contact the charity to explain how the accounts should be prepared for the next year, but they will not usually ask for resubmission, unless they cannot determine the information required for the Register to be updated.

Most charities won't notice this change but as they work with the sector to develop their wider new proposals they are, for example, giving active consideration to the options for publishing some charity accounts on the Register, they'll provide regular updates.



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

**November 6<sup>th</sup> Planning a project** - Wondering how to begin the planning? Come to a session on Project Planning – we'll help you with the ground work. VAO 2.00- 4.30pm. A fee will apply.

**November 20<sup>th</sup> Getting It Right From The Start** – make sure you are ready and able to begin the process of employing someone. New to being an employer? Come along and find out what needs to be in place. VAO 6.00- 8.30pm. A fee will apply.

**This year's Trustees' Week runs from 4 - 10 November** and we'll be highlighting the often unsung, but vital work that voluntary Charity Trustees undertake throughout the County– more details soon.

**5th November Arthritis Care** — Are you or someone you care about facing the challenge of living with a long-term condition? Come along to our free self-management sessions designed to put you back in control. St Magnus Hall, Kirkwall. To register or for more details call 0845 600 3756 or email [ChrisW@arthritiscare.org.uk](mailto:ChrisW@arthritiscare.org.uk)

**Child Protection Step 2 November 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>**. For more info contact Nadia at [nadia.heath@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:nadia.heath@orkney.gov.uk)

**November 28<sup>th</sup> Secretary Skills** - Are you new to the role? Been doing it for a while and unsure if what you do is correct? Need efficient minute taking and agenda setting! VAO 2.00- 4.30pm. A fee will apply.

### **Pensions Auto Enrolment**

The UK Government has introduced a new law which requires all employers to enrol their workers (who earn over £8,015pa / £156 per week) into a qualifying pension scheme which offers employer contributions.

If your organisation has less than 30 employees, this pension requirement comes into force from June 2015 onwards.

For more information visit:  
<http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/>

### **The Future of Trusteeship in Scotland a celebration of boards and trustees**

In honour of the vital role charity trustees play, the Scottish Governance Forum is proud to present this free flagship event celebrating trustees' work taking place in Dundee on the 7<sup>th</sup> November.

For more information: [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/8055605533?utm\\_term=eventpage&invite=NDI2ODM4OS9lbnF1aXJpZXMuc2NvdGxhbmRAYmlnbG90dGVyeWZ1bmQub3JnLnVrLzA%3D&utm\\_campaign=inviteformal001&utm\\_source=ebemail&utm\\_medium=email&ref=enivtefor001](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/8055605533?utm_term=eventpage&invite=NDI2ODM4OS9lbnF1aXJpZXMuc2NvdGxhbmRAYmlnbG90dGVyeWZ1bmQub3JnLnVrLzA%3D&utm_campaign=inviteformal001&utm_source=ebemail&utm_medium=email&ref=enivtefor001)

### **Community Participation Research**

Stephen Rolfe, a PhD student at Glasgow University, is conducting research into the outcomes of community participation, and particularly the different routes by which community organisations can create change.

He is keen to speak to community organisations such as development trusts, who often try to balance running services with influencing public sector service delivery.

If your organisation is prepared to take part in his research, you can contact Stephen on 07913 724854 or email [s.rolfe.1@research.gla.ac.uk](mailto:s.rolfe.1@research.gla.ac.uk)

### **Do more with digital tools**

Is your organisation making the most of digital technology? There are digital tools out there that can help you save time and money whether you are planning events, raising funds, recruiting volunteers, raising your profile, managing projects or measuring your impact. **Community How To** is a free website that brings all these tools together to help non-profit organisations find digital tools to help with a variety of subjects including help with social media, setting up a website or planning a new projects visit.

Voluntary Action Orkney, Anchor Buildings, 6 Bridge Street, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1HR Tel. 01856 872897

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