

Volunteer Centre Western Isles Annual Report 2022-23



Mission: to actively encourage, support and promote volunteering.

Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help.

Heather French Henry

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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, private and public sector organisations and companies.

We:

- offer free, confidential support to people who want to volunteer and groups/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

Sharon Reid *Interim Chair*

Christine McKee *Treasurer*

Tina Burgess

Olivia MacLellan

Kathryn McMinn

Clive Rowlands

Jane Nicolson *resigned July 2023*

Steve Hankinson *resigned August 2023*

Vicki Manchester

Kayleigh Macleod

Lily Mackenzie

Interim Chair's Report

This year has seen a welcome change as we have finally moved out of lockdown and embraced the joy of coming together again. It's been a long time coming!

It's been a very busy year for all involved in the Volunteer Centre throughout the Western Isles as we have tried to build up our work again after the COVID pandemic. Our staff have taken the challenge on and welcomed the return to face to face gatherings as, I'm sure we all have. I would like to express my thanks to them for working so hard during the pandemic and continuing to work with people of all ages who have been engaged in volunteering the length and breadth of our Islands. As Interim Chair I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their support throughout the past year, always giving their time so willingly, so that we can support our staff and ensure that we undertake and complete all of our duties and responsibilities. The most important people within the Volunteer Centre are of course the volunteers, these are the individuals and groups who so readily give up their time to come forward and help us throughout the year. Some are new to volunteering, others are people who have been taking part in this activity over a number of years. You are the lifeblood of the organisation and my warmest thanks to you all.

This has been a year of consolidation as well as development: we have now moved to post-pandemic status and have been challenged to resurrect some of the old opportunities as we rediscovered and redeveloped new links with local Volunteer Involving Organisations and partners and concentrated on developing our youth volunteering whilst simultaneously making good inroads with our intergenerational work.

In terms of new staff we would like to give a warm welcome to Ann Murray as the new CEO, based in Stornoway. We look forward to working with you. It's also been time to say goodbye to some of our long-serving members of staff. Our thanks go to Suzanne Macaulay, the outgoing manager for your dedication and hard work over the past 6 years. We wish you well in your new position. I'd also like to thank Mark Marooth for his work as Development Support Worker over the past year and Vicki Manchester for your commitment and hard work as a Development Worker in Uist over the last 3 years. We are not losing Vicki completely though as Vicki is still keeping links with us through Generations Working Together as volunteer co-ordinator for Uist and also as one of our new Board Members along with Kayleigh Macleod and Lily Mackenzie. A warm welcome to you all.

We also said goodbye to valued Board members this year and we would like to thank Jane Nicolson and our outgoing Chair Steve Hankinson for their service and for supporting staff and the Board over their time in office. We wish them well in the future. I would also like to express my thanks to the Comhairle for their continued support – we really could not do it without your welcome support, both financially and practically. As well as the Comhairle, I'd also like to express my thanks to Iain Macaulay, Lord-Lieutenant who, as part of the King's coronation celebrations helped out with promoting the Big Help Out initiative.

A sincere thank you to everyone who has been involved and for your continued support.

Sharon Reid

Manager's Report

Welcome to our 2023/2024 Annual Report

After spending over 24 years in the education sector I am delighted to take on the challenge as the new manager at the Volunteer Centre, Western Isles. Over the past four years we have seen unprecedented change in almost every facet of our lives and whilst in many ways people have returned to a pre-pandemic life, the repercussions of lockdown continue to impact on our communities. The cost-of-living crisis and external events like the Russian invasion of Ukraine have added to these issues. We've seen widening inequalities and deepening societal need for some of the most marginalised groups.

The full picture of what this means for volunteering remains, largely, to be seen but there is no doubt that the requirement for volunteers to come forward and support their communities is now greater than ever. However, coupled with this, is the fact that the current cost of living crisis means that this is getting more difficult with volunteering under considerable threat. The impact of the ongoing crises can be clearly seen in recent data. The latest Community Life Survey (Gov.UK) found that the proportion of the UK population who had volunteered at least once a month in 2021/22 was 16%. This was down from about 23% in 2019/20, reflecting the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Volunteer participation has not fully recovered since then.

