

ANNUAL REPORT



2024-25

Actively encouraging, supporting
and promoting volunteering
www.volunteercentrewi.org

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About Us

Volunteer Centre Western Isles is an independent local charity with offices and staff in Lewis, Harris, Uist and Barra.

We provide information, advice and support to individuals interested in volunteering, volunteer managers, voluntary groups, clubs and organisations, private and public sector organisations and companies.

We offer free, confidential support to people who want to volunteer and to organisations who involve volunteers; provide a brokerage service, matching volunteers to volunteer roles in hundreds of local and national organisations; support community events that are often run entirely by volunteers; facilitate adult and youth volunteer awards that recognise the achievements of volunteers; facilitate volunteer awards for organisations who provide the best experience for their volunteers; gather statistics and carry out research into volunteering in the Western Isles which we share with local and national government; constantly work to raise the profile of volunteering as a positive force with prospective volunteers, local policy makers and community leaders.

We are committed to serving our rural communities in ways that best suit their needs throughout the Western Isles. We are passionate about volunteering; we support and encourage it in all forms.

Our aim is to actively encourage, support and promote volunteering.

Our Values

The organisation has a strong ethos of growth and development.

We are:

- Passionate about volunteering: we will support and encourage it in all its forms
- Committed to development – of the individual, the organisation and the community
- Supportive, friendly and non-judgemental in our dealings with ourselves and others
- Committed to giving a quality service and pursuing excellence in all that we do

Volunteer Centre Western Isles Trustees

- ▶ Clive Rowlands: Chair
- ▶ Christine McKee: Treasurer
- ▶ Sharon Reid
- ▶ Kaleigh Macleod
- ▶ Vicki Manchester
- ▶ Kirsten Macinnes - appointed 31 May 2024
- ▶ Iain MacNeil - appointed 1 November 2024
- ▶ Alice Murray - appointed 28 February 2025
- ▶ Other Trustees during the year:

Lily Mackenzie - resigned 3 September 2024



Interim Chair's Report

It is an honour and a privilege to have served on the Board of the Volunteer Centre Western Isles over the last year. Our work stretches the full length of our islands, from Barra to the Butt of Lewis, with staff, board members and volunteers all dedicated to serving and strengthening their communities.

The valued contribution of our volunteers and staff remains at the heart of everything we do. Whether working as individuals or in groups, their dedication has ensured that communities across the Western Isles continue to benefit from new initiatives, ongoing projects and vital local support.

Our part-time Development Workers continue to do exactly what their title suggests - develop opportunities for volunteering and community action that are relevant, needed and effective in each locality. This work is varied, often responding to unique local needs, and we are fortunate to have such a skilled and adaptable team who can rise to the challenge wherever it appears.

The team, led by our manager, Dr Ann Murray, has continued to thrive. Now in her second year with VCWI, Ann has brought a steady hand and clear vision, guiding the organisation into exciting new areas of work while ensuring we continue to deliver on our core mission.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our volunteers. They are the driving force - identifying what is needed, shaping the response and rolling up their sleeves to get the work done. In this report you will find examples of projects that have made a real difference, along with photographs that capture just a fraction of the energy and commitment our volunteers bring.

On behalf of the Board and staff, I offer heartfelt thanks to every person who has given their time, skills and energy over the past year. Whether you are new to volunteering or have supported your community for many years, your contribution is invaluable, and we hope you will continue to be part of the VCWI family in the future.

We are also deeply grateful for the ongoing financial support we receive from the Scottish Government, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Lewis Wind Power and the Co-op. This funding is essential to sustaining our work, and we acknowledge with thanks their continued commitment to volunteering in the Western Isles.

The Board of Trustees has also seen changes this year. We bid farewell to Lily Mackenzie and our Chair, Clive Rowlands, and thank them both for their dedication and service. Clive has been a dedicated Chair for many years, offering unwavering support, wise guidance and a steady presence that has shaped the Volunteer Centre through times of both challenge and opportunity. His commitment and encouragement have been deeply valued by trustees, staff and volunteers alike, and his presence will be greatly missed. We are pleased to welcome Alice Murray from CLD and Councillor Iain MacNeill, representing Barra, to the Board, and we look forward to their contributions in the years ahead.

