

Newsletter March 2024

Local news and services

Celebrating volunteer success at Orkney Youth Awards 2024

A full house gathered at the Phoenix last Thursday evening to celebrate the achievements of Orkney's young people.

Among the awards given out were almost 50 Saltires for young volunteers, including volunteers at Gilbertson Day Centre, the ROAR project (who also presented cheques to MS Society, RNLI and Orkney Blide Trust), Orkney Gymnastics Club and the Get Ready to Volunteer initiative. Individuals too numerous to mention were also picking up certificates for volunteering in a diverse number of local organisations.

The climax to the evening was the Saltire Summit Awards, this year presented to, Daisy Cooper, Ronnie Taylor and Alice Mainland for their outstanding efforts (pictured right).

Thanks to Picky and the Orcadian for their ongoing support, and to RGU for sponsorship. The evening was organised by VAO's Youth Development Workers and partners in OIC's CLD team.



Pictured above: ROAR volunteers presenting cheques to the MS Society and Orkney Blide Trust and some of the saltire volunteers with their certificates.

Join us as a Director!

Our Directors play a very important role in making sure that Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO) is run in the interests of the charities, community groups and volunteers (known as our Third Sector) we support. Directors strategically oversee the management and administration of the organisation.

We are seeking Directors to complement our current Board and with skills / knowledge and experience to help meet our Strategic Objectives. We are particularly interested in people with any of the following:

- Knowledge and Experience in the following areas:
 - Leadership
 - Business Development
 - Organisational Development
 - Human Resources
 - Marketing
 - Communications
 - Volunteer Support / Management / Recruitment / Retention
 - Stakeholder Engagement
 - Strategic Planning
- Previous experience as a charity Director or Trustee is desirable
- Local Third Sector knowledge

To carry out this role, you will require enthusiasm and commitment for the work of VAO and will be a collaborator with a willingness and appetite to get involved with new activities.

If you feel you have a lot to offer and don't necessarily have the required skills, please get in touch and have a discussion, we would be happy to support you if this is a new role you are considering.

Please visit [our website](#) for more details and an application pack. The closing date for applications is 15 April.

Legislation and guidance

Changes to charity law



Legislation was laid in the Scottish Parliament last month to bring into effect some of the changes contained in the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023. These changes will take effect on 1 April 2024. OSCR has been working hard to make sure charities and the public get maximum benefit from the improvements these changes will bring.

While there is no immediate action required on the part of charities or charity trustees, OSCR want to make sure that the sector and those who advise it know what changes are coming up.

Please visit the [latest news section on the OSCR website](#) for more information on the coming changes.

Funding & finance

VAO produces a monthly Training & Funding Update which contains useful information and links about current training and funding opportunities as well as enterprise and governance advice. To sign up, email: enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk and let us know you

would like to be added to the mailing list. The latest update can be viewed on the [VAO website under help for groups](#).

Job opportunities

HR Administrator / Advisor at VAO

Salary: FTE £25,561 (Pro Rata £15,336.60)

Hours: 21 hours

Closing Date: 3 April 2024 @ 5:00 pm

We are looking for a skilled HR Administrator / Advisor who will work across three areas:

- Support Employers receiving direct payments through the Independent Living Service, working in partnership with Age Scotland Orkney.
- Responsible for Voluntary Action Orkney's HR service delivery to the third sector in Orkney
- Providing HR support internally.

If you are passionate about HR and highly efficient, give us a chance to meet you. We expect you to have knowledge of various HR functions. We want to see a committed and approachable individual and be impressed with your character and skills.

The goal will be to provide excellent assistance and support to employees and managers and the services we provide and support.

The application pack is available to download on [our website](#) or by emailing, enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk (CVs will not be accepted). For further information on the role please contact Rosalind Aitken at rosalind.aitken@vaorkney.org.uk

Training and events

Healthy Young Minds: Promoting Mental Wellbeing in Children and Young People

16 - 17 May 2024

Online

Orkney Islands Council are hosting a free online event to enhance awareness and promote mental wellbeing in children. The two-day event is for anyone working with children in Orkney from the statutory and third sectors.

For more information or to book your place, please visit the [online booking page](#).

Volunteering news

Need volunteers to help your organisation?

We can help match up volunteers to opportunities, so if your organisation, charity or community group has a volunteering opportunity, please let us know. We can spread the word, promoting this on our website, social media and to volunteers we are meeting in person or at events. Contact

our Volunteer Development Worker on aimee.harvey@vaorkney.org.uk to discuss your requirements.

Volunteering opportunities

If you're interested in doing some volunteering, you can check out all the latest [volunteering opportunities and complete a Volunteer Registration Form](#) in the Volunteering Opportunities section of our website. You can also contact Aimee Harvey our Volunteer Development Worker at aimee.harvey@vaorkney.org.uk who can help to find a role to suit you.

Opportunities of the month



Quoyloo Old School

Join the Quoyloo Old School volunteer committee as their Treasurer. Help to oversee the organisation's bank account, pay bills, monitor insurance and electricity costs, and prepare cash floats for events. To find out more and register your interest visit the [volunteering opportunities section of our website](#).



Orkney Library and Archive

The Orkney Library and Archive are looking for volunteers to help them set up a Seed Library. If you know about cultivating/drying seeds and have an interest in gardening and promoting sustainability, then this is an ideal opportunity to get involved in a new venture. All volunteers will be involved in the planning of the Seed Library from the start, and once established will help to organise and run it. To find out more and sign up visit the [volunteering opportunities section of our website](#).

Arcadia Community Park

Arcadia Community Park are looking for volunteers to help with various jobs around the site, including cultivation work, planting, potting, pruning and seeding. Over the next few months Paul from the Arcadia Park team will be on site on Thursdays between 10am and 3pm. Gloves will be provided whilst on site, but you are asked to wear suitable clothing and footwear. It is an informal arrangement - you can take part for a couple of hours or go along for a few weeks. For up to date information about where and when volunteers are meeting, check the [Arcadia Community Park Facebook group](#) or contact them on email at arcadiaparkorkney@gmail.com



Loch of Ayre Walkway Association

The Loch of Ayre Walkway Association are also looking for volunteers to help with planting trees and painting benches and bridges. Their volunteering days are scheduled for Sunday 7 April and Saturday 20 April from 10.30am. Find out more on the [volunteering opportunities section of our website](#).



Festival opportunities

Orkney's festival season is nearly upon us and with that comes lots of opportunities to get involved through volunteering. Below are those currently recruiting volunteers with details on how to sign-up:

Orkney Folk Festival

23 - 26 May

Email volunteer@orkneyfolkfestival.com to register your interest.

St Magnus International Festival

21- 28 June

Sign up as a [front of house volunteer](#) or help out as [technical crew/stage hands](#).

Orkney International Science Festival

5 - 11 September

Sign up as an [on-site event assistant](#) with the opportunity to get involved in anything from general festival support to technical assistance.



You can check out the [VAO website](#) for all our current volunteering opportunities or contact our Volunteer Development Worker at aimee.harvey@vaorkney.org.uk who can help to find a role to suit you.

If you would like to promote your organisation, an activity or project or have an interesting story to share, please contact Cecily.cromby@vaorkney.org.uk