However, there are also some aspects of the Covid pandemic that are here to stay and which are extremely positive such as virtual volunteering. There is no doubt that technology has played an increasingly important role in volunteering since 2020. Volunteering online or over the phone is now the third most common place to volunteer.

31% of those who volunteered in the last 12 months did at least some of it online or over the phone. Whilst we welcome the return of face-to-face contact we have also seen how the technology can aid us in much of what we do as an organisation and how our community has quickly adapted to make sure virtual volunteering was safe and rewarding. The team have also reported that the technology has bound them together closer as a team as they have used ways of communicating that hadn't been used before. These results are testament to their hard work over a very difficult period. We must not lose sight of these positive factors as we move to a more hybrid model of working and begin to think in different and more innovative ways.

One thing I have learned in my short time with the Volunteer Centre is the commitment and dedication of the staff is second to none. It is this commitment to our community and delivering on our promises that will get us through the challenging times ahead.

Over the coming weeks I hope to get out and about and meet people across the islands and get a flavour of what works where and why. I'm a big fan of learning from one another but not having a 'one size fits all'.

Finally I would like to record my thanks to the outgoing manager, Suzanne Macaulay who steered the ship admirably over the last 6 years. Thank you Suzanne for providing a great environment and a welcoming and knowledgeable team which it is a pleasure to be part of. I look forward to working with the community, the local Third Sector Interface and the general public to realise and expand the aims of the Volunteer Centre for the next year and beyond.

Our Staff

We believe that people are the most important part of any organisation. This is why we place so much value in support for our staff and volunteers.



Manager:

Dr Ann Murray

manager@volunteercentrewi.org
95 Cromwell Street, Stornoway
01851700366



Administrator & Finance Officer:

Angelique MacDonald

admin@volunteercentrewi.org



Development Workers (Lewis):

Bellann O'Brien

lewis@volunteercentrewi.org



Marion Wilson

marion@volunteercentrewi.org



Development Worker (Harris):

Kathleen Duce

harris@volunteercentrewi.org
Old Primary School, Tarbert
01859502636



Development Worker (Barra):

Katherine MacNeil

barra@volunteercentrewi.org
Am Bothan, Northbay, Isle of Barra
01871890775

Development Worker (Uist):

Currently Vacant

www.volunteercentrewi.org
Twitter @VolunteeringWI
Facebook @Volunteercentrewi

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 Governments 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 TSI's to perform the following roles:

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



WESTERN ISLES
support and advice for the third sector

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

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



The support, development and representation of local community groups, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and volunteering



Voice of the Sector



Support



Volunteering

Home About Us News Events Voice of the Sector Support For Organisations Social Enterprise Volunteering Western Isles Services Contact Us

Visit Our Coronavirus / Covid-19 Portal >>

An area providing Western Isles citizens, charities, community groups, social enterprises, and voluntary organisations with support, information and resources during the COVID-19 outbreak.

We want to hear from any organisations or individuals we can support through these roles.

www.tsiwi.org

What we do

Our Work

Our activities to support volunteers and volunteer involving organisations are broken into the following categories, as defined by Scottish Government:

Building Intelligence

Connect

Build Capacity

Voice

Underpinning all activities are actions ensuring that the Volunteer Centre Western Isles is committed to excellence in all that we do and has in place sound governance.

Building Intelligence

This year, we have registered:



Areas where targets were not met were as a direct consequence of the recovery from COVID restrictions affecting the capacity of volunteer involving organisations. We have seen a shift in our work following Covid-19 restrictions – for example, the number of new organisations has decreased but the number of existing registered organisations requesting support has increased significantly. We have therefore changed our service focus to direct support where required, as services reopen to support volunteering. We expect this focus to change over the coming year.