Following the departure of Clive Rowlands, I have stepped into the role of Interim Chair. It has been a privilege to take on this responsibility and they are big shoes to fill! I am committed to ensuring the organisation continues to move forward positively while the Board considers the appointment of a permanent Chair.

It has been a year of progress, change and continued commitment to the communities we serve. As we look ahead, we remain committed to supporting, celebrating and championing volunteering across the Western Isles.

Kirsten Macinnes

Manager's Report

It has been a year of reflection, growth and renewed purpose at the Volunteer Centre Western Isles. As we continue to adapt to the evolving needs of our communities, the role of volunteering remains central to building resilience and connection across the islands.

The social landscape has shifted significantly in recent years. The cost-of-living crisis, global instability and the lingering effects of the pandemic have deepened inequalities and increased demand for support services. Yet, volunteer participation across Scotland has declined, with only 18% of adults formally volunteering in 2023 - a stark drop from pre-pandemic levels. This trend presents a real challenge, but also an opportunity to rethink how we engage, support and celebrate volunteers.

One of the most encouraging developments has been the rise of virtual and hybrid volunteering. Technology has enabled more flexible and inclusive ways to contribute, and our community has embraced these changes with creativity and care. While face-to-face contact remains invaluable, digital tools have helped us stay connected, expand our reach and strengthen our internal collaboration.

Over the past year, we have focused on strategic planning, policy development and deepening our engagement with local communities. We have refreshed our organisational strategy, updated key policies and supported staff development through away days and appraisals. Our promotional efforts - from Volunteer Week campaigns to quarterly newsletters - have helped raise awareness and celebrate the impact of volunteering across the Western Isles.

We have also continued to build strong partnerships and contribute to wider networks, including CLD planning groups, local forums and youth-led initiatives like the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative, with the Nicolson Institute and Sir E Scott both being awarded £3000 for their chosen charities. Their presentations showcased the compassion and insight of our young people and the vital work of these organisations. These collaborations are vital to ensuring that volunteering remains responsive to local needs and accessible to all.

What stands out most is the unwavering commitment of our team. Their dedication to our mission and to the communities we serve is the foundation of everything we do. I am excited to continue working alongside them - and with volunteers, partners and residents across the islands - to shape a vibrant and inclusive future for volunteering.

In the months ahead, I look forward to visiting communities, listening to local voices and learning from the diverse experiences across our region. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, and our strength lies in our ability to adapt, collaborate and innovate.

Get Involved!

Whether you are a seasoned volunteer or just curious about how you can help, we would love to hear from you. Visit our website, follow us on social media or drop into one of our offices to find out how you can make a difference in your community. Every hour, every skill and every voice matters.

Dr Ann Murray

Our Staff



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Dr Ann Murray

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Administrator & Finance Officer

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Development Worker (Barra)

Katherine MacNeil

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What we do

Work in partnership

We are proud to be one of the six partners that make up the Third Sector Interface (TSI) Western Isles.

Through TSI Western Isles we work to support, develop and promote the interests and work of voluntary and community organisations in the Western Isles. We are funded by the Scottish Government to provide a single point of access for support and advice for the Third Sector. There is a network of 32 interfaces across Scotland: one for each local authority.

TSI Western Isles has responsibility for:

- Supporting and developing a strong Third Sector
- Building the Third Sector relationship with community planning
- Providing regular reporting to Scottish Government's Third Sector Unit on our activities

TSI Western Isles is made up of six partners:

- Volunteer Centre Western Isles
- Voluntary Action Barra & Vatersay (VABV)
- Uist Council of Voluntary Organisations (UCVO)

- Harris Voluntary Service
- Volunteering Hebrides
- Outer Hebrides Social Enterprise Partnership (OHSEP)

Our work as a TSI Western Isles partner this year has been busy with new areas of work such as facilitating the distribution of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing and Community Based Adult Learning Fund across the islands, alongside our existing remits of supporting and developing a strong local Third Sector.

Our role

Scottish Government funds TSIs to be a central source of knowledge about:

- The Third Sector locally
- Local and national policy and how it might affect local Third Sector, communities and citizens
- How the Third Sector can contribute to those agendas

What we do

Work in partnership

Voice

Ensuring a strong Third Sector voice at a strategic level within local planning structures and nationally.

