

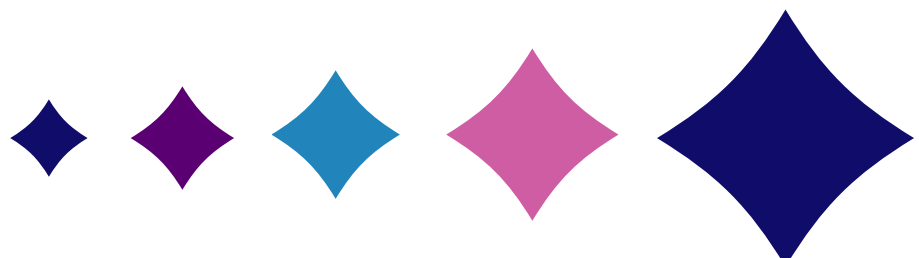


VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND

ANNUAL REPORT

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ **2025/2026**

**A SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS FOR SUPPORT AND
ADVICE FOR THE THIRD/VOLUNTARY SECTOR**





CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

Magnus Flaws

Welcome to the Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS) Annual Report 2025/26. Once again, I am amazed at the amount of work that the staff have carried out to support the voluntary sector of our community.

More and more charities and community groups are using VAS for support, advice and information to ensure their organisations are run effectively and governed well.

Our annual Saltire Awards Ceremony has highlighted that young people are doing increased amounts of volunteering, helping others and making a positive impact in their communities. The number of awards increased from 164 in 2024 to 185 in 2025 with young people supporting their local clubs and communities all the way from the South Mainland Swimming Club to the Uyeasound Hall.

Our Chief Executive along with other Third Sector and Statutory Leaders attended events last year on the mainland with a key agenda of Whole Family Support: 'Working Together To Get It Right'. John Swinney MSP, the First Minister for Scotland, set out his vision for whole family support and gave his commitment towards working together to remove all barriers to make this happen. VAS is working hard with partners to support Third Sector's increased collaboration with statutory partners to work better together for positive outcomes for those in our community.

I hope you enjoy reading more about our work over the last 12 months in this report. None of the work in our annual report would be possible without our hard-working staff and funders who each year see the benefits of VAS and keep supporting us, thank you for your continued investment.

I would also like to sincerely thank our Board Members for giving up their time to attend board meetings, ensuring that the staff have the necessary finances and resources to carry out their duties in supporting charities and community groups.

Thank you all.

VAS Board Directors 2025/2026

Mr Magnus Flaws.....	Chairperson
Mr Lindsay Tulloch.....	Vice Chairperson
Mrs Ingrid Webb.....	Financial Director
Mrs Brenda Wilcock.....	Director
Ms Valerie Nicolson.....	Director
Mr Martyn Brill - Appointed November 2025.....	Director

VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND



Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS) is Shetland's Third Sector Interface. They play an important role in the Third Sector landscape. They are a key point of intelligence about local third sector organisations and volunteering. There are 32 Third Sector Interfaces (TSI's) in Scotland with one situated in each local authority area in Scotland.

THE VISION FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND IS:

A Strong, Sustainable and Valued Asset for Shetland, playing a leading role in Championing and Supporting Community Needs

THE MISSION IS:

To Support, Represent and Develop Community and Voluntary Action in Shetland

DELIVERED THROUGH CORE ACTIVITY:

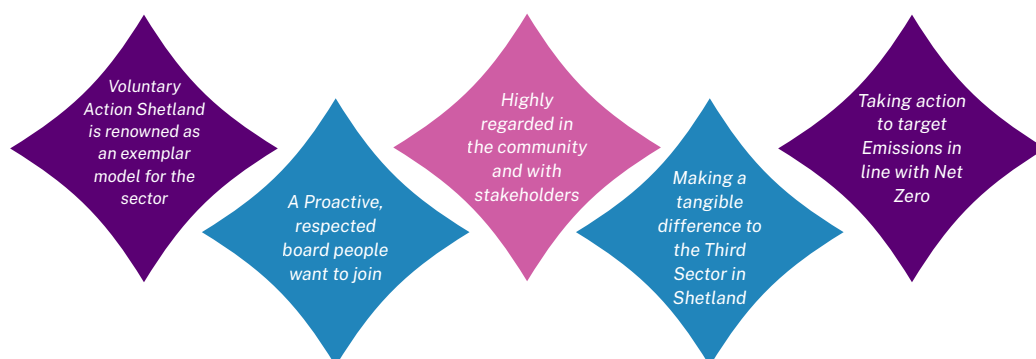
- ◆ **To be a Central Source of Knowledge** - About the Third Sector locally; about local and national policy and how it might affect local Third Sector and Volunteers; And how the Third Sector can contribute to those agendas
- ◆ **To be the Voice** – Ensuring a strong Third Sector Voice at strategic level within Local Planning Structures and Nationally
- ◆ **To Build Capacity** - Developing the capacity of volunteering, community groups, voluntary organisation and social enterprise to achieve positive change
- ◆ **To Connect** – Providing leadership, vision and co-ordination to the local third sector to better respond to local priorities, including through partnership and collaboration

