

# Volunteer Centre Western Isles

# Newsletter



## Celebrating Volunteers' Week in the Western Isles

**Volunteers' Week, always the first week of June, had even greater significance this year, due to the European Year of Volunteering, which is being celebrated throughout Europe. Volunteer Centre staff decided to emphasise these connections with Europe and also to take the chance to**

**highlight the astonishingly varied ways in which volunteers contribute to their communities.**

In Stornoway, staff collected a display of 40 volunteer stories and staged it at various prominent locations around the town during the week. This was brought together to create a powerful impression of the diversity of volunteers, and their passion for what they do, at a volunteers' tea party held in the Bridge Centre on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. Music was provided by the talented Nash family from Tolsta Chaolais, while guests enjoyed the refreshments and read the display of stories.



There was also a continuously-running presentation on last year's trip to Moldova by local volunteers, illustrating volunteers' impact abroad.

Everyone was invited to cut out an outline of their own hand, decorate it, and stick it on the map of the Western Isles. This was a very visual way to represent the helping hands of the islands, and it both amused and delighted the guests. The invited audience of volunteers were all given free entry to a prize draw, for which generous donations had been made by local businesses. In addition, 3 different volunteers gave a short talk about what their volunteering means to them: one from the perspective of a service user about to become a volunteer, one from a volunteer organiser and one from a volunteer who regularly goes with a team to Moldova in Eastern Europe.



Looking at stories



Charlie Nicolson giving a hand



Helping hands of the Hebrides

See inside for more details of Volunteers week in other areas.



**In Uist**, Claire Scott, Volunteer Centre Development Worker was very busy with local groups. She helped organise a clean-up in Gerinish. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, the volunteers at Daliburgh were thanked for their hard work, contribution and dedication in the thrift shop as volunteers, and presented with Volunteers Week Certificates.

She also held a Tea Party to celebrate volunteering and voluntary organisations in and around East Camp, to say 'Thank You'. Certificates were presented to those volunteers as a token appreciation, and to recognise their contribution to volunteering. Volunteers were also given the opportunity to write a few words on what volunteering meant to them. Here are a few words from those volunteers and organisations:



*"Without the valuable contribution of volunteers we would be unable to operate successfully at the Uist Community riding School or the East Camp Horticultural Project"*

*"To give back to the community"*

*"makes me feel normal for a while"*

*"I'm able to learn new skills to enhance my CV, getting out and about, having fun and meeting new people"*

**In Barra**, Volunteer Centre Development worker Karen Mackinnon helped Castlebay Youth Cafe with a cleanup event on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June and collected rubbish from all the hard to reach areas in Castlebay. Youth Cafe members also raised some money by running a 'bottle stall' at the local Produce Sale. A ceilidh was held for Feis Bharraigh on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>, at which volunteers played a mix of music to parents, volunteers and holiday makers.

The Volunteer Centre would like to thank all those who supported the events and particularly for the donations of raffle prizes in Stornoway.



**Other News from Uist**

**Tree Planting:** 13 Young volunteers and 4 adult volunteers from South Uist planted over 100 trees around the Storas Uibhist building in May. I would like to thank all the volunteers and the St Peters Youth Club for their hard work and fantastic planting skills!



**Uist Half Marathon:** The Volunteer Centre would like to thank all the volunteers who support the Benbecula Half Marathon. Without you there would certainly be many thirsty and lost runners. Until next year...





**Dementia Awareness Day:** On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, lochdar Primary School hosted a Dementia Awareness Day supported by the NHS and young volunteers from Sgoil Lionacleit. The day was designed to make young people aware of dementia, and how it may affect those diagnosed. There were several workshops for the pupils to participate in, which included giant card games, the Nintendo Wii, colouring activities, a sensory room and many more, to highlight the importance of social interaction and mental stimulation. Volunteers assisted the Social Care workers with activities to demonstrate how games could be adapted for the elderly and those with dementia.

## MODEL BEHAVIOUR IN NESS HALL

If, unlike Alasdair Allan, you were unable to visit Ness Hall on Sat. 4 June '11, you missed a rare opportunity to participate in an exchange of skills, which concluded the Volunteers' Week celebration organised by the Volunteer Centre. Those brave enough to accept the challenge offered a diverse range of specialism's.



On a practical level, Tina Finlayson used her bank training to offer some tips on budgeting and control of cash.

On an international level, Charles Elliott exhibited exquisite craftsmanship in creating miniature models of precise details. Characters from history stepped in to the 21st Century, from Viking warrior to a cailleach complete with creel. Visitors were invited to create expressive faces from clay under his expert tutelage. With a steady hand and a scalpel, Alan Cessford demonstrated the skills involved in making model scenes, combining architectural styles with model vintage cars.

Munro and Jan Gold took the car theme one stage further and submitted their vintage Austin 7 car for detailed inspection, much to the delight of the Ness Fire Fighters who lost no time in checking the chassis and lifting the bonnet. This 1920s model has been lovingly restored to extend its lifespan into a second century.



The fire engine became the centre of attention for the seventy children from Back Sunday School who swarmed in and out of the cab and delighted in confirming the siren was in good working order.

Ladies of the Ness Hall committee briefly displayed their baking skills, but their submission predictably disappeared. It was a privilege to see the range of expertise on show. The skill and dedication exemplified by all the participants is magnificent and deserves to be recognised. These treasures are honed quietly in corners of our community but they have a significant role to play in contributing to our collective creative, intellectual and social development. Encourage them. Emulate them. Let their example inspire you to explore new skills and expand your own potential. Can you face up to their challenge?



## Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement – Support Available

VOiCE is a web-based tool that has been created to assist individuals and organisations to design and deliver community engagement activities. It was designed by the Scottish Community Development Centre and uses the National Standards for Community Engagement at its heart.