Build Capacity

Developing the capacity of volunteering, community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprise to achieve positive change.

Connect

Providing leadership, vision and coordination to the local Third Sector to better respond to local priorities, including through partnership and collaboration.

Build Intelligence

Providing support and development opportunities for individuals and organisations. Our newsletters and regular news alerts on our website and social media also provide updates relevant to the sector.



**We want to hear from
any organisation or
individual we can support
through these roles**



VOLUNTEER CENTRE WESTERN ISLES



123

Volunteer Opportunities registered by VCWI staff across the Western Isles & marketed through local promotion & volunteercentrewi.org



105

Organisations supported through 1300+ interactions with VCWI staff

9%

Above the national average for volunteering in the Western Isles



70

Volunteers placed in opportunities



201



VCWI Callanish Awards issued to under 12s for youth volunteering

Saltire AWARDS

185

Saltire Awards presented to young volunteers aged 12-25 across the islands

Volunteers' Week 2025



If we did not have the support from our volunteers, then we would not be able to provide such a varied range of services for our community.

Volunteers really are the backbone of community sport. Without them, there would be far fewer opportunities for people to get involved in sport and physical activity.



To anyone interested in volunteering, I say "do it"! There really is no downside. In my experience, volunteering is a great way to explore areas of interest and find a niche that fits your interests and utilises your skills.

Without our wonderful volunteers, we couldn't do what we do!



As part of Volunteers' Week, VCWI places great importance on gathering feedback from both volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations. This feedback helps us understand the impact of volunteering, recognise achievements and identify areas for development.

By listening to experiences and reflections, we can continue to strengthen volunteering across the Western Isles, ensuring that opportunities remain meaningful and that community needs are met effectively.



**VOLUNTEERS'
WEEK**



Volunteers' Week 2025



Volunteers' Week, held annually in June, provides an opportunity to highlight the invaluable contributions of volunteers in our island communities. During this week, VCWI showcases volunteer stories and impact narratives from local volunteer-involving organisations. These stories underscore the significance of volunteers who dedicate their time and skills to enhance community life. From supporting local events to assisting in various community projects, volunteers play a crucial role in contributing to the well-being and resilience of our islands.



Celebrating island volunteers (clockwise from top left): Anne, Community Engagement Officer, Grimsay Centre/volunteer with Uist Community Archaeology Group; Marcina, Western Isles Learning Shop; Malvene, WISCK: Western Isles Support for Cats and Kittens; Helen, The Beacon, Lochbosidale



Volunteers' Week 2025



Celebrating island volunteers (*clockwise from top left*): Felicity, Uist and Barra Food Bank; Gavin, Janet, Becky & Amy, 1st Lewis Scouts (Beavers & Cubs); Donald, Tong School Intergenerational Project; Adam, football coach, Uist



**It's time to say
thank you**



Networking Working in Partnership



Engaging with elected members

Links with local councillors, MSPs and our MP continue to be developed. Earlier in 2025, VCWI welcomed Torcuil Crichton MP and Alasdair Allan MSP to the Lewis office. These meetings allowed staff to highlight the breadth of work carried out across the voluntary sector in the Outer Hebrides. Building these relationships enables VCWI to advocate effectively for the organisations it supports, helping to ensure that local priorities are recognised within wider political discussions and decision-making processes.

The Gathering

In February 2025, VCWI staff attended the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations annual event in Edinburgh (pictured below). The Gathering featured a broad range of organisations and initiatives from across Scotland and further afield. Staff used the opportunity to engage directly with sector representatives and explore new ideas. Insights gained have informed local development work, particularly in areas such as Employer Supported Volunteering, helping to shape future activity and strengthen strategic direction.