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SHETLAND PARTNERSHIP PLAN:

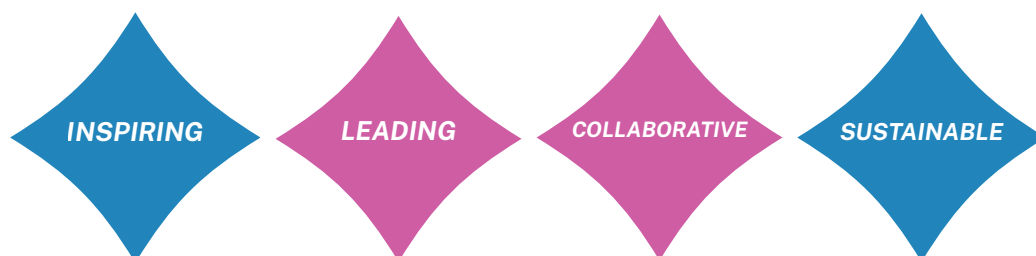
Participation . People . Place . Money



TO ACHIEVE KEY OUTCOMES:



OUR GUIDING VALUES WILL INSURE WE ARE:

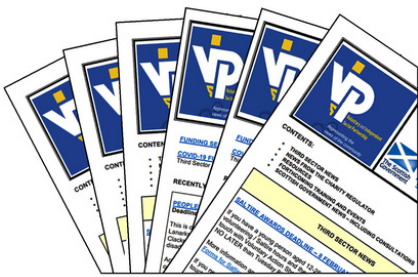


TO BE A CENTRAL SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE

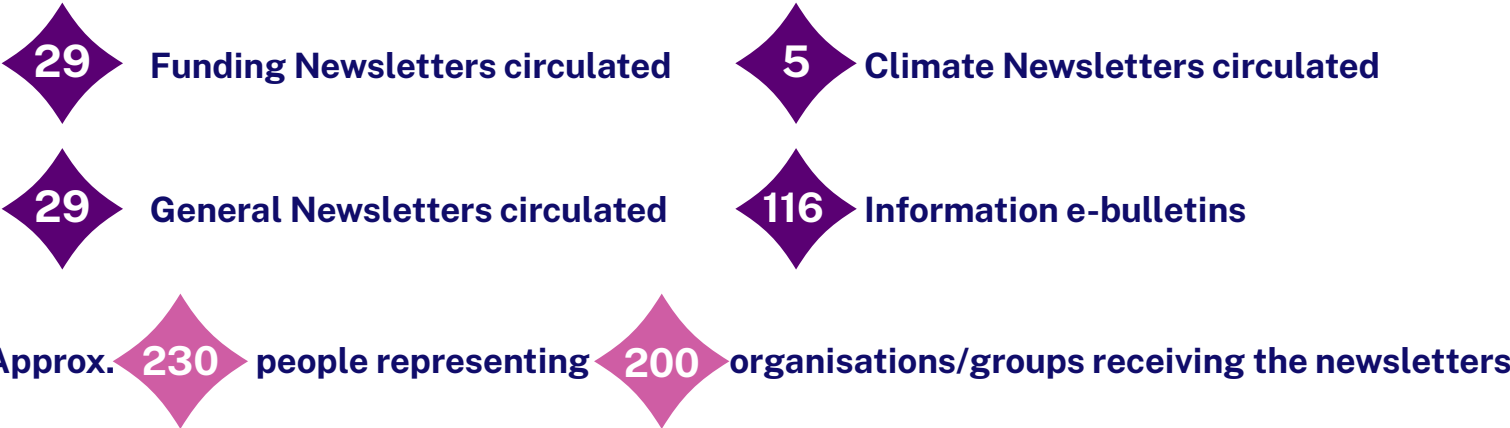
VAS regularly distributes the Voluntary and Independent Sector Partnership (VISP) newsletters within the voluntary sector to charities and community groups.

The **Funding Newsletter** provides up to date information on available funding streams for charities and community groups to apply to.

