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THIRD SECTOR NEWS

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SURVEY

There's still time to share your views on fire safety in your area. SFRS is inviting local residents, businesses and community groups to provide feedback on draft local fire and rescue plans. Your views will help ensure local priorities, risks and community needs are reflected in future planning. Find your local plan and complete the short survey by Thursday, 15 October. Head to their website for more information: <https://ow.ly/o32h50ZSKTs>

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

October is international Cyber Security Awareness Month. It's a good time to remind us all that charities, individuals and other organisations need to be vigilant when it comes to cyber security and reducing the impact of cyber crime on charities and individuals. We all use a multitude of devices a day such as phones, laptops, tablets and others that can make us vulnerable to attack. The best thing you can do to reduce the impact is to reduce the risk.

The four key areas that help you to reduce the risk according to the National Cyber Security Centre who disseminate the most up to date advice for the UK are:

1. Defending yourself against phishing
2. Creating strong passwords
3. Securing your devices
4. Reporting incidents

Find [guidance](#) from the National Cyber Security Centre for organisations about reducing the risk on their website. [They also have online training for individuals on their website.](#)



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO
VOLUNTEERS OR HELPS OUT IN YOUR
COMMUNITY AND DESERVES A BIG
THANK YOU?

VAS Volunteering
Awards

Willin Haands Award & Peerie Trows Award

WE ARE NOW TAKING NOMINATIONS
FOR THE 2026 WILLIN HAANDS AWARD
(VOLUNTEERS 26 AND OVER) AND
PEERIE TROWS AWARD (VOLUNTEERS 11
AND UNDER).

To nominate and for more information, scan the QR code or
get in touch with us using the details below.

Phone: 01595 743910
Email: VASvolunteering@shetland.org
Market House, 14 Market Street,
Lerwick, ZE1 0JP
www.voluntaryactionshetland.com

Closing Date
12th October
2026



NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2027

The King's Award for Voluntary Service is an opportunity for the public to recognise a **voluntary group** that has made a real impact in their local area.

Every day, millions of people across the UK are making a difference by volunteering. Each year, outstanding examples of this work are celebrated through the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS). Created in 2002 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee and previously known as The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS), the Award has been shining a light on the fantastic work of voluntary groups from all across the UK for many years.

Equivalent to an MBE, KAVS is the highest Award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life.

Nominations are open until 1 December 2026.

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR (OSCR)

TRUSTEES' WEEK 2026: JOIN OSCRS FREE CHARITY TRUSTEE WEBINARS

Trustees' Week 2026 takes place from **9 to 13 November 2026**, and is an opportunity to celebrate the vital contribution charity trustees make to organisations and communities across Scotland. To mark the week, OSCR is [hosting two free webinars](#) designed to support both new and experienced trustees in understanding their role and strengthening charity governance.

- [Being a Charity Trustee: The Basics](#) - Tuesday 10 November 2026, 12-1pm
- [Beyond the Basics: Understanding Board Dynamics](#) - Thursday 12 November 2026, 12-1pm

RESOURCES

[BOARD RACIAL DIVERSITY UK - FROM HERE TO DIVERSITY](#)

Looking to make your board more racially diverse? From Here to Diversity is a practical guide packed with advice, case studies and ideas to help organisations take meaningful steps towards greater racial diversity in governance.

REPORT: [YOUNG SCOT - TRUTH ABOUT YOUTH 2026](#)

What are young people actually saying about the issues that affect their lives? Truth About Youth 2026 brings together the experiences, views and priorities of young people aged 11–25 across Scotland, offering insight that can help organisations put youth voice at the heart of decision-making.

[ENTERPRISE IN PLACE TOOLKIT | THE MELTING POT](#)

The Melting Pot have launched a new toolkit that gives a framework for delivering impactful, community responsive enterprise programmes, including a particular focus on reaching underrepresented groups in entrepreneurship. The kit aims to reduce initial input required for place-based hubs to develop an enterprise programme through facilitating collaboration with national actors, who can share tested resources and provide a framework for development with experience from other hubs. [Download the toolkit here.](#)

TRAINING AND EVENTS

LEADING IN UNCERTAINTY (VARIOUS DATES, ONLINE, FREE)

If you are a small (income of £500k or less), UK-based charity, community organisation or social enterprise, join a peer-support session to talk openly about challenges, opportunities and connect with peers who understand, guided by IVAR's expert facilitators. Delivered by [IVAR](#), these interactive online sessions, designed for charity and community leaders, or anyone navigating uncertainty in their organisation, are bringing people together to explore today's real challenges and share practical insights with peers. Open conversations, reflection and connection are at the heart of this unique learning opportunity.