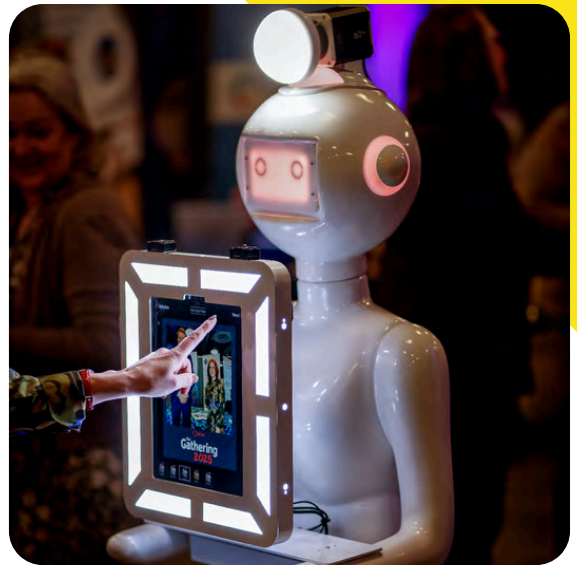
Networking

Working in Partnership

Local staff have continued to develop effective partnerships through a range of collaborative activities. Attendance at the recent Western Isles Literacy Symposium supported the exchange of ideas and good practice. Staff regularly engage with partner agencies across the islands to support coordinated service delivery. Participation in forums, including those organised by Third Sector Hedrides and The Shed Project, has strengthened inter-agency communication and planning.

In addition, GWT Intergenerational Development Officer, Bella Kerr visited the VCWI in Lewis and Harris earlier this year.

The VCWI team also distributes quarterly newsletters to ensure information is shared in a consistent manner. These ongoing efforts contribute to a more integrated approach, enhancing local networks and promoting cooperation across services and community-based organisations.



Future technology demonstrated at **The Gathering** (above)

Generations Working Together
Intergenerational Development Officer meeting with partners at Lewis VCWI Office (below)



VCWI attended the first **Western Isles Literacy Symposium** (left) which brought together a wide range of agencies and organisations



Celebrating Volunteers

VCWI Awards



Callanish Awards

The Callanish Youth Award is an award for under 12s which recognises participation in a one-off team or individual event. Youth groups, schools and organisations can register their event or activity with the Volunteer Centre Western Isles and claim the award for their participants.

Kisimul and Clisham Awards

The Kisimul Award recognises the impact made by adults (age 26 and over) within the community. It can be used to show your organisation's appreciation of your regular volunteers or for one-off volunteering events.

The Clisham Award recognises the outstanding achievement made by exceptional volunteers. This can be for long-term commitment over many years or for going the extra mile and achieving something truly special.

VCWI Development Workers presenting
Clisham Awards (*bottom/top left*) &
Callanish Award (*top right*)



Celebrating Volunteers

Red Cross: A Case Study



Recognising volunteer commitment and achievement is an important part of our work at the Volunteer Centre Western Isles and our Development Worker (Lewis), Bellann O'Brien, was delighted to be invited to a recent celebration at the British Red Cross charity shop in Stornoway.

Bellann has supported Mairi, the shop manager, with volunteer recruitment for many years and organised a VCWI Clisham Award for outstanding achievement to be presented to Cathy (pictured above), who has volunteered with the British Red Cross for an amazing twenty years. Cathy's award was presented by a familiar face - Mairi's niece Katie, who had helped out in the shop with Cathy when Katie was a young girl.

Also being celebrated were long-time volunteers Nicola and Joanne (pictured below), who both collected awards for ten years' service from the British Red Cross.

"Nicola is a real asset to our team and is dedicated and reliable... Whether behind the scenes or on the shop floor, Nicola is always so helpful. She also gives her time to encourage and support our new volunteers," said Mairi, adding, "Joanne has really grown in her role as a volunteer, gaining confidence and new skills which she has been able to build on. These skills have enabled her to move forward into employment"

Congratulations to the long-serving volunteers at the British Red Cross Shop, Stornoway!

Volunteers Cathy (top left), Joanne (bottom left) and Nicola (bottom right) receive their awards



Our Work

Youth Volunteering

VCWI is committed to promoting volunteering among young people through partnership work in schools and communities. We support the development of suitable opportunities, while recognising and celebrating the contribution of youth volunteers. By encouraging a culture of giving back from an early age, we aim to strengthen community life and nurture the next generation of active citizens.