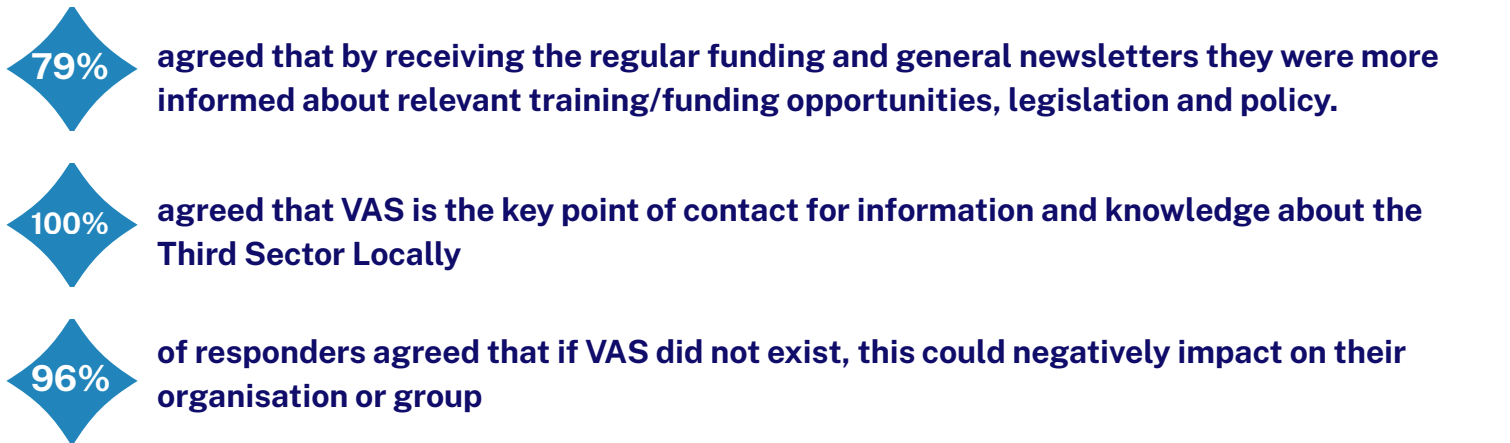
The **General Newsletter** provides relevant information on Third Sector developments, legislation changes, good practice, consultations and notification of events/resources for groups to utilise/attend to support effective running of their organisation/community group.



The **Climate Newsletter** provides information to groups interested in the Climate agenda to stay up to date with news, training opportunities, new resources, legislation and good practice.



IN A RECENT COMMUNITY ANNUAL SURVEY BASED ON 28 RESPONSES:



SERVICE USER FEEDBACK

“They are my first point of contact for any queries regarding policies, training, legislation changes. I know they will keep me right” – **Service User feedback**

“VAS provide a fantastic service for groups in Shetland, providing invaluable information, insight and support to groups” – **Service User feedback**

“We have experienced good relationships with VAS staff over the years. Always very helpful” – **Service User feedback**

TO BE THE VOICE



VAS engages in a range of National and Local Strategic Partnerships, forums and working groups to enable voluntary groups and organisations to have a voice and the opportunity to contribute to local and national plans.

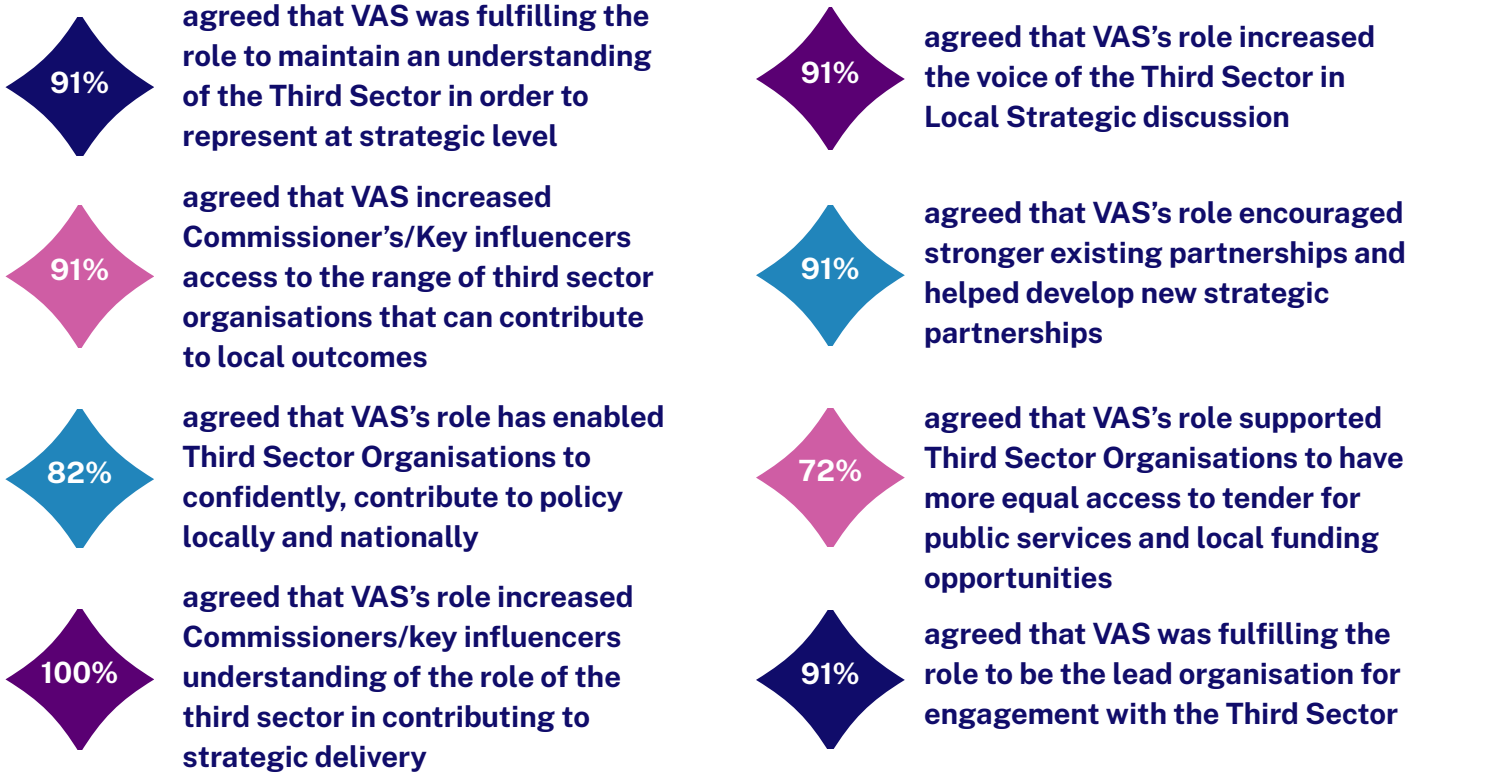
Some examples of working alongside other Third Sector organisations, Voluntary Action Shetland supported Third Sector Partners to contribute to:

