

VG-ES STAFF, DIRECTORS & FRIENDS SAY FAREWELL & HAPPY RETIREMENT TO ANN KEATINGE

After 19 years of service to the voluntary sector in East Sutherland, Ann Keatinge has retired as Chief Officer and taken up her new post as Chief Organiser at home!

On Thursday 25th August at 7.30 p.m. nearly 50 people gathered together for a presentation to mark Ann's years at the helm of VG-ES. The venue was Golspie Golf Club with a magnificent buffet provided by Chef Robert Stephenson, The Fairway Restaurant.



The evening commenced with the VG-ES Chairman, Jonathan Brett Young welcoming everyone and spoke of his delight that the first VG-ES Organiser, Mrs Alison Burnett, was present. He highlighted the good work that Ann had been involved with over her 19 years at VG-ES and especially the successful application to the Big Lottery Fund which had enabled VG-ES to purchase the current office, which he described as a 'centre of excellence'. He wished Ann a very happy retirement and invited her to open her gifts. Ann was delighted to receive a Kindle with a leather cover and a cash gift. He then asked the longest serving member of staff, Liz Barron, to present Ann with a floral arrangement.



Ann gave a short speech and thanked her colleagues for their support over the years. She hopes to continue working in the sector as a volunteer and warned "we have not seen the last of her yet".

The guests were then invited to the buffet table where an array of cold meats, salmon, prawns, quiche, chips, salad and much more were beautifully displayed. This was followed by gorgeous desserts.

After the meal, Ann's husband Terry Keatinge and Monica MacLean, both members of the Sutherland Accordion & Fiddle Club, played a selection of Scottish music on the fiddle and accordion. This rounded off a great evening.

Ann asked Liz to forward a letter of thanks to all those involved in the presentation. This has been sent out via e-mail and by post. If you have not seen this letter and would like a copy, please contact Liz @ VG-ES.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS?

Is your organisation looking for volunteers? Are you thinking of developing a volunteering opportunity? VG-ES is setting up a database of volunteering opportunities in East Sutherland which will feed into a larger national database called Vbay. You can register your volunteering opportunity with us and we will advertise the opportunity through our local Vbay site.

For further information and to register please contact either Marion – marion@vges.org.uk or Christine – christine@vges.org.uk or ☎ 01408 633001

VG-ES AGM 2011
Note this date in your diaries!

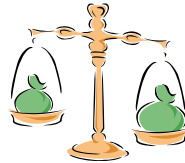
The proposed date of the VG-ES AGM will be Friday 25th November 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in the Golf Clubhouse, Golspie.

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**VG-ES FINANCIAL SERVICE
HERE TO HELP!**

Available here now, all the paperwork you will need to make your financial record keeping easy!

- Forms available are:-
- Management Committee/Volunteer Expenses Claim Form
- Income Deposit Record
- Cheque Payment & Authorisation Record
- Petty Cash Voucher
- Cash Handling Record
- Cash Collection/Cash Payment Record
- Petty Cash Record
- Expenses Advance Record
- Payment Records
- Income Records (Receipts)
- Bank Reconciliation
- Receipts & Payments Summary Sheet
- Asset Register
- Policy Document - 'Managing Our Money'



These forms are available either electronically or in paper copy (free for first copy then usual copying rates apply). The electronic versions are available in both MS Office and Open Office format.

Funding bodies will look at the OSCR website to check your current status. If you need help with record keeping and preparing your accounts please contact either Marion - marion@vges.org.uk or Christine - christine@vges.org.uk



VG-ES Needs Your Help with a Survey!

If you have office contact with VG-ES during our survey period of 5th – 16th September 2011, you will be asked to complete a short questionnaire on your contact with us. This can be completed by hard copy or by Survey Monkey via the Internet.

We will approach you when you make contact with us and would be very grateful if you can help us.



19 th September	Sheree Sartain Social Networking Day	All Day	Brora Learning Centre
24 th October	Lynda Benham Roles and Messages	12 – 2pm	Fountain Road Church Hall tbc
21 st November	Kate Boyd Speed Reading	12 – 2pm	Bonar Bridge Community Centre

If you are interested in attending any of these events please contact:
Marion on ☎ 01408 633001 or
Email:- marion@vges.org.uk



Brora Community Fete Group

The Queen will celebrate 60 years upon the throne next June. The newly emerging Brora Community Fete Group has an ambition to join in the celebration by holding a Brora River-Mouth Fete on Saturday 2nd June 2012.

The 2012 event will be built around the East Sutherland Rotary Club's Annual Duck Race and takes place next to 'The Cathie' at the Picnic Area, Brora. Using marquees and stalls it is hoped to have several forms of entertainment including a Pipe Band, Local Singers, Face Painting, Dancers, Primary School Singers, Splat the Rat, Children's Fun & Games etc.