We ensure we have up to date volunteering opportunities available to meet a wide range of needs and interests. Moving into the post-COVID phase, our work has continued to adapt and change often finding

innovative ways to continue supporting volunteers during and following the easing of lockdowns.

Throughout the year, our staff worked to contact volunteer organisations who are registered with us to check if they required support and ensure we hold up to date details and volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Centre Staff supported organisations to develop new volunteer opportunities, actively promote volunteering roles, register new volunteers and match volunteers into suitable opportunities.

We have proactively contacted volunteer and other organisations throughout the islands to promote our services and ensure organisations are aware of the services the Volunteer Centre can offer.

Volunteer Friendly



The Volunteer Friendly award is a user-friendly quality standard to support, recognise and reward groups who are good at involving volunteers.

Many essential services in Scotland's communities are enhanced by volunteers. The Scottish Government recognises that volunteering matters and it's all about new experiences, feeling good and making a difference.

It's never been more important for groups to be able to show how good they are at involving and managing their volunteers. We believe regardless of your group or organisation size or set up you should be rewarded and recognised for the difference your volunteer programme makes.

Volunteer Centre Western Isles believe regardless of your group or organisation size

or set up you should be supported, rewarded and recognised for the difference your volunteer programme makes

The national Volunteer Friendly Award was redeveloped in 2021. Volunteer Centre Western Isles has been part of the national redesign and we are delighted to offer this Award to Volunteer Involving groups in the Western Isles.

The new Award is a quality standard that allows volunteer involving groups to take part and be recognised for their good practice. Following the launch of the award, Volunteer Centre Staff are now supporting four Western Isles organisations to undertake the award.

Since becoming assessors for the Volunteer Friendly Award, the Volunteer Centre has verified assessments for various organisations nationally on behalf of Volunteer Scotland.

Our Work

Connect



Caraidean Uibhist SCIO has been recognised with an award to acknowledge their best practice in volunteer management and support given to volunteers.

Caraidean have been awarded a national quality standard Volunteer Friendly Award, which has been designed by Volunteer Scotland to support, recognise and reward groups which are good at involving volunteers.

Caraidean is the first organisation in the Western Isles to gain the newly revised national award. The standard, process and offer have been refreshed and achievable requirements set for each level of your volunteer programme. The new process allows more groups to engage with the Volunteer Friendly Award and be recognised for the work they do.

Caraidean's Manager Jo Sinclair said, "We are immensely proud to receive this recognition and reflects the dedicated and long hours the Caraidean team put in to

ensure that the organisation provides the service that it does to our Community; without our Volunteers, we would not exist they are such an integral part of the Caraidean family, from befrienders to volunteer support workers, to the Board themselves, without them we would not be able to continue to flourish."

Volunteer Centre Western Isles, a partner in TSI Western Isles, facilitate the Volunteer Friendly Awards locally. Katherine MacNeil, Development Officer (Barra) who leads the local awards scheme, said, "Many essential services in our communities are enhanced by volunteers. It's never been more important for groups to be able to show how good they are at involving and managing their volunteers.

We believe regardless of your group or organisation size or set up you should be rewarded and recognised for the difference your volunteer programme makes.

Here at the Volunteer Centre, we can support your group to take part, put the

right systems in place and gain your award. A huge well done to Caraidean for their excellent work with volunteers – their award is very well deserved.”

For information on how your group or organisation can find out more or take part in the Awards, please visit <https://volunteercentrewi.org/organisations/volunteer-friendly-award> or <https://volunteerfriendly.co.uk> for further info.

Or contact Katherine MacNeil, barra@volunteercentrewi.org



Castlebay Meal

On Friday 9th December 2022, Castlebay School were delighted to be able to host a ‘Dinnear agus Dualchas’ intergenerational meal.