TRUSTEES WEEK

Trustees' Week 2026 takes place from 9 to 13 November 2026, and is an opportunity to celebrate the vital contribution charity trustees make to organisations and communities across Scotland.

See the [TRUSTEES WEEK 2026 website](#) for details of events from 7 October – 14 November – Trustees Week. There are a variety of online events, free and paid for.

JOIN OSCRS FREE CHARITY TRUSTEE WEBINARS

To mark the week, OSCR is [hosting two free webinars](#) designed to support both new and experienced trustees in understanding their role and strengthening charity governance.

- [Being a Charity Trustee: The Basics](#) - Tuesday 10 November 2026, 12-1pm
- [Beyond the Basics: Understanding Board Dynamics](#) - Thursday 12 November 2026, 12-1pm

FREE TRAINING FOR THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS DURING TRUSTEES WEEK 9 - 13 NOVEMBER 2026 (DAVID LINK, CONSULTANT)

Charity Trustee Duties and Responsibilities (Scotland) 09/11

AM <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002295077477>

PM <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002295949084>

What you must know and must do as a Charity Trustee for a Charity registered in Scotland

How to Hold Effective and Engaging Meetings 10/11

AM <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002327998946>

PM <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002328145384>

In this session you will receive information and practical tips to help deliver more effective and engaging meetings. We will explore different types of meetings and how to choose the best one. We will look at holding meetings online - so please have a copy of your governing document with you!

Understand Your Role as an Office Bearer 12/11

AM <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002332038027>

PM <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002378793875>

Session contents:

What do you already know about the roles of office bearers?

Common misconceptions about Office Bearers in Unincorporated and Incorporated Organisations
Governing Regulator, Governing Document
Compliance
Potential impacts on Organisational reputation of lack of clarity
Succession

Scottish Governance Code for the Third Sector 13/11

AM <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002423206715>

PM <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002423822557>

The Scottish Governance Code is a statement of best practice that outlines core principles of good governance for charities, voluntary organisations, and social enterprises in Scotland. In this session we will explore the code, learn how it can have a positive impact in your organisation, and see how you can easily adopt it.

EASTSIDE PEOPLE - FESTIVAL OF TRUSTEESHIP 2026

Trustees Week is bringing back the **Festival of Trusteeship** from **9–13 November**, with a week of low-cost and free online events, workshops and discussions for trustees and aspiring trustees. [Find our more.](#)

DTAS/ COSS COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP WEBINARS

Thinking about taking ownership of a local building, land asset or community space? These free webinars from the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS) offer practical guidance on community ownership, asset transfer and the steps involved in bringing community-led projects to life.

- **Introduction to Community Asset Transfer** | 27 October 2026, 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Gain an overview to Community Asset Transfer, the legislative process that enables the community ownership and management of publicly owned land and buildings Tuesday, 27th October 2026, 6.30-8.30pm – Thursday 21st January 2027, 10am-12pm – [Sign up here](#)
- **Steps to Success in Community Ownership** | 24 November 2026, 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Join this session to discover the key steps to success when setting up a community-controlled organisation and pursuing asset ownership. Tuesday, 24th November 2026, 6.30-8.30pm – Tuesday, 2nd March 2027, 10am-12pm - [Sign up here](#)
- **Introduction to Community Asset Transfer** | 21 January 2027, 10am to 12pm |
Gain an introductory overview to the legislative processes of Community Right to Buy. Discover how community groups can become eligible Community Bodies and register an interest in or buy local land and buildings in Scotland. Thursday 17th December 2026, 10am-12pm - Wednesday 24th March 2027, 10am-12pm - [Sign up here](#)

FREE DIGITAL INCLUSION TRAINING

Charity Digital aims to support charitable organisations to bring about change through digital technology. With funding from the Scottish Government and Okta For Good, they are delivering 'Achieving Digital Inclusion'. The 2 hour module helps organisations to:

- enhance digital accessibility
- develop digital skills
- build digital confidence

JUST ENTERPRISE - EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION TRAINING

Just Enterprise has teamed up with 3 social enterprise leaders to offer 4 free online workshops exploring different aspects of equality, diversity and inclusion. Led by expert facilitators with lived experience, each session combines essential insights with practical learning that you can apply within your own organisation.