- ◆ Shetland Local Employability Partnership Development Day
- ◆ How good is our Third Sector in Local Children Services Planning toolkit with Children in Scotland colleagues
- ◆ A range of Local Partnerships Annual Reports 2024/2025

VAS contributed information once more to support the publication of Shetland in Statistics.



IN A RECENT PARTNER ANNUAL SURVEY BASED ON 11 RESPONSES:



PARTNER FEEDBACK

“Excellent at partnership working, prioritises strategic meetings (of which there are many)” – **Partner feedback**

“Always professional and pleasant to work with!” – **Partner feedback**





Support

VAS provides tailored and flexible support to build the capacity of as many voluntary organisations in Shetland as possible by responding to queries as they arise, and through targeted support and training. In providing the support, it enables local groups to run well which, in turn, supports them to meet local needs/demands.



Organisations/Groups received one to one support on a range of issues



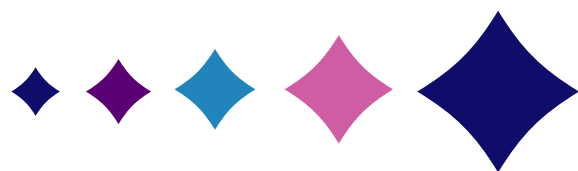
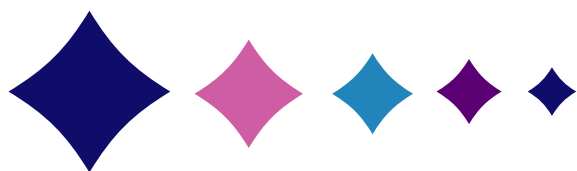
Independent Examination of Accounts Undertaken for groups



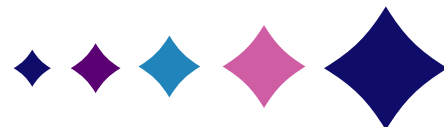
Charities Provided with Monthly Payroll /Accounts Support

Key Development and Support work with organisations have included:

- ◆ Identifying appropriate legal structures for third sector organisations and helping groups through CIC registration, the SCIO process and charity registration for both new and existing organisations
- ◆ Supporting the establishment of new community organisations and dissolving organisations
- ◆ Supporting groups to 'reorganise' and amend trust deeds
- ◆ Supporting groups to establish if subsidiary trading companies are required and support to set up suitable legal structures
- ◆ Liaising with bodies who have been given devolved powers in Trust Deeds to remove those powers; Liaising with the charity regulator OSCR
- ◆ Governance – Modernising constitutions and supporting groups to change their constitutions/writing supplemental deeds of trust and supporting charitable companies to change their Memorandum and Articles of Associations
- ◆ Helping groups understand the roles and responsibilities of trustees/directors
- ◆ Strategic planning support for groups
- ◆ Recruiting committee members/trustees and succession planning
- ◆ Advice on establishing policies and procedures (including Conflict of Interest, Equality & Diversity, Fair Work, Data Protection (GDPR), Volunteer Induction
- ◆ Supporting charities to comply with OSCR regulations (Meeting deadlines for Trustee Annual Reports and Annual Accounts)
- ◆ Keeping charities up to date with the implementation of new Charity Law (trustee database, new trustee disqualification criteria etc) and other changes to legislation such the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020, the New Fundraising Code of Practice, Companies House Identity verification of Charity Directors, Charity SORP
- ◆ Queries around disclosure and PVGs, electricity costs and suppliers, insurance, independent examination, bank accounts, data protection, financial record keeping, fundraising, health & safety (risk assessment, first aid, safeguarding), food hygiene training, licensing laws, gambling licenses, conveyancing, employment, trading, land and buildings transaction tax and VAT



SERVICE USER FEEDBACK



“The VAS Development Officer was extremely helpful in getting charitable status for our group. She has an excellent knowledge when discussing any of our queries. Look forward to many more meetings in the near future” –
Service User feedback

“

“The VAS Development Officer does excellent work - with the weekly newsletters, the climate action work and help with constitutions. For me, she is the (excellent) face of VAS” –
Service User feedback

