

trustee top 10



with Sheila Garson

trustee with Stromness Museum, Voluntary Action Orkney and Shapinsay Church of Scotland



How long have you been a trustee?

I've been on the VAO Board for a number of years but involved with the organisation for most of this century

What do your organisations do?

VAO is the local Third Sector Interface (TSI). We support local third sector organisations, providing training, funding support, help with constitutions, payroll, examination of accounts and much more. We have a crucial role in representing the third sector, ensuring their voice is heard locally and nationally

What do you do?

I am VAO Chair and sit on the Finance and Audit Committee and the Project Management Committee. I work closely with Gail, our chief executive, to ensure the Board have a good oversight of VAO's work and are well equipped to make decisions. As a Board our role is round the strategic direction of the organisation rather than the day to day, operational side of its work

Why are you a trustee?

I care about my community, want to be involved and want to give something back

What skills do trustees need?

It's important to understand the organisation as well as having a good handle on your community, but enthusiasm and a genuine interest go a long way too

What's the best thing about being a trustee?

Seeing positive outcomes. One of the best things about being involved in the Third Sector is that things get done and don't get bogged down in red tape and bureaucracy. A really good example of this is the Third Sector Emergency Covid Fund which VAO was instrumental in securing and is now distributing to local groups who have been badly impacted by Covid.

What's the worst thing?

Your experience of being a trustee depends a lot on the organisation your involved with. VAO is one of the best so I can't think of anything I don't enjoy or find interesting about being a trustee.

Is being a trustee what you imagined? Any surprises?

Perhaps the biggest surprise is how much you get out of it. Being involved in helping to support and shape an organisation is tremendously fulfilling.

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

If you have a genuine interest in the work of an organisation, go for it! You may not feel you have a lot to give, but that interest and a bit of common sense will be a real asset to an organisation. A good organisation will offer their trustees support and training so you can grow into the role.

How can we find out more about your organisations?

Here are some links to our websites and do like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter

www.stromnessmuseum.org.uk
www.shapinsaykirk.info
www.vaorkney.org.uk



Want to find out more?

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