



VOLUNTEER CENTRE WESTERN ISLES WOULD LIKE TO ADD ITS TRIBUTES TO THOSE ALREADY PAID TO THE LATE QUEEN AND GIVE THANKS FOR HER SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY, WHICH INCLUDED HER SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Volunteer Voice Newsletter



News, Information and updates for the volunteer sector across the Western Isles.

The 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.

Volunteer Centre Western Isles Update

We are delighted that our offices have now reopened across the islands. Our opening hours and contact details can be found on our new website:

<https://volunteercentrewi.org>

Our 2021-22 Annual Report is also available online. The report reflects a lot of hard work this year from volunteers, organisations and staff despite having to adapt to changing circumstances.

Thank you to all who attended the AGM held on Tuesday 23rd of August. The report can be found at [this link](#).

Suzanne Macaulay, Manager

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Volunteering Opportunities

The Volunteer Centre continually updates the list of volunteering opportunities available across the Western Isles. [Click here](#) to view the latest available opportunities, on our website. [Click here](#) to search all available opportunities.

Volunteer Voice

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Goodbye to Vicki Manchester



The Volunteer Centre said goodbye to a valued staff member in August. Vicki Manchester who hails from Uist has taken a well deserved retirement. Vicki has been instrumental in building up the presence of the Volunteer Centre in the Uists, tirelessly working with many organisations and initiatives including the Tagsa Community Gardens and the NHS Patient Belongings Bags project. At the recent Annual General Meeting, Vicki received well deserved high praise from a number of board members. All members of the board and staff wish Vicki a happy retirement though we do expect to see Vicki volunteering with us very soon.

Until Vicki's post is advertised and filled, our Uist office is being covered by Katherine MacNeil, Development Worker (Barra) and Kathleen Duce, Development Worker (Harris).

Anyone wishing to contact the Volunteer Centre can still do so by emailing uist@volunteercentrewi.org. Kathleen and Katherine will be pleased to help.

Volunteer Voice

Dates for Your Diary

Generations Working Together

Generations Working Together is a nationally recognised centre of excellence supporting the development and integration of intergenerational work across Scotland.

The Volunteer Centre Western Isles is helping to facilitate a number of online meetings to enable you to find out more about the benefits that intergenerational working provides. These sessions are open to anyone.

Book to join these sessions by emailing:

bella@generationsworkingtogether.org

Lewis & Harris, Wednesday 28th September between 10am and 12pm.

Uist, Tuesday 27th September between 10:30am and 12:30pm.

Volunteer Managers Network

The Volunteer Centre Western Isles are hosting informal meetings across the islands for you to exchange volunteer news, share information, discuss COVID related practice, volunteering opportunities and volunteer recruitment. This is also a great opportunity to find out what's happening with other local groups. Come along to catch up and discuss any volunteering related matters.

Lewis: 29th September @ 12:30pm.

Book by contacting Marion: marion@volunteercentrewi.org

Barra: Wednesday 5th of October @ 12:30pm at the Barra Learning Centre.

Book by contacting Katherine: barra@volunteercentrewi.org

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Get Involved



**Alzheimer
Scotland**
Action on Dementia



Take an hour out to volunteer with your team at work!

Volunteer Centre Western Isles are encouraging workplaces across the islands to take time out and volunteer together this month]

It's as easy as taking a short half hour walk up the road with colleagues .

Have fun and raise money this September!

To sign up email: lewis@volunteercentrewi.org or phone 01851700366



VISIT [HTTPS://MEMORYWALK.ALZSCOT.ORG/](https://MEMORYWALK.ALZSCOT.ORG/)
WHERE YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR A FUNDRAISING
PACK, DONATE USING THE QR CODE OR BY
COLLECTION



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Support For Volunteer Organisations



As the cost of living crisis takes hold, people, and communities need voluntary sector services more than ever. At the same time, voluntary organisations face spiralling costs, falling income and an uncertain future. We know that 61% of voluntary organisations are experiencing financial challenges while continuing to see increased demand for services.

It's a worrying time. We're here to provide practical support and help fight your corner.
Click [here](#) to get in contact with SCVO for more information, news and updates.

Community Learning and Development Device Fund

The Community Learning & Development Digital Device Fund is provided by the Scottish Government and managed by SCVO. The objective of the fund is to provide capital funding to voluntary sector CLD organisations across Scotland to purchase digital devices that can be used by learners to support their learning.

Organisations can apply for up to £15,000 from the fund for the purchase of digital devices. Organisations must retain ownership of the devices and be responsible for set-up, ongoing management, and security of devices.

The deadline for applications is **16th September 2022** and find information and application is [on our funding portal here](#). People will have to login or sign up to access the application and full guidance.