One marquee could house cake and candy stalls and refreshments. Another could have stalls for clubs, associations, projects, charities and cottage industries.

The Brora Community Fete Group came together to establish and organise an annual village fete. This will be held on the nearest Saturday to the 1st of June each year, starting with the Queens Jubilee on Saturday 2nd June 2012.

This fete will involve all interested organisations and charities within the Brora area. It is designed to encourage community spirit, as much as it is to enable the disparate groups to raise funds for good causes and to enhance village life.

The aim is to have fun as a community and to enhance the social and the community life of Brora by encouraging every local charity and voluntary group to work together in supporting one major village event.

For further information or to become involved in this event, please contact Kathleen Cunningham on 01408 621309 or e-mail kathleen@braco.fslife.co.uk

BBC Children In Need 2011



Welcome to BBC Children in Need's grants programme. Grants are open to organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people who are 18 years old and

under.

Your organisation and project must be based in the UK and you need to be a registered charity or other not-for-profit organisation.

There are four general grant deadlines each year and the next one is the **15 October 2011**.

Within our general grants programme, you can apply for:

Small Grants of £10,000 or less per year for up to three years

Main Grants over £10,000 per year for up to three years

Contact:- BBC Children in Need Appeal, BBC Scotland, G10, 40 Pacific Drive, Glasgow, G51 1DA.
Tel: 0141 422 6111

Money Advice Sessions
are delivered by



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Book a free, confidential appointment with a Money Adviser at the East Sutherland Citizens Advice Bureau

☎ 01408 633000



**MV AWARDS IS AN INITIATIVE ENDORSED
BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TO
RECOGNISE THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY
YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THEIR VOLUNTEERING**

MV Awards are available to young people aged between 16 and 25 years old. Young people receive certificates after completing 50, 100 and 200 hours of volunteering:

50 & 100 hour certificates are signed by the Finance Minister, John Swinney MSP
The 200 hour certificate is signed by the First Minister, Alex Salmond MSP.

What are the MV Awards?

The MV Awards provide young volunteers between the ages of 16-25 with the opportunity to gain highly regarded, nationally recognised certification for their voluntary work. With support from the Scottish Government, this national scheme is delivered locally by the Volunteer Centre Network in partnership with Volunteer Development Scotland.

The awards can help your organisation to:

- Recognise the contribution young volunteers make to your organisation through their voluntary work
- Say an important thank you to your volunteers for all their hard work, commitment and achievements
- Demonstrate your commitment to young people in providing a quality volunteering experience

The awards are free, very simple to administer and look great on a young person's CV.

Who can be awarded?

The awards are open to all young people aged 16-25 living in Scotland, volunteering as individuals or as part of a group. They can also be awarded to 14 & 15 year olds volunteering as a part of a larger group. If you have volunteers who fall into this category please contact us for more information.

How do they work?

Certificates are presented when volunteers have completed 50, 100 and 200 hours of voluntary service. All certificates are signed by MSPs and the 200 hour Award of Excellence is signed by the First Minister.

Many young people volunteer for more than one organisation and all of these hours can be counted towards their award. Time spent engaging in training for their voluntary work, support & supervision and some travel can also count. New and current volunteers can be awarded. MV also provides a valuable opportunity for volunteers to chart their personal development through their volunteering experience. They require the young volunteers to ask themselves what they hope to achieve, review what they have done and chart their progress in achieving their goals.

For more information please contact either Marion or Christine on 01408 633001, call into the office or email:- marion@vges.org.uk.



Highland Hospice is releasing a CD on September 15th. Brìgh na Nollaig features a selection of gaelic carols, performed by some of Scotland's top traditional musicians including:

Julie Fowles, Kathleen MacInnes, Bruce MacGregor, James Graham, Caledonian Canal Ceilidh Trail, Anna-Wendy Stevenson, Iain MacDonald, Margaret Stewart, Maggie MacDonald, Bun Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir-Nis, Paul McCallum, Lews Castle College, Flying Fiddles, Inverness Gaelic Choir.

Highland Hospice are grateful to Eyeline Media Ltd and MG Alba for donating these stunning carols which were originally recorded for broadcast on BBC Alba as part of their watch night services. None of the musicians will receive a fee, meaning that all profit will raise essential funds to help Highland Hospice's patients and their families.

Brìgh na Nollaig will be available to purchase from a large number of retailers, including their own Highland Hospice shops and website.



Village SOS is an exciting initiative by Big Lottery Fund and the BBC to launch a rural revival and inspire people to start community businesses that will breathe new life into their areas and create jobs. Whether you're looking for inspiration, already have a brilliant idea, or an existing business you want to grow, the Village SOS Advice Line can help.