Volunteering offers young people a wide range of benefits. It creates stronger connections to their communities and ensures that important activities and services continue to thrive. It also provides valuable experience, helping to build confidence, develop practical abilities and enhance communication skills.

These experiences can support applications for employment, university or training, making volunteering an important step in personal development. In addition, many young people report a sense of wellbeing from contributing to a cause beyond themselves. Youth volunteering is therefore both an investment in individuals and in the resilience of our communities

Pictured are Junior Librarians at the **Nicolson Institute** (*above*), Halloween Party helpers in **Harris** and youth volunteers helping at a book sale at the **Benbecula Thrift Shop** (*below*)



Our Work

Youth Volunteering



Recognising young people's achievements is central to VCWI's approach. Each year, VCWI trophies are presented at school prizegivings across the Western Isles to acknowledge the dedication of

pupils who have shown consistent commitment through volunteering. These awards highlight the significant role young people play in supporting their communities and provide public recognition of their efforts.

We also promote and support the Saltire Awards, Scotland's national recognition scheme for youth volunteering. The Awards celebrate commitment, responsibility and achievement, providing young people with nationally endorsed certificates that enhance applications for employment, training or higher education. By encouraging participation in Saltire Awards, we ensure young volunteers receive recognition that reflects the value of their contribution while motivating others to become involved.

In celebrating volunteering in these ways, VCWI aims to inspire wider participation and reinforce the message that every contribution matters.

VCWI Trophy for Excellence in Volunteering (*above*)

Prizewinners from **Castlebay School** and the **Nicolson Institute** (*below*)



Saltire
AWARDS

Our Work

Generations Working Together



VCWI continues to support meaningful intergenerational work between primary-aged children and older people through its involvement with Generations Working Together, Scotland's centre of excellence for intergenerational practice.

In Lewis, schools are already seeing the benefits of linking up with local care homes, community groups and volunteers. Children learn from the life experiences of older generations and the volunteers have the chance to share memories, skills and stories.

There are so many creative ways to bring generations together, from gardening projects and storytelling to digital skills or knitting and sewing. These activities help pupils develop empathy, improve communication skills and feel a stronger sense of belonging to their community.

Intergenerational sewing skills at Tong School (*above right*); Sgoil an Rubha and Tong School pupils put empty crisp bags to good use, making emergency blankets (*above left, below*)



Our Work

Generations Working Together



Above: Lewis Wind Power sewing machine presentation to Tong School; Networking with GWT (left & below)

Bellann O'Brien, VCWI Development Worker (Lewis), is the Generations Working Together Intergenerational Connector for the Western Isles.

Recently GWT networking meetings took place in Lewis and Harris, with input from Bella Kerr from Generations Working Together. Bella had the chance to meet with volunteers, pupils and partners and was impressed with the ongoing projects in local primary schools.

VCWI would also like to thank Lewis Wind Power for their continued support of intergenerational work in Lewis schools.

The VCWI's intergenerational project is currently one of the Co-op Local Community Fund's local causes, with Co-op members choosing to support the project and raise funds for further work.



Our Work

Volunteering in the Community



Volunteers at Benbecula Thrift Shop *(left)* & preparing for Eilean Dorcha Festival *(right)*



Volunteering in the community is the very heartbeat of the Western Isles.

At VCWI, we encourage, support and promote volunteering by connecting people and organisations. We maintain links with local volunteer-involving groups and provide a brokerage service that matches individuals to appropriate opportunities.

Volunteering comes in many shapes and forms in our island communities – from supporting an animal charity to helping to pull together a successful community music festival like EDF in Benbecula or HebCelt in Lewis; from running a thrift shop to handing out water to runners in a half marathon - every volunteer hour contributes to community vitality.

VCWI ensures that volunteers and organisations alike receive tailored support. Through our team, based across the Western Isle, we make it easy to discover rewarding ways to give time to our islands.



VCWI Development Worker (Harris), Kathleen tries out a trishaw with Cycling Without Age *(left)* & volunteer steward at Benbecula Half Marathon & 10K *(right)*



Our Work

Environmental Initiatives



Whether it is a litter pick or a beach clean, a community garden or a recycling project, volunteering for the environment plays a vital role in cultivating pride in our islands.