We had approximately 70 members of our community invited in for a lovely 3 course meal with music and dance to accompany the evening. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the night and we were extremely proud of all pupils, staff and community members who volunteered their time. Our Primary pupils across Castlebay and Eoligarry schools also played an important part of the evening too. With the help and support of class teachers and Katherine MacNeil, Volunteer Centre, our Primary pupils created lovely gifts for all of the guests who sat down to beautifully decorated wreathes and hanging artwork. These designs brightened up the whole room and brought lots of smiles to our older generation who took them home to hang on Christmas trees and wall. We were really thankful to Katherine for being able to provide us with the finance and order the crafts we wanted to complete



this project. We continue to have strong partnership links with the volunteer centre across the Barra primaries and very much look forward to continuing this positive and meaningful relationship. Huge thanks again.

Our Work

Connect

A team of S3 students from Sir E Scott have secured a grant of £3000 for Western Isles Woman's Aid through the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI).

The winning group's presentation detailing the hard work and commitment of the Western Isles Woman's Aid and how they would use the £3000 locally saw them win the final, which was judged by Sarah Macleod (Action for Children) Deenie McGowan (Essence of Harris) and Callum Porteus (Senior Pupil).

YPI is an active citizenship programme which empowers young people to make a difference in their community about causes which they care about deeply. Through a unique programme of teamwork, research and competition, an entire year group takes part and just one team is chosen to secure the grant.

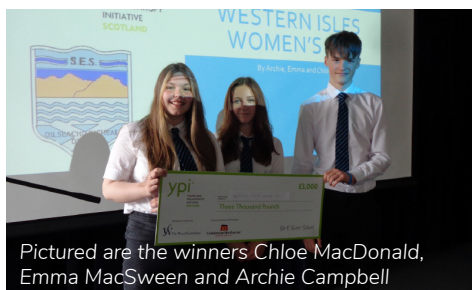
The initiative is facilitated by Volunteer Centre Western Isles across schools in the Western Isles, with Kathleen Duce, Volunteer Centre Development Worker (Harris) supporting the Sir E Scott final.

Other charities being represented were the RNLI & Cycling without Age.

Neil Mulhern, Teacher at Sir E Scott, said:



The 3 YPI teams and the judges.



Pictured are the winners Chloe MacDonald, Emma MacSween and Archie Campbell

"The benefits of YPI programme are clear, from the opportunity to show our young people how they can contribute to the work of local charities through fundraising, awareness raising and by themselves becoming volunteers to developing skills in researching, evidence gathering, note-taking, speaking and listening, presentation skills, video-production, working in groups and working to deadlines."

YPI is the flagship initiative of The Wood Foundation. Its UK Director Ali MacLachlan said:

"Congratulations to the winning team for securing funds for Western Isles Woman's Aid. YPI is all about empowering and engaging young people to understand their role within their community and the ways in which they can make a difference while developing their own personal life skills."

More than 200 schools in Scotland have committed to delivering YPI this academic year. Since it was launched in Scotland by The Wood Foundation in 2008 it has empowered more than 230,000 young people to make a difference in their communities, granting in excess of £5m to local charities addressing a range of social issues.

The programme is supported by CalMac in the Western Isles, who also provide ongoing mentoring for pupils on presentation skills. A huge well done to all involved!

Build Capacity



The Volunteer Centre Western Isles is pleased to announce the opening of a Bumble Bee Trail on Harris.

Partnering with Community Learning & Development, Harris Voluntary Service, Isle of Harris Distillery, The RSPB, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Leverhulme Memorial school & Sir E Scott school. The Volunteer Centre is encouraging people to think about their environment, Bees in general and the protection of the Great Yellow Bumblebee.

This week is the perfect opportunity for showcasing this as the RSPB are hosting its first ever Outer Hebrides Wildlife Festival, with a couple of their events in Harris being all about Bumblebees.

The RSPB has developed the Wildlife Ambassador Programme for Primary schools so that pupils will learn more about nature and the wildlife of the Outer Hebrides and become wildlife ambassadors for the species that find a home in the islands. Both Harris schools have signed up to this Programme and have been learning about & trying to help the Great Yellow Bumblebee.