Places are limited to 20 participants per workshop.

[LGBTQ+ INCLUSION, 14TH OCTOBER | 1PM–4PM | ONLINE](#)

Build your understanding of LGBTQ+ and gender diversity and explore practical ways to create more inclusive services, workplaces and organisational practices. [Book here](#).

[UNDERSTANDING RACISM AND ANTI-RACISM, 22ND OCTOBER | 10AM–12.30PM | ONLINE](#)

Develop a stronger understanding of racism, anti-racism and the ways that power, privilege and intersectionality can shape people's experiences. [Book here](#).

[CROSS-CULTURE COMMUNICATION AND ANTI-RACIST LANGUAGE, 2ND NOVEMBER | 1PM–3.30PM | ONLINE](#)

This practical session explores how culture can influence communication styles and behaviours, how language around race and ethnicity changes over time, and how to communicate more effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds. [Book here](#).

[DISABILITY INCLUSION, 19TH NOVEMBER | 10AM–1.30PM | ONLINE](#)

Develop your understanding of disability inclusion and consider practical ways to make your organisation, services and communications more accessible. [Book here](#).

[ANN CRAFT TRUST - FREE ONLINE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS WEEK EVENTS \(16 – 20 NOVEMBER 2026\)](#)

As part of Safeguarding Adults Week 2026, the Ann Craft Trust is offering a range of free online sessions on safeguarding which will cover key topics, share best practice and provide valuable learning opportunities for staff, volunteers and trustees working across the voluntary sector. [Register and find out more here](#).

LIVING WELL HUB

The Living Well Hub is based at the **Brae Boating Club** and open on Friday's between **10am – 2pm**. [Living Well, Advice & Support – Shetland Islands Council](#) please pop along for a cuppa, a chat or to browse the leaflets that we have.

9th OCTOBER

- Come along for a cuppa and reminisce about your **sporting memories** with Danny and Jack between **10am and 12 noon**. They will have some old photos and resources to look at – feel free to bring along anything you have, photos, trophies etc. They will also be taking along some fun activities to help us replay and reconnect with our sporting memories! <https://www.sportingmemories.uk/>
- **Adult Learning SIC** will be on hand to help support you with your **basic digital skills** between 10am and 1230pm, we can give advice on Internet Security, setting up devices, operating apps and many other IT queries

- **RNID** (Royal National Institute for Deaf People) will be at the Living Well Hub between 12 noon and 1.30pm, this will be a free drop-in-service. No appointment needed. The friendly volunteers can help with Information on hearing loss and tinnitus, how to do a hearing check, hearing aids and how to access support and services in your area.
- **Citizens Advice Bureau** will be in attendance 10.00-12.00 to provide holistic support and practical advice for members of the public on a range of topics, we will also be able to refer clients on and book further appointments if needed. <https://www.shetlandcab.org.uk/>
- **Voluntary Action Shetland Volunteering:** For anyone interested in finding out more about the benefits of volunteering and support to find a suitable volunteering opportunity. We also help organisations who would like to recruit volunteers. We can offer training to volunteers and volunteer managers. Voluntary Action Shetland Volunteering also administer the Saltire and local volunteering awards.