“I would like to thank the VAS Development Officer so very much for all the help she has given the 2 groups that I am involved in - Local Boating Club & The Local Hall, we have successfully transferred the Hall to a SCIO & we have also registered the boating club as a SCIO but without her endless advice and guidance, we would never have managed it. She supported us every step of the way and helped us reach this stage, and we are extremely grateful. This is such a valuable service that you offer” –
Service User feedback

”

TRAINING

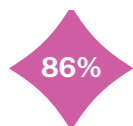
VAS staff have provided training to groups and organisations. Topics have included:

- ◆ Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees training
- ◆ Risk Assessment Training
- ◆ Financial Management Training
- ◆ Trauma Informed Awareness Training
- ◆ Train the Trainer Trauma Informed Awareness Training
- ◆ Organisational Structures
- ◆ National Training for TSI Advisors on Charity Re-organisation and SCIO's

IN A RECENT COMMUNITY ANNUAL SURVEY BASED ON 28 RESPONSES:



89% rated the service they received from VAS as excellent



86% agreed that when accessing support, VAS understood the organisation and its needs and adapted their support accordingly to fit with their requirements



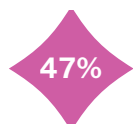
86% agreed that as a result of information/advice/support accessed from VAS, organisations/groups deliver improved services and is better managed/run by volunteers and/or staff



82% agreed that as a result of using VAS services, organisations/groups felt confident in continuing to operate well in the community and potentially developing in the future to meet local need



60% agreed that, as a result of VAS providing the opportunity to engage in a number of network opportunities, organisations/groups felt more connected with other organisations



47% agreed that as a result of VAS connecting with organisations/groups they felt better able to influence and contribute to Shetland Local and National Policy

“It has been a pleasure to work with VAS for the training and advice we have received. The clarity and accuracy of the advice is much appreciated” – **Service User feedback**

FUNDING

COMMUNITIES MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FUND FOR ADULTS

Along with other Third Sector Interface's throughout Scotland, **VAS** distributed a 5th year of the Scottish Government Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults to support community activity until March 2027.

Shetland's initial allocation for year 5 totalled £71,522.98 and there was additional funding provided totalling £14,310.60 after the First Minister's announcement on 29th December 25. £1,577.28 was returned to VAS from previous year awardees, hence the total for VAS to allocate for year 5 of the funding was £87,410.86.

The overarching aim of the Fund is to:

Support community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population (aged 16 or over), with a particular focus on prevention and early intervention.

18 Community Groups/Organisations Received Funding to Support Local Initiatives

VAILA FUND

The Vaila fund was established in 2009 and is managed by VAS. This fund financially assists disadvantaged young people in Shetland to experience the joy of travel.

7 Awards Granted totaling £4295 enabled seven young people to experience travel

VOLUNTEERING – SUPPORTING, PROMOTING AND CELEBRATING

The **VAS** Volunteering team have continued to support volunteers to find suitable volunteering opportunities and also support organisations to recruit and reward their volunteers in the past year. The team were sorry to see Lavinia Schmidt the Youth Volunteer Development Worker leave for pastures new and were delighted to welcome Lara White to the Volunteering Team in January 2026. Highlights, as always, include the annual Saltire Awards and VAS Volunteering Awards.

VAS Volunteering staff continue to get out and about in the community attending the Living Well Hub in Brae, Jobcentre+ Community Hubs, schools and youth groups. Staff once more attended larger events including the Country Shows and Careers Events.



704 Voluntary Organisations Registered with VAS

1018 Active Volunteers Registered

928 Youth Volunteers (under 25)

90 Adult Volunteers

594 Enquiries from volunteers

285 Enquiries from volunteer involving organisations

104 Organisations Supported on Volunteering Issues

77 Active opportunities on our database

32 Volunteers given 1:1 support to find, be placed and supported into a volunteering opportunity

15 New volunteering opportunities promoted for organisations looking for volunteers



 **Lara White - Youth Volunteer Development Officer**



 **VAS Volunteering Team - Lara White and Kathleen Williamson**

IN A RECENT VOLUNTEERING ANNUAL SURVEY BASED ON 13 RESPONSES:

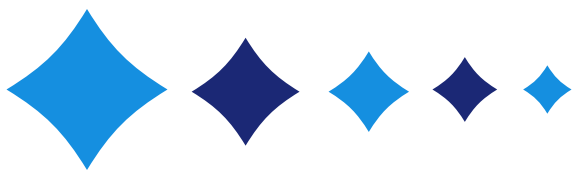
100% responded that the service they received from VAS Volunteering was good/very good

93% responded easy/very easy in accessing VAS Volunteering Services

77% of responders were volunteering at the moment

77% felt more involved in their community by volunteering





SALTIRE AWARDS

VAS were delighted to host the annual Saltire Awards Ceremony at Mareel on Tuesday 3rd June 2025. Another record-breaking year of volunteering for young people saw the age limit for Saltire Awards lowered to 11, which no doubt contributed to the high number of young volunteers put forward for an award.