Bumblebees depend almost entirely on flowers for their food and, like us, they benefit from a varied diet. It is no surprise that actions which reduce the number of flowers in the countryside, from replacing

a clover-rich horse paddock with a tractor shed to mowing road verges, have detrimentally affected bumblebee numbers. Some of our rarest species – notably the Shrill carder bee (*Bombus sylvarum*) and Great Yellow (*Bombus distinguendus*) now survive only in more flower-rich, less intensively-managed areas such as the Gwent Levels or the Scottish machair.

A large species, the abdomen and thorax are entirely covered with sandy-yellow hairs, except for a black band across the thorax between the wing bases. One of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust's projects is dedicated to Saving the Great Yellow bumblebee in Scotland.

Pictured here..



The Harris Bee Trail project involves distributing seeds, compost & pots to volunteering families/groups to plant around their homes and gardens or any outdoor

Our Work

spaces in order to cover as much of Harris with beautiful, colourful nectar & pollen filled flower pots for the Great Yellow Bumblebees.

Harris Development Worker, Kathleen Duce has started this project in both Primary schools (including Sgoil Araich) in Harris and with their help they have planted over 130 pots. We have produced an interactive map of Harris to showcase where the seed pots have all been planted.



As you can see by the map, the 2 local schools have done a superb job of spreading flowering plants around Harris and their homes.

Pictured below are artworks that some of the pupils have produced while learning about Bumblebees

There are plans underway to extend the project to the local Share & Care Café, Care Homes, Dementia Groups & Day Centres etc. A great opportunity for people who may not ordinarily get outdoors to participate in the planting of the seed pots.

If you wish to help us with this project, or would like more information please do get in touch with Kathleen harris@volunteercentrewi.org

Useful links below

www.bumblebeeconservation.org/ for more information on all types of Bees

www.bumblebeeconservation.org/saving-the-great-yellow-bumblebee/

www.bumblebeeconservation.org/youth-membership-signup/ 4-12yrs old youth membership

www.bumblebeeconservation.org/individual-membership-signup/ individual adult membership

www.outerhebridesswildlifefestival.co.uk/ Website link for OHWF 25th June – 2nd July

www.outerhebridesswildlifefestival.co.uk/harris link to the Harris events



Work Place Volunteering

Alzheimers Scotland Western Isles support many local families throughout the Western Isles. The support they offer is not only for those suffering from dementia but also for their families, relatives and friends at any stage of the illness.

The Memory Walk allows individuals and workplaces to support the organisation by walking a distance that suits at a time that suits throughout the month of September.

O'Mac Construction squads took advantage of the beautiful surroundings at their current worksites over in Uig, Isle of Lewis by taking part in the Alzheimers Scotland annual Memory Walk

The boys enjoyed the team walk as well as supporting an organisation that means so much to many throughout our islands.



Alzheimers Scotland Western Isles Memory Walk



Some staff at Stornoway Primary School took time out at lunchtime to take part in the Alzheimers Scotland Memory Walk Sept 22. They enjoyed being able to support the local Alzheimers Scotland Western Isles branch as the illness affects so many folk throughout our islands

Our Work

What does a Volunteer Look Like?

The thoughts of the children after their talk on volunteering.

A volunteer is somebody who willingly does kind things without pay.

A volunteer is a responsible and hard-working person who devotes their free time to help their local community without pay

A volunteer is someone who takes time out of what they are doing out of the kindness of their heart.

A volunteer is someone who puts themselves forward for the good of their community, to teach and learn new techniques and skills.



A visit to Tong Primary School classes 4,5,6, GM4/6 and class 6/7 to talk about volunteering

It was lovely to be included in their 2 min silence to mark Remembrance Day and see their lovely Remembrance Day wall display.

We discussed who can volunteer, benefits of volunteering for individuals, groups and for the community.

The children spoke about the volunteering input that went into the village clean up and their bonfire night.