SCOTTISH WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORT WEEK 2026 (MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2026)

This year, Scotland is celebrating 10 incredible years of empowering women and girls through sport and physical activity. The campaign continues to provide an opportunity to throw a spotlight on women and girls sport and physical activity and promotes the visibility and participation, whilst highlighting the positive impact it has on physical, mental and social health and wellbeing.
#SheCanSheWill

Shetland Befriending Scheme Tea & Cake at Islesburgh

**A free group for adults
to meet, eat cake, chat
and make new friends!**

**Friday 16th October
2.30–4.00pm**

Featuring a chance to
try your hand at Boccia

Future Dates:
20th November &
18th December



For more details contact Ian Edwards on 01595 743 964



THE CURVE – 3RD SECTOR TRAINING LAB

FROM DATA TO IMPACT: USING TECHNOLOGY, DATA AND AI TO STRENGTHEN YOUR CHARITY, THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER, 1.00-2.30PM, ONLINE, ON ZOOM, FREE

The Curve is delighted to host Gelareh for a practical and accessible workshop which will help charities use data to achieve real world results i.e. better decisions, stronger funding stories and great impact. She will explore how organisations can make better use of data and digital tools to support their work and communicate the change they create for people and places.

SCVO

WEBINAR: DIGISHIFT 96: AI-DRIVEN NONPROFITS, 10:00-11:00, 28 OCTOBER 2026

Steve MacLaughlin returns to SCVO to share practical ways charities can get started with AI, drawing on his new book *AI Driven Nonprofits*. He'll also explore bias, privacy and transparency.

GET ONLINE WEEK: AN INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, 11:00-12:00, 22 OCTOBER 2026

This is an introductory webinar for people working in the voluntary sector who are considering how to embed digital inclusion in service delivery. No previous experience or knowledge is needed, just a curiosity about the role digital could play to help you support people.

**FREE
TRAINING**



ASIST

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

Lerwick

ASIST is a 2 day face-to-face workshop that provides participants with practical skills and knowledge to effectively recognise those who may be at risk of suicide and conduct a suicide intervention

WHEN: Wednesday 21st & Thursday 22nd October 2026

WHERE: Islesburgh, Lerwick

TIME: 9 - 5pm (both days)

BOOKING: Contact Health Improvement Team:

Phone: 01595 74 3330

Email: shet.healthshetland@nhs.scot OR scan the QR code



We are delivering ASIST training in local communities, for local communities.
This training is open to anyone aged 16+ - whether it is for your personal interest & skills or in a work capacity.

This free training has been made possible by the generous donations made by the Shetland community.



THRE FREE TRAINING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

- Impact Assessments: Human Rights and Equalities in Practice [October 15, 11am-12pm](#)
- PANEL Workshop: Human Rights and Equalities in Practice [November 24, 10am-1pm](#)
- Volunteering [October 5, 1pm-4pm](#)

RURAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN TACKLING DEPOPULATION, MONDAY 12 OCTOBER, 11AM TO 12:30PM, ONLINE, FREE

Depopulation is one of the biggest challenges facing rural Scotland. But, social enterprises are finding creative ways to help communities tackle depopulation. Join us to hear how organisations across the country are delivering practical, community-led solutions to the issues that make rural life sustainable: affordable housing, transport, filling stations and more.

MENTALLY HEALTHY WORKPLACE TRAINING FOR MANAGERS

9.00am – 4.30pm, Tuesday 17th November 2026, Islesburgh Community Centre, Lerwick

Mentally Healthy Workplace Training for Managers is aimed at improving the awareness and understanding of mental health for those with management responsibility for staff. It provides the knowledge and skills to support employees who may be experiencing mental ill health, helping them remain in work. The objectives of the course are to:

- Identify the key factors that contribute to a mentally healthy workplace
- Give line managers a broad understanding of mental health in the workplace
- Ensure managers are aware of their responsibilities in relation to health and wellbeing
- Improve managers skills and confidence in dealing with mental health in the workplace

For more information please contact Kathleen Anderson (kathleen.anderson4@nhs.scot) or Laura Russell (laura.russell4@nhs.scot).

SCVO: MEET THE FUNDER

SCVO **Meet the Funder** sessions take place on the **first Tuesday of each month at 10am**. They're a great chance to hear directly from funders, learn more about their programmes and ask any questions you may have.

Coming up:

- [Meet the Funder Event with the Corra Foundation: Boost Fund - SCVO](#) (10:00-11:00, 3 November 2026)
- [Meet the Funder with the Aviva Foundation - SCVO](#) (10:00-11:00, 1 December 2026)

FREE SUBSTANCE USE AND HARM REDUCTION TRAINING

The Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) offers a range of free training courses and e-learning opportunities for anyone working with or supporting people affected by substance use.