185 young people received a total of 335 certificates between them, recognising the over 22,500 hours of volunteering they had collectively taken part in within 70 different local groups, schools and organisations.

Musical entertainment on the night was provided by the Forget Me Notes, a talented group of young fiddle players, who welcomed everyone with their traditional tunes before the ceremony began.

This year, the majority of the event was led by a group of young volunteers who were part of the Shetland Youth Voice. Ava, Kali, Erin and Beenie-Ann not only opened the event with a speech but also presented and read out the case studies for most of this year's awardees.

Once again, organisations who had put forward a large number of volunteers were highlighted throughout the evening. The wide range of groups ranged from the expressive arts of drama and dance, to those supporting the wider community through peer support and local events.

At the end of the night, 8 young people received a Summit Award. This is the most prestigious Saltire Award which is only achieved by volunteers who have been nominated by their supervisors for making an outstanding contribution to volunteering in their local area. Volunteers receiving this accolade represented Shetland Youth Services, Cope Ltd., Open Door Drama and Shetland Army Cadets.

The event was brought to a close by one of this year's Summit Award recipients, Vaila Thompson. She wrapped up the evening with a speech about her impressive volunteering journey across several very different aspects of her life.

VAS would like to thank all youth volunteers and the organisations who continue to provide opportunities for young people and make the Saltire Awards so successful in Shetland.



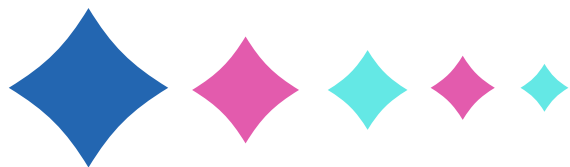
From left to right: Magnus Flaws (VAS Chairperson) Summit Award recipients: Vaila Thompson, Erin Watt, Ava Williamson, Beenie-Ann Wood, Kali Mackenzie-Thomson, Bertie Summers, Becca McArthur and Sophie Johnson, Lavinia Schmidt (VAS Youth Volunteer Development Worker) and Lynn Tulloch (VAS CEO).

Group photo of all award recipients who attended the 2025 Saltire Award Ceremony at Mareel.



Photos by: Dave Donaldson





VAS VOLUNTEERING AWARDS

The **VAS** Volunteering Awards were launched for a 3rd year in September 2025.

The awards consist of two categories, the 'Willin Haands Award' for adults aged 26 and over, and the 'Peerie Trows Award' for children 11 and under. The awards complement the national Saltire Awards scheme, which VAS deliver annually to recognise young people and their volunteering efforts aged 11 to 25.

The aim of the VAS Volunteering Award is to recognise and celebrate Shetland's many willing helpers and volunteers of all ages who help out and volunteer in their communities the length and breadth of Shetland. We recognise all volunteers both formal and informal, who help out through volunteer involving organisations and informally by helping in their local communities, supporting neighbours with shopping, welfare checks, baking for teas, litter picking and many other activities. The Awards also focused on Trustees this year.

49

Nominations were received for 48 awardees:

42

Willin Haands - for adults aged 26+

6

Peerie Trows - for children aged under 12

Certificates were awarded across the length and breadth of the Isles. Voluntary services and acts of kindness the recipients provided for Shetland included being good neighbours, providing many years' service to recording and sharing Shetland's history, helping at the local hall or clubs and organisations, committee members, supporting vulnerable folk, cleaning verges and picking up litter and fundraising to mention a few, many providing several years of volunteering.

Some of the VAS Volunteering Awards Recipients

📷 Collage collated by: Kathleen Williamson





YOUTH AND PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE

In addition to core activities, VAS Volunteering has supported the local delivery of the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) in secondary schools across Shetland for the third year running.

YPI is the biggest independent initiative being delivered across Scottish education, where each school is responsible for directing a grant of £3,000 to a local charity championed by its students.

YPI engages students in a powerful active citizenship programme, empowering young people to make a difference in their communities while developing a range of skills and knowledge on social issues and local charities.

Locally, VAS have continued to co-facilitate the final showcase event at 6 Secondary/Junior High Schools, where pupils present their case for a chosen charity. VAS are looking forward to continuing their partnership with The Wood Foundation and YPI in the upcoming academic year.



 **Photo of the Whalsay Junior High School winners with their chosen organisation reps (SHOARD)**

CELEBRATION OF KEY NATIONAL WEEKS

VOLUNTEERS WEEK 2ND - 8TH JUNE 2025



VAS held the Saltire Award Ceremony in Volunteers Week to recognise and celebrate young volunteers. VAS also shared posts on Facebook where organisations had said thank you to their volunteers. Additional promotion was a window display at Market House and a social media promotion on volunteering opportunities registered with at VAS grouped into categories: Youth/Board Member Trustee/Care and Support/Home based/Nature and Animals/Sport and Leisure.



TRUSTEES' WEEK 3RD - 7TH NOVEMBER 2025

Trustees' Week, celebrated the vital contributions of charity trustees across Scotland and the UK.