Village SOS has announced that the next funding round of the Village SOS Competition will open for entry on the 24th August 2011. A total of £5.3 million in funding will be available to support the setting up of 250 community businesses with awards of between £10,000 and £30,000.

Village SOS are particularly interested in giving money to enterprising ideas that will use the skills of local people, and the area's natural resources, land and buildings. The competition will be open to Village SOS members and to be eligible entrants must be SOS members; be a community enterprise and the village must be in a rural area and have fewer than 3,000 people living in it.

The Advice Line is there to help you get started – and keep going – as you work on your community business. The in-house experts can answer almost any question – or direct you to someone who can. Give them a call on 0845 434 9123, email advice@villagesos.org.uk or www.villagesos.org.uk

SURPLUS COMPUTER/OFFICE EQUIPMENT

The following items are free of charge to any group in membership on a first come, first served basis.

Please contact Christine or Liz @ VG-ES

HP laser jet printer P1006 (still in box, never been used)

Canon Pixma iP4500 printer

Epson Stylus DX4000 printer

Epson 1660 photo scanner

3 x Hewlett Packard L1506 flat screen monitors

1 x Jabra T 5330 wireless headset for corded office phones (unused)

2 x Computer Workstations on castors



Advice and information on:-

- Sources of Funding
- Grant-Aid
- Constitutions
- Charitable Status
- Training Courses



Office Services at Reduced Rates for Members Include:

- Use of our MEETING ROOM with OHP, SLIDE PROJECTOR, POWERPOINT PROJECTOR, LAPTOP COMPUTER & SCREEN, TV/VIDEO FACILITIES. To book the room or to borrow equipment, please phone Liz for details on ☎ 01408 633001.
- Use of our SMALL SOCIETIES LOTTERY LICENCE for 'printed ticket' raffles.
- STATIONERY FOR SALE at reduced rates: e.g. envelopes, copier paper and card (white and coloured), Plus an ordering service – stationery, sundries & office equipment.
- Use of PAPER SHREDDER – discreet disposal of unwanted documents.
- DIGITAL PHOTOCOPIER Copies in Black & Colour Improved quality reproduction, enlargement, reduction and overlay facilities. Double sided document feeder, and collating facility which sorts multi-page documents.
- TYPING and computer printing in a variety of styles plus graphics for posters, leaflets, letter heads, etc.
- RING-BINDING of booklets using either wire or plastic combs or slide binders.
- Use of FLIP CHART AND STAND.
- Use of FAX MACHINE – 05601 146813
- Loan of notice boards for temporary displays.
- Use of ADVERTISING space in the Northern Times for fund-raising activities and notify MFR Community Events.
- Funderfinder - Software for Grant Seekers, helps voluntary groups to identify which Charitable Trusts might fund their work - used in conjunction with the Directory of Grant Making Trusts on CD-ROM. Results can be e-mailed to you with funders' web links.
- A4 Colour Flat Bed Scanner. We can now scan documents into our computer of both text and graphics.

- Laminator - We can laminate documents for you such as, posters, identity cards or important papers you wish to protect.
- Cold Laminator for photographs, banners and delicate originals.
- Digital Camera.
- Laptop, digital projector and screen for hire. Please contact VGES for details of terms and conditions for use.
- DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND – VG-ES is registered with the Central Body in Scotland (CRBS) to sign Disclosure applications for potential staff and volunteers who will be working with children or vulnerable adults.
- INDEPENDENT EXAMINATIONS for Receipts and Payments Accounts for organisations with charitable status. The charity must be a trust or unincorporated association established or registered in Scotland and meets the eligibility criteria. There will be a small fee for this service and an engagement contract to sign. For further information contact Christine at VG-ES.
- Events Calendar – advertise your forthcoming event on the VG-ES website www.vges.org.uk E-Mail info to marion@vges.org.uk
- E-bulletins. Contact us if you would like to be added to our e-mail list for more news between our newsletters.

For further details phone us on 01408 633001 or call in at the VG-ES Office, Alba, Main Street, Golspie.

**NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE
from 1 October 2011**

From 1 October 2011 the National Minimum Wage will increase as follows.

Workers aged 16-17	£3.68 per hour
Workers aged 18-20	£4.98 per hour
Workers aged 21 and over	£6.08 per hour

The next issue of this Newsletter will be **December 2011.**

Please send information to be included by the end of November 2011 to:

VG-ES, Alba, Main Street, Golspie, KW10 6TG.
Tel: 01408 633001 Fax: 05601 146813
Or email your information to: liz@vges.org.uk

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