Popular courses include:

- Drug Awareness
- Trauma
- Stigma
- Everyone Has a Story
- Enhancing Core Communication Skills
- Principles of Harm Reduction
- Staying Alive

Additional specialist training covers topics such as wound care, naloxone, ketamine, cocaine and psychostimulants, cannabis, mental health and substance use, and multiple risk.

Courses are available online and in person, with a wide range of learning options to suit different roles and experience levels.

Find out more and access training:  <https://sdflearningcentre.org.uk/>

Motivational Interviewing training:  <https://sdflearningcentre.org.uk/motivational-interviewing/>

This training is ideal for staff, volunteers and community organisations looking to strengthen their knowledge and skills around substance use, harm reduction and trauma-informed practice.

JUST ENTERPRISE – FREE TRAINING

[Interpreting Financial Statements, \(Online Workshop\), Next date: 22nd October](#)

[Investment Readiness, \(Online Workshop\), Next date: 27th October](#)

[Introduction to Business Planning, \(Online Workshop\), Next date: 9th November](#)

CLIMATE RELATED NEWS, EVENTS & TRAINING

People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Mareel Auditorium

3pm Sat 5th December

Film screening and discussion. www.nebriefing.org

In attendance with you:

Alistair Carmichael MP

Hannah Mary Goodlad MSP



Hosted by Climate Café Shetland
& Shetland Methodist District

Book your free ticket:



unsuitable for under

16



Public Notice:

You are invited to attend a screening of The People's Emergency Briefing

An eye-opening film featuring nine leading UK scientists and experts updating us on the latest in the climate and nature crisis and its impacts on everyday national life.

Including:

- extreme weather
- food security
- health
- cost of living

Based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster, as covered by ITV, C4, and the Times. Followed by a short open discussion about what we can do and what it means locally.

Featuring Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, surprise guests, and a wide range of Brits.

Please note: The film is only being shown at in-person screenings, not online. Bring a friend or neighbour. Please book your free seat asap.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

SWAN VOLUNTEER CREW

The Swan is a 126-year-old traditional wooden sailing vessel. Fully restored in the 1990s she has been used since to provide a range of sail training opportunities for young people and public trips on board, giving people a hands on experience. Swan has a core crew of fully qualified and paid staff, but as a charity operation, the boat also relies on a number of volunteers to help with additional crewing responsibilities during the summer season. (April to September).

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS	
REPORTS/GUIDANCE	
THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT: PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT	
LEGISLATION	
CALLS FOR VIEWS: THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT IS OPEN TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS ON A RANGE OF TOPICS:	
LEGAL AID REFORM: CONSULTATION Closes: 13 Oct 2026 The Scottish Government is consulting on a new Legal Aid (Scotland) Bill, which aims to modernise Scotland's legal aid system and create a simpler, more sustainable and user-focused framework for publicly funded legal assistance.	
FIVE PROPOSED JOINT UK FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS Closes: 14 Oct 2026 The Government is seeking your views on five proposed Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for pelagic fish stocks. FMPs are published under the Fisheries Act 2020 and set out how fisheries will be managed to ensure stocks are fished sustainably now and in the future.	
BUILDING REGULATIONS: THE SCOTTISH EQUIVALENT TO THE PASSIVHAUS STANDARD: STAGE 2 Closes: 16 Oct 2026 Scottish building regulations set minimum standards applicable to new buildings and to new work to existing buildings. This stage two consultation seeks views on proposed energy and environmental performance targets for the new standard and on proposals for an enhanced compliance process, including guidance to support the requirement to submit energy and environmental design and construction statements. Items related to indoor air quality and overheating are also presented.	
RESTRICTING MOBILE PHONES IN SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS Closes: 17 Nov 2026 The Scottish Government has said it will make a law to restrict personal use of mobile phones in all of Scotland's schools. This consultation is to inform the development of the legislation. Education authorities have statutory responsibility for the provision of education in Scotland and are responsible for implementing restrictions in their schools.	