Interactive Learning Bites

Our range of online interactive learning bites cover topics from our face to face training courses. These are two hour live sessions delivered by one of our Volunteer Scotland Practice Team via Zoom. Click on the image below to find out more.



Training

Training Is Restarting

The Volunteer Centre will be restarting our in person 'Core Skills in Volunteer Management' training across the Western Isles during 2022/23.

We will be conducting a survey later this month to find out from you what your training requirements might be.

Your local Volunteer Centre Development Worker can also offer one to one support and training for your voluntary group or organisation and can support you with volunteer recruitment and management, including sample policies, free for you to implement.

Volunteer Practice Training

These free courses will explore everything you need to know about involving, supporting and leading volunteers and you don't even need to leave your desk!

Working with the Open University (Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership at The Open University Business School) we have created this space for you to learn at your own pace, at a venue of your choice and with time built in for you to reflect.

All of our online courses are free and we aim to encourage you to think about the; volunteer voice, how these learning topics impact on your current situation and discuss the ideas and concepts within your club, group or organisation.

We hope you enjoy these courses and would welcome any feedback as we are keen to learn and improve our offer.

Choosing an online Course

- ✓ No need to spend time and money travelling.
- ✓ Short session times do not take a lot out of your day.
- ✓ Courses are between 14-24 learning hours.
- ✓ Courses are available 24 hours per day.
- ✓ You can build in time for reflection.
- ✓ Make new contacts.
- ✓ Full access to course resources after the sessions.

For information about any of our training courses and what we might be able to offer you, please drop us a line at info@volunteercentrewi.org

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Training



The Volunteer Friendly Award is a simple, user-friendly quality standard designed to support, recognise and reward groups who have demonstrated excellent practice in involving volunteers. Volunteer Centre Western Isles are licensed to deliver the [Volunteer Friendly Award](#) and offer support, guidance and information geared towards helping Western Isles organisations achieve a consistently high standard in working with volunteers.

The Volunteer Friendly Award by Volunteer Scotland is a new standard which reflects current volunteer good practice and trends. It offers more volunteer programmes to engage with this award, to develop and be recognised for the work they do.

All organisations right across Lewis, Harris, Barra and Uist can be supported to take part in the award.

More Information is available from Katherine MacNeil, Katherine can be contacted on barra@volunteercentrewi.org



This certificate is awarded to

<<Name>>

For achieving their Volunteer Friendly Award

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adrian Murtagh'.

Adrian Murtagh
Head of Volunteer Practice
Volunteer Scotland



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Volunteer Story

Red Cross Volunteer Amy Maclean

As a volunteer I help with pricing the clothes, putting tags on the clothes, the window displays, keeping the shop floor tidy and helping the customers

I am also doing a British Red Cross Shop Work Accreditation Programme (SWAP) This is done in short steps as I learn different things.

At first I felt a bit nervous but that is how everyone feels. The people I volunteer with are so encouraging, they really support me.

I look forward to going to the shop on a Tuesday and Thursday for a few hours.

I like meeting all the customers who come in to the shop.

I like that I am treated like the rest of the staff and made to feel very welcome. I enjoy people being happy when they find something they want to buy. I like helping put the shop displays together. There are so many nice things to choose from.

I have gained confidence in working with the public, learnt new skills and will soon have completed my British Red Cross Work Accreditation Programme as well as getting accreditation for my volunteering hours with my Saltire Awards. At the moment I have achieved 25 hours and am now aiming for my 50 hours.

I arrive on time each week and willing to try anything new.

Feedback from British Red Cross Assistant Manager Louise Maclean, "Amy is a delight to have volunteering in our shop. She is reliable, committed, hard-working and so lovely to the customers and has such a bubbly personality. She is working towards her SWAP Accreditation and her Saltire Awards. The customers enjoy chatting to her, she really is a star

Amy has started her new year at the Nicholson as a prefect, we all wish her the very best in her studies this year.



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Organisation Story: Tagsa Community Gardens

This year, the Volunteer Centre in Uist has been working closely with Tagsa Community Gardens to support and develop their volunteering practice, including intergenerational volunteering. Volunteer Centre provide support to review volunteer policies, practice and development within organisations. The Tagsa Community Gardens is a community focussed programme, growing a wide range of produce for the benefit of everyone in the communities of Uist.

Their vision is to provide a safe and welcoming gardening environment for volunteers to grow fruit and vegetables which are then made available to the island community for purchase as well as providing horticultural (for community growers) and non-horticultural plants (bedding, shrubs and trees).

Vicki Manchester, Volunteer Centre Development Worker in Uist was so impressed with Tagsa's commitment to intergenerational and inclusive volunteering, she nominated the Community Gardens project for a 'Generations Working Together" National Award.