What We do

Voice

“Speaking from my own experience working in a school library, having volunteer Junior Librarians has been invaluable. The young people are keen, extra pairs of hands who are essential to the running of an effective library.

They not only help with the day-to-day tasks - shelving, returns, book repairs, but have many additional talents which they have the opportunity to use such as helping with library displays, ideas and suggestions for new books, events and new ways of doing things.

They have their ears to the ground, talking with their peers and the feedback they provide is invaluable. The library couldn't run without them!!! Volunteering also provides the young people with the opportunity to develop transferable skills, make new friendships and above all increase confidence. I feel very proud when the young people achieve their Saltire Awards. Some of our volunteers have found academic work challenging but have managed to achieve 100 hours of volunteering which holds them in good stead for the future.”

Lynda Cooper, Nicolson Institute School Librarian



Quotes from Nicolson Institute Volunteer Junior Librarians:

I like being a Junior Librarian because it helps with my confidence and helps me understand what it is like to work and help others

I like being a Junior Librarian because I like reading and want other people to enjoy it too and I've met some new people because of it

I like being a Junior Librarian because it helps with my confidence and helps me understand what it is like to work and help others enjoy helping people. It has improved my time

I get to have fun whilst working at the same time. I've met a few new people and made new friends. I've definitely learned new skills like shelving. I am more confident and can help my classmates to find books and give suggestions

What we do

Clisham Award



Our Clisham Award recognises Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering

Janet Marshall was presented with the award for her much valued volunteering input with Clean Coast Outer Hebrides, S.M.A.S.S B.D.M.L.R., W.D.C and Falmadair.

Janet also visits schools giving talks on the sea life around our islands and the damage rubbish can do to the sea life as well as supporting the school children on their beach cleans.

On one of the latest beach cleans a young pupil caught a hold of her hand and said to her:

"I want to be just like you when I grow up".

“

What a delightful day it has been: A glorious sail this morning from Stornoway to Crossbost on Callicvol, a dipping lugsaid sgoth then a lovely surprise this afternoon. I was asked to go into the Volunteer Centre on Cromwell Street where I was presented with their top award! They were tremendously encouraging and want to support Clean Coast Outer Hebrides

”

Janet

What We do

MOVING INTO 2024



We look forward to a visit from Bella Kerr, Intergenerational Development Officer with Generations Working Together later on in the year.

Bella will visit schools throughout the Western Isles along with our Development Workers from each area to learn about the various intergenerational projects that have been taking place and also to provide resources to help further develop new projects.

VOLUNTEER CENTRE WESTERN ISLES SCIO

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	At 31 March 2023	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	
Bank and cash in hand	60,050	10,349	70,399	71,462
Funds				
Opening Funds	67,696	3,766	71,462	110,896
Surplus (Deficit) for period	(7,646)	6,583	(1,063)	(39,434)
	60,050	10,349	70,399	71,462

Get in touch

Volunteer Centre Western Isles is an independent local charity with 4 offices and staff throughout the Western Isles.

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

Lewis

95 Cromwell Street, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2DG
01851700366 lewis@volunteercentrewi.org

Harris

Old Primary School, Tarbert, Isle of Harris, HS3 3BG
01859502636 harris@volunteercentrewi.org

Uist

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01870602604 uist@volunteercentrewi.org

Barra

Am Bothan, Northbay, Isle of Barra, HS9 5YQ
01871890775 barra@volunteercentrewi.org

Visit or email

www.volunteercentrewi.org
info@volunteercentrewi.org



We are proud to support the Third Sector as a partner in the Third Sector Interface Western Isles (TSIWI), funded by Scottish Government as part of a Scotland-wide network of TSI's.



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 AWARDED
10HRS & 25HRS



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 AWARDED
50HRS, 100HRS,
200HRS, 500HRS



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 AWARDED
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
- support you to find a volunteering opportunity

Contact saltire@volunteercentrewi.org or leave a message at 01851700366 for more info

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