Trustees' Week is an annual event that recognizes the important work carried out by nearly one million charity trustees across the UK. It serves as a platform to celebrate their achievements, encourage more people to consider becoming trustees, and provide opportunities for skills development and networking within the charity sector. 2025 year's national theme was: **Good Governance – strong boards for sustainable organisations**. VAS undertook a weeklong social media campaign celebrating several Trustees from local charities.

TO CONNECT

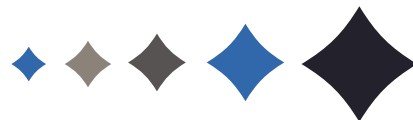
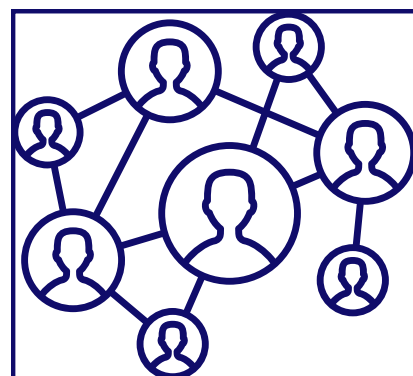


Third Sector Forum: Facilitated by VAS, an independent network of third sector organisations in Shetland that meets bimonthly to share good practice. **29 members** in the forum.

Shetland Community Facilities Network: The Network aims to provide a regular platform for voluntary groups and organisations who manage a community facility to network, learn, collaborate and share information to improve the management of the facilities for the community. **76 organisations** supported through the network.

Market House: Shetland's Third Sector Hub, owned and managed by VAS. It is the office base for **13 Independent Charities** including VAS. Last year Market House had 4834 visits and 3396 room bookings (292 external & 3104 resident groups)

More information on Market House, resident organisations and costs for room bookings can be viewed online at: www.voluntaryactionshetland.com



CLIMATE ACTION ACTIVITY



Shetland Community Climate Action Network: Continuing to work in partnership with the Shetland Islands Council, Island Centre for Net Zero, Islands Community Action Network, Highlands and Islands Climate Hub, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Local Energy Scotland, Community Energy Scotland and Uplift to support groups and individuals interested in climate related activity in Shetland. The Network aims to bring together interested parties, coordinate activity, resources and signpost where relevant. VAS supports the network with regular bulletins on climate related news and funding opportunities.

Shetland Climate Café: 5 Café meetings were held during this period on the topics of community growing, Peer learning from the Oxford Climate Collective, SG Climate Change Plan consultation, Circular Economy (NHS Warp It and Cope Home store), Xmas crafts, Intangible culture and natural heritage, with a total of **75 people** attending the cafes.

Scottish Government Draft Climate Plan consultation: facilitated workshops were delivered for people to attend to provide their thoughts on the draft plan which were fed back through the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

SHETLAND BEFRIENDING SCHEME

This was a very exciting year for the Shetland Befriending Scheme, as it celebrated the service's 25th birthday. To mark the occasion, High Teas were held in the Cunningsburgh Hall on Sunday, 15th June 2025. Those who attended enjoyed their tea and home bakes, listened to some great music from local groups, and watched a slideshow of memories from the past 25 years. The event brought together service users, volunteers, and supporters from across Shetland, fostering a genuine sense of community and shared achievement. Many guests reminisced about the positive impact the scheme had made on individuals and families, making it a truly memorable afternoon for all involved.



The Service worked diligently to achieve reaccreditation of the Quality in Befriending (QIB) Award in July 2025. This was a notable achievement, with the service having retained the award since July 2012.



The Shetland Befriending Scheme continued its commitment to supporting individuals across Shetland who may have been experiencing loneliness or isolation. During this period, the scheme organised regular social meetups, facilitated new befriending partnerships, and provided training to volunteers to ensure high-quality support. Overall, these efforts strengthened community ties and provided meaningful connections for those in need.

The Shetland Befriending Scheme has recently transitioned to become an independent charity from 1st April 2026, separating from Voluntary Action Shetland.

This move marked a significant milestone for the organisation after being part of Voluntary Action Shetland for 25 years. The scheme will continue its vital work offering friendship and support to young people and adults experiencing loneliness and isolation throughout Shetland, now with greater autonomy and flexibility.

Mairi Jamieson, Service Manager, commented on the Shetland Befriending Scheme's move to independence from Voluntary Action Shetland, stating: ***"This is an exciting step for the scheme, and we were confident it will allow us to further strengthen our support for people across Shetland. We are grateful for the partnership and guidance provided by Voluntary Action Shetland over the years and look forward to building on that foundation as an independent organisation."***

Mairi will be guided by the new befriending governing board, which consists of individuals who are truly passionate about befriending. By working together, they aim to strengthen existing relationships and foster new connections within the community.



SHETLAND CARERS

The Shetland Carers project has been able to support carers by distributing Short Break Grants and providing carers with a well-earned break through the Respitality Scheme.

Short Break grants

Funding was received from Scottish Government's Short Breaks Funding, which is administered through Shared Care Scotland. During the last 12 months, Shetland Carers awarded 118 Short Break grants to carers, totalling £35,270.56. Examples of activities included the purchase of hobby craft supplies, garden equipment, sports equipment, camping gear, trips to the mainland, overnight stays and ICT kit.