At the Volunteer Centre Western Isles, we maintain strong links with local volunteer-involving organisations and individuals, actively matching volunteers with environmental initiatives.

Lachie (pictured top right) is often seen out and about in Uist clearing litter from the side of the roads.

"I enjoy being out and helping to keep our beautiful islands clean and tidy. It's amazing the amount of rubbish that's discarded on the roadside"

If Lachie has inspired you to help clean up your community, contact your local VCWI office to borrow our litter pickers.



Junior litter pickers in Harris & Barra (top & bottom left) & keen gardeners at Tagas Uibhist Community Gardens (right)



Our Work

Home-based Volunteering

The annual VCWI Winter Knitting Appeal has been going strong for several years, with home-based volunteers across the islands creating beautiful hand-knitted baby items which are then distributed to local charities. One charity, The Leanne Fund, which supports families affected by Cystic Fibrosis, includes these knitted donations in its 'Hello Little One' baby boxes, gifted to families following their child's diagnosis.



Home-based volunteering is important as it allows people to make valuable contributions without being restricted by geography or mobility. For those in rural or island communities, it provides opportunities to support causes while remaining connected to their locality. For example, knitting baby items for a winter appeal offers practical assistance to families in need, while managing social media for a charity helps extend outreach and raise awareness. Other roles may include proofreading documents or offering administrative support remotely, allowing volunteers to use their skills productively.



By removing barriers of distance and isolation, home-based volunteering can allow wider involvement in community and charitable activities.

For more information on home-based volunteering opportunities, contact:
info@volunteercentrewi.org

Our Work

Employer Supported Volunteering

Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) enables employees to contribute to community initiatives with the endorsement of their employer.

For rural or island communities, such opportunities help maintain essential support where resources and volunteers may be scarce.

For instance, employees might join an awareness-raising event such as Alzheimer Scotland's annual Memory Walk, assist with setting up a community gala day or lend their area of expertise to an island organisation. ESV can strengthen community ties and foster a culture of civic responsibility. Employers can benefit through enhanced staff morale and community reputation, while communities gain from skilled, committed volunteers.

VCWI aims to expand Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) by working closely with island employers over the coming year.

Employees of O'Mac Construction, based in Lewis, join the Memory Walk to support Alzheimer Scotland awareness (*above & below*)



Ready to get involved?

Contact VCWI to explore Employer Supported Volunteering and support your local community.

Our Work

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative



VCWI continues to support island secondary schools to deliver the Wood Foundation's Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI).

This pioneering project empowers young people to make a real difference in their communities. Through teamwork, research and competition, young people advocate for social issues to secure a £3,000 grant for a local charity. The YPI initiative promotes active citizenship and enhances pupils' understanding of community needs.

This year pupils from Lewis to Barra took part in YPI. The programme runs differently in each school, with a diverse age range participating. S3 pupils at Sir E Scott School in Harris (pictured) attended a charity fayre organised by VCWI Development Worker Kathleen Duce. They met with several charities before selecting the cause they would support, with Western Isles Community Care Forum receiving the £3,000 grant.



Our Work

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative



In Lewis, at the Nicolson Institute (above), the winning group of S5 pupils secured £3,000 for Crossroads, impressing the YPI judges with a powerful presentation highlighting the struggles of carers and the important support that Crossroads delivers.

At Castlebay School (below), pupils achieved Saltire Awards in recognition of their voluntary contribution to YPI and local charities.

YPI can open young people's eyes to the world outside of the classroom and, for some, the programme gives an opportunity to represent a cause about which they are already passionate.



Our Work

Work with Island Schools



Throughout the year, VCWI collaborates with schools across the Western Isles to promote the value of volunteering among young people.

In primary schools, we introduce pupils to the concept of volunteering, explaining its significance and the diverse roles volunteers undertake and asking the question: 'Who can be a volunteer?' (clue: anyone).

In secondary schools, we provide information and support for the Saltire Awards, encouraging pupils to engage in volunteering activities within their existing groups and clubs and promoting volunteering opportunities through school noticeboards and drop-in sessions. Our partnership with Community Learning and Development (CLD) and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award facilitates inputs to Guidance classes, emphasising the importance of volunteering.

