

# trustee top 10



with Caroline Butterfield



Who are you a trustee for?

Orkney Arts Society, Orkney Pilgrimage, Orkney Yole Association, Orkney Foodbank and THAW Orkney

What do your organisations do?

*Orkney Arts Society* organise musical, literary, visual arts and drama events. *Orkney Pilgrimage* looks after the St Magnus Way. *Orkney Yole Association* promotes and runs Yole sailings and *Orkney Foodbank* gives food parcels in crisis. *THAW Orkney* is a fuel poverty charity providing support and advice

What do you do?

Different roles including treasurer, secretary and fundraiser

Why are you a trustee?

I wanted to contribute to the community in which I live, help organisations and I was interested in and offer my skills as a former accountant

What skills do trustees need?

All kinds of skills and backgrounds are needed, but the main requirement is an interest in the organisation's objectives, a willingness to put time and effort in, and an understanding that trustees have a collective responsibility for charity assets and activities.

What's the best thing about being a trustee?

The best thing is you get to make a difference and things happen because of the decisions of the trustees.

What's the worst thing?

The worst thing is boring meetings by Zoom where people just talk and talk without focus.....

Is being a trustee what you imagined? Any surprises?

It's always full of surprises. Yesterday I was finding someone who could advise on a model yacht repair. The day before I ended up hosting a trio of wonderful visiting musicians. Earlier in the year I took part in a promotional film. And I have spent a lot of time over the last year editing a book. I did not expect to do any of these things when I volunteered to become a trustee, but they have been a huge amount of fun. And none of them actually are trustee responsibilities - but arose out of that role. But I have also done the things I expected - keeping the books, issuing agendas and minutes and running AGMs, reading briefing documents and attending meetings.

What advice would you give someone thinking of becoming a trustee?

Do it! But maybe not for 5 organisations! You never know what you have to offer until you do. And pick an organisation where what they are doing matters to you or is something you enjoy.

Are you looking for new trustees?

We are always looking for new trustees, because they bring new insights and ideas and keep the organisation forward looking. So all of the organisations I am involved with would be happy for people to put themselves forward as a prospective trustee. For more details contact Sam below.



Want to find out more?

Sam Stringer - Volunteer Development Worker  
samantha.stringer@vaorkney.org.uk or call 872897