The VOiCE tool can help to develop plans relating to individual engagement projects, help to monitor progress, evaluate the process of the engagement and help to learn lessons for future activity.

The use of VOiCE enables shared planning and conduct of community engagement with colleagues and communities; it allows you to store and retrieve information and produces reports after each step of the tool.

As part of our Community Engagement and Improvement Support Function the Scottish Health Council can offer support to community groups interested in learning more about the VOiCE tool.

Working in partnership with the Volunteer Centre Western Isles we are looking to arrange some short information sessions where you will be able to explore the tool live and on-line and have an opportunity to create your own engagement page.

You can have a look at the VOiCE site at [www.voicescotland.org.uk](http://www.voicescotland.org.uk)

Scottish Health Council contact details [carmen.morrison@scottishhealthcouncil.org](mailto:carmen.morrison@scottishhealthcouncil.org)

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## MV Awards for Hebridean Chocolates Volunteer



Derek was recently awarded with his Millennium Volunteer Certificates for 50 and 100 hrs.

Derek said that he has been volunteering with Hebridean Chocolates for just over a year. He loves meeting new people and working at the factory has really helped him build his confidence.

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## Commonwealth Games—Glasgow 2014



The Glasgow 2014 website now has a section to register your interest in order for you to receive updates about the Games and more specifically about Volunteering.

If you wish to sign up please visit:

<http://www.glasgow2014.com/registration.aspx>



## MP Recognises Young Volunteers

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March young volunteers on Barra celebrated their achievements in the community by taking part in a Youth Volunteers Dance. The dance took place in Castlebay Community School and was attended by over 40 young people. Local Band 'The Vatersay Boys' got the night off to a tremendous start, and everyone on to the dance floor.

At the event several groups of young people were recognised for their voluntary contribution throughout the year. Among the many recent activities young people were recognised for; cooking fair trade products at the produce sale; selling Red Noses for charity; volunteers who setup badminton; those who help with Primary Football each Saturday; and young people who regularly volunteer with their local church.

In particular the teenagers who are taking part in WAVE Awards were recognised. The WAVE Award is a local award designed by the Volunteer Centre Western Isles for volunteers under the age of 16. The award aims to recognise those Volunteers who show outstanding levels of commitment and dedication to their volunteering.



Annie Teresa, Lorna and Amanda—receiving their 25hr award from MP Angus MacNeil and youth worker Dolina Manford



Rebecca, Ruairaidh, Andrew and Catriona

24 members of the Barra 'Youth Cafe Committee' and 'Youth Council' are taking currently part in the Volunteer Centres WAVE Awards. Local MP Angus MacNeil presented award certificates to those at the dance who have reached 25 hours and 50 hours of Volunteering.

Receiving their **25 hours WAVE Award** were; Lorna Campbell, Amanda Brown, Simon O'Connor, Monica MacKinnon and Annie Teresa MacNeil.

Receiving their **50 hour WAVE Award** were; Frances Anne Gillies, Andrew Henderson, Ruairaidh Douglas, Mairi MacLean, Catriona MacKinnon, Rebecca MacLennan and Duncan Douglas.

Young people regularly make a massive contribution to their local communities throughout the islands. Congratulations to all who took part!

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**Senscot Legal** has been set up as a social enterprise by Senscot to provide affordable, quality legal advice and services to other social enterprises, charities and the wider third sector. We seek to provide advice and assistance relating to company set up and structure, governance, employment law, leasing/property related matters, dispute resolution or any other legal issues. In addition, we will deal with new company formations with or without charitable status and/or drafting or reviewing your constitution. We also advise on Employment or HR issues. Since our commencement we have assisted with several Tribunal cases. Testimonials are available on request. For your ease of reference, see our flyer

<http://www.se-legal.net/docs/flyer0311.pdf>



## Free Leadership Training from The Social Enterprise Academy

Academy learning has gained a reputation for the impact it makes on learners. Our 12-day **Leadership Certificate** and 8-day **Starting Your Social Enterprise** programmes can be **transformational**; they change lives and organisations.



This autumn the Academy is offering both programmes **fully funded** in the Highlands & Islands. This is a unique opportunity to see what Academy learning can do for you and your organisation, without the need to travel to the central belt. Both programmes are accredited with the Institute of Leadership and Management.

We are now taking applications for:

Leadership Certificate, **Orkney** – begins Sep 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Leadership Certificate, **Western Isles** – begins Sep 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

Starting Your Social Enterprise, **Fort William** – begins Sep 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

Leadership Certificate, **Skye** (Sabhal Mor Ostaig) – begins Oct 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

These programmes are delivered as two-day modules, spread over the next 8 to 12 months. Locations are chosen to allow as many people to attend as possible. We may also be able to help with overnight B&B costs. Places are limited, **staff and directors of third sector organisations** are invited to apply early to secure places.

For more information call Kate on 01463 238088, email [kate@theacademy-ssea.org](mailto:kate@theacademy-ssea.org) or visit us on Facebook or Twitter. We look forward to hearing from you and your contacts.

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A new online Community Funding Portal is now available on the Comhairle website. It is a free to use service and contains a comprehensive database of funds available to communities in the Outer Hebrides and it is simple and easy to use.

The access icon link is on the Intranet and also on the Comhairle website at: [www.open4community.info/cne-siar](http://www.open4community.info/cne-siar)



The Community Support Team is available to help you and your communities' access funding for projects. Please do not hesitate to contact David Macleay or your Community Co-ordinator should you require any assistance. Please register for free and use the information contained in the database

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The Volunteer Centre Western Isles and Third Sector Hebrides were amongst a group of third sector support organisations to receive their EFQM Committed to Excellence Awards at a recent ceremony hosted by Quality Scotland in Edinburgh.