Additionally, VCWI Development Workers promote volunteering opportunities and the Saltire Awards at events such as the school parents' nights and careers events, fostering a culture of active citizenship among young people.



Our Work

Promoting Volunteering

VCWI Development Workers continue to actively promote volunteering and volunteer opportunities throughout the Western Isles.

We engage with local communities in a variety of ways, including pop-up stalls in libraries and partnership activities to support Volunteers' Week, Youth Work Week, International Women's Day and other relevant dates.

Over the year, VCWI staff have organised and participated in charity fayres and networking events. We also take part in the UHI Freshers' Fayre to raise awareness of volunteering among students and the wider community.

In addition, we maintain ongoing promotion of volunteering opportunities with local charities and organisations through our social media channels, highlighting roles and events, and through regular newsletters which detail our work and the impact of volunteers.

These communications showcase the difference volunteers make to island communities and encourage wider participation. Through these sustained efforts, we aim to strengthen the culture of volunteering, support local organisations and ensure that people across the islands are aware of ways they can contribute to charitable activities.



Volunteer Centre Western Isles
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

STATEMENT OF BALANCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	At 31 March 2025	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Bank and cash in hand	<u>55,019</u>	<u>994</u>	<u>56,013</u>	<u>63,865</u>
Funds				
Opening funds	61,843	2,022	63,865	70,399
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	<u>(6,824)</u>	<u>(1,028)</u>	<u>(7,852)</u>	<u>(6,534)</u>
	<u>55,019</u>	<u>994</u>	<u>56,013</u>	<u>63,865</u>



VCWI

Get in touch

Volunteer Centre Western Isles is an independent local charity with staff and offices throughout the Western Isles.

Please drop in or contact us for further information about any of our services.

Lewis

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The Saltire Awards is a national initiative for young people aged 12 to 25. It celebrates, recognises and rewards the commitment and contribution of young volunteers in Scotland.



VOLUNTEERING FOR
12 TO 25 YEAR OLDS

WHY SALTIRE?

The Saltire Awards recognise you and your volunteering.

Help and support will be on hand at every step along the way and the easy to use website allows you to record and track your activities, hours and achievements.

You can progress through the sections in turn or enter and exit at any stage.

Saltire certificates are awarded for the amount of volunteering you do. These are endorsed by the Scottish Government and signed by a Scottish Government Minister.

You get Young Scot Reward Points with the certificates you achieve – these entitle you to some fantastic prizes.

Capturing your volunteering experiences and journey on the Saltire website is a great way to keep a record for your CV, so you don't need to worry about forgetting anything you've done and achieved.

The Awards fit neatly with the national Curriculum for Excellence helping you to become a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and effective contributor.



THE CHALLENGE
Group
volunteering



THE APPROACH
Start
volunteering



THE ASCENT
Continued
volunteering



THE SUMMIT
Extraordinary
volunteering

CELEBRATING, RECOGNISING & REWARDING
the volunteering achievements of young people in Scotland

There are four sections to the Awards designed to help you celebrate your volunteering journey:



THE CHALLENGE

Start here to get a taste of volunteering and make a real difference in your community! Volunteer in a one off team event with friends or classmates.

CERTIFICATES AWARDED
ON COMPLETION OF
VOLUNTEERING



THE APPROACH

Volunteer for an organisation that means something to you. You will get the recognition of your time by being awarded a certificate after 10 and 25 hours of volunteering.

CERTIFICATES AWARD IN
10 HOURS & 25 HOURS



THE ASCENT

Develop your skills and strengths through volunteering. Keep a record in your online account and save your certificates for university, college or work applications.

CERTIFICATES AWARD IN
50 HOURS, 100 HOURS,
200 HOURS, 500 HOURS



THE SUMMIT

If you complete 200 hours of volunteering and exceed expectations then you deserve this award. Worthy volunteers are nominated by an organisation they volunteer for.

CERTIFICATES AWARD IN
200 HOURS+
VOLUNTEERING

SIGN UP TODAY

Saltire Awards can help make volunteering work for you!

Saltire can enhance your CV and job or college applications.

Volunteer Centre Western Isles support the Saltire Awards and can help you to:

- find out more about Saltire Awards
- sign up for the Awards
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