The project were finalists and have achieved Highly Commended in the 'Enabling Inclusive Communities' section for their excellent work which, included working with adults who have Alzheimer's and with school children.

The Volunteer Centre also placed local volunteers with the project. After looking for a volunteering opportunity through Volunteer Centre Uist and taking up a placement with the Community Garden projects, one volunteer has since gained employment due to the skills and knowledge picked up during their placement.

Another volunteer, who has done a vast amount of volunteering has recently been nominated for the highest level of national youth Saltire Award, The Summit. In his role with Tagsa Community Gardens he is now helping to develop their volunteering, supports existing volunteers and continues to learn all aspects of their work.

The staff and volunteers have transformed the gardens into an inclusive

place where all are welcome – a huge well done to all involved.

If you would like information on how Volunteer Centre staff can support your organisation to develop,

Monthly Volunteers Day



Tagsa
Community
Gardens

Generations Gardening Together

The 1st Wednesday of every month
from 10am to 12pm
(Until further notice)

Please come prepared
for outdoor conditions

Enquiries to:
Kat.beedie@tagsa.co.uk

All Are Welcome!



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Focus on: Intergenerational Working

Kathleen Duce - Development Worker Harris

In March I was contacted by the North Harris Trust Ranger to help find a volunteering opportunity for Gordonstoun school, who were sending up 2 student groups at the end of June/beginning of July.

The first group had already been set up to help NHT with beach cleaning and improving the route over to Traigh Mheilein. They were also looking for something else which would especially benefit the elderly population on the island.

During our March Share and Care café held in Leverburgh, I spoke with the care home manager and she was extremely keen to host the volunteers and allow them to help with the garden area, which had not had as much work done to it as they would have liked.

The students spent a wonderful 2 days volunteering and transforming the outdoor area. They painted the outdoor seating and table as well as turning over and planting lovely colourful flowers in the garden area. Here is a quote from Isabel the Care home manager.

"We had an absolutely fabulous 2 days of the pupils being here and they did a huge amount of work transforming our garden and furniture. They were lovely kids and really put their heart into it. They came in to see the residents as well so it was great"

For more information contact Kathleen via email:

harris@volunteercentrewi.org



Youth Volunteering

We support Youth Volunteering across the Western Isles.

Callanish Awards are for children aged 12 and under:

- You can gain a Callanish Award by volunteering in your school or community, either on your own or part of a group.
- The award can be given for a one-off activity or for on-going volunteering.
- If you are a teacher or if you are involved with youth groups; sports clubs; church groups or know a young person who has volunteered or carried out an activity to benefit a cause, please get in touch to claim an award.

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Aged 12-25?

The Saltire Awards are the Scottish Government's way of celebrating, recognising and rewarding the commitment, contribution and achievements of young volunteers in Scotland. You can gain Saltire Awards for volunteering you are already involved in, or we can help you to find a volunteer opportunity.

Contact your local Volunteer Centre for information.

We are restarting our Drop In sessions this term, more information to follow for Harris, Uist and Barra!

Youth Volunteering



Drop-in Sessions

Mondays 12.30pm—1pm

Tuesdays 1.15—1.45pm

Room 17

Open to all DofE Participants, the sessions are to help you get registered on eDofE & Saltire and also help with any queries you may have about your sections or about your Award in general & any Saltire queries.

Also for new recruits wanting to register for DofE or Saltire.

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Youth Volunteering

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.



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:



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

Start yours today at saltireawards.scot



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Find
Volunteering
Activities

SEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Home About Us Volunteer Find Volunteers Organisations News Contact

Volunteer in the Western Isles to make a difference

During Volunteers Week this year, the Volunteer Centre launched its new website. With bright colours and improved navigation, everything is colour coded and easy to find. On our website you can find out a lot more about volunteering whether you are a volunteer or an organisation looking for volunteers or support in setting your organisation up for taking on volunteers.

You can also search for volunteering opportunities within the Western Isles or across the whole breadth of Scotland. We regularly post interesting news items and blog posts. You can find the website at <https://volunteercentrewi.org>

In addition, the Volunteer Centre has new Facebook pages, the existing pages will be taken down shortly. Please pay us a visit, like and follow our pages. Here is where they can be found:

Lewis: <https://www.facebook.com/VolunteerCentreLewis/>

Harris: <https://www.facebook.com/VolunteerCentreHarris/>

Barra: <https://www.facebook.com/VolunteerCentreWIBarra/>

Uist: <https://www.facebook.com/VolunteerCentreUist/>

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

41 Airport Road, Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula, HS7 5LA
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

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) Scottish Charity No. SCO27472



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.