Respitality Scheme

Shetland Carers have continued to provide breaks to carers through the Respitality Scheme. Respitality (respite + hospitality) allows Shetland's hospitality and leisure sector to donate short breaks which Shetland Carers pass onto local unpaid carers so that they may have an opportunity to recharge their batteries and take time for themselves. During 2025, 57 Respitality breaks have been provided to carers, totalling £8,212.

Throughout the last 12 months there has been a lot of working in partnership with the local charity Shetland Care Attendants Scheme (SCAS) to support the Shetland Carers work to move under their charity to provide a more holistic one stop shop to support carers. In June 2026 the formal transfer was complete, and we wish SCAS all the very best in continuing to support carers with well-deserved breaks alongside providing advice, support and information.



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT – YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	2026		2025	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Charitable Income - Grants		728,152		675,740
Other Income		173,450		168,488
		-----		-----
		901,602		844,228
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable Activities	847,068		865,433	
Depreciation	93,644		92,407	
	-----		-----	
		940,712		957,840
		-----		-----
DEFICIT BEFORE TRANSFERS		(39,110)		(113,612)
Capital Reserves Transfer (to cover depreciation/capital)		86,919		93,454
		-----		-----
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN INCOME FUNDS		47,809		(20,158)
		=====		=====

BALANCE SHEET - 31st March 2026

	2026		2025	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible Assets		375,437		463,814
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	52,724		55,855	
Investments: Fixed Term Deposits	89,363		167,342	
Cash at Bank and In Hand	511,016		379,522	
	-----		-----	
	653,103		602,719	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors Falling Due Within One Year	(38,752)		(30,982)	
	-----		-----	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		614,351		571,737
		-----		-----
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		989,788		1,035,551
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES				
Pension Liability		(1,069)		(1,567)
		-----		-----
NET ASSETS		988,719		1,033,984
		=====		=====
REPRESENTED BY				
Resticted Capital Funds		417,207		510,281
Restricted Income Funds		300,478		327,907
Unrestricted Income Funds		271,034		195,796
		-----		-----
TOTAL FUNDS		988,719		1,033,984
		=====		=====

The figures contained within the income and expenditure account and the balance sheet shown above were extracted from the company's audited financial statements. These were approved by the board of directors. A copy of the company's audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 can be obtained from our main office or by writing to the following address: Registrar of Companies, Companies House, 4 Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ (quoting ref SC165677)



EXECUTIVE OFFICER REFLECTIONS

Lynn Tulloch



What another busy year! With our VAS core work, we have continued to see increased requests for advice, support and information from Third Sector Organisations and community groups. The distribution of our funding, general information and climate newsletters has provided charities and community groups with up-to-date information on good practice, funding and training opportunities as well as key information on changes in local and national policy. And our training programme has been well attended over the last 12 months alongside Market House always being full of activity.

This year we saw an increase in numbers at our Annual Saltires Event once more, 185 young people were recognised for their volunteering efforts with a vast range of organisations through the length and breadth of Shetland. Our VAS Volunteering Awards continued to be popular too, celebrating children and adults volunteering in our local community, it's wonderful to recognise their important contribution for the good of others.

This year we also undertook a very supportive role in helping our direct delivery projects to branch out from VAS, with the Shetland Befriending Scheme transitioning to become an independent charity from 1st April 2026 after 25 years under VAS and the Shetland Carers Project transferring to its new home with Shetland Care Attendants Scheme (SCAS) in June 2026. Both projects had a busy year alongside this, which you can read about more in this report. Coming into 26/27 operation, this now leaves VAS with its Core Team delivering on the 4 core activities: **Being the Central Source of Knowledge; Being the Voice; Building Capacity and Connecting**, alongside managing Market House, Shetland's Third Sector Hub and its dedicated staff team. We wish Shetland Befriending Scheme and SCAS all the very best.

As part of the Public Sector Reform agenda and the Scottish Governments commitment to tackle Child Poverty, there has been an increased need for all partners to work better together for improved outcomes for Children and Families. VAS sits on a wide range of strategic partnerships to support a more joined up approach of service provision across statutory and third sector, alongside supporting a shift in early intervention and prevention. It will be important to support this agenda going forward.

I would like to sincerely thank the VAS Core, Market House and project teams for their continued hard work. Much of the work reflected in this report is down to their ongoing dedication and commitment to deliver great support to our Third Sector partners, community groups and service users.

The board are my steadfast and continue to support and guide me in my role as Executive Officer of VAS, I am very grateful for their commitment.

And finally, a heartfelt thank you to all of our community and voluntary efforts, I am always so proud of our community and what it delivers for others, thank you so much for all that you do for Shetland ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

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QUALITY ASSURANCE & GOOD PRACTICE



FUNDERS

VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND would like to sincerely thank the following funders and those who have financially supported VAS Core activity and their two projects – Shetland Befriending Scheme and Shetland Carers. Without the financial support, much of the work undertaken over the last year would not have been possible.



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