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VOLUNTEERS' WEEK
time to say thank you

Volunteers' Week 2015

Statement re: Proposed Changes to Volunteering, HR and SHE Functions

There were a number of emails received following last week's communication to all volunteers from Iain Reid, Interim Chief Executive. Please find below a follow-up statement from the Trust's Senior Management Team:

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

At the National Volunteering Conference staged on 30 May, interim Chief Executive, Iain Reid took the opportunity to provide an update proposed changes in the management of volunteers within the Trust.

He explained that the proposals, which have developed following a detailed review since the end of last year, will involve a realignment of the existing HR section which deals with permanent and seasonal staff, the Volunteering



Volunteer of the Year Awards 2015!

To coincide with National Volunteers' Week, we are delighted to launch this year's Volunteer of the Year Awards.

There are six categories: Property, Gardens, Outdoor Conservation, Support, Groups and ProjectScotland.

The forms are available to download from our website:

Department and the Safety, Health & Environment team into a single “People Function.”

He went on to say that the benefits of the proposals would come about in three ways:

Cultural – whilst the legal distinctions between the various different types of people involved within the Trust will be preserved, the new approach is to ensure that all groups (permanent staff, seasonal staff and volunteers) are managed as part of a combined workforce which together make the Trust a successful organisation. The philosophy is that people, from whatever category, are the Trust’s most important resource and must be supported as such.

Service – in return, all people within the Trust should expect the same level of service and support from the central function. Iain pointed out that the Trust has Investing In Volunteers accreditation but does not have Investors In People accreditation. He suggested that the many areas of good practice arising from Trust’s management of volunteers could also be applied across the new People Function in its entirety.

Operational Efficiency – Iain said that the proposals would allow the Trust to improve its procedures in areas such as recruitment, where the existing three, currently separate processes could be streamlined into one thereby making life simpler for all concerned.

Following Iain’s remarks, attendees used a Q & A session to make a number of points about those managing volunteers being able to seek advice from experienced volunteer managers and the need to retain experience of the Trust’s approach to volunteer management.

Jill Carrick, the Trust’s Deputy Chairman, offered assurances that Board Members (who are themselves all volunteers) were very conscious of the value of volunteering to the Trust and would not allow any action to be taken that would compromise this. Elected Trustee, Veronica Morriss spoke of her own time managing volunteers when she was employed by the Trust and, having now become a volunteer herself, she was aware of how important they are to the Trust’s future thereby further building the case for changing support arrangements.

National Volunteers' Week - Recognising Volunteers

Volunteers' Week is the annual event that celebrates the contribution made by millions of volunteers across the UK.

[Word Version](#)

[PDF Version](#)

Entries close on 31st August - we look forward to receiving your nominations!



Investing in Volunteers

Thanks to everyone who participated in our [Investing in Volunteers](#) assessment, whether by completing the email survey or by speaking to the assessor directly - we really appreciate your help.

The assessor's report will go to the National Assessment panel in June / July, and we'll find out the results later in the summer.



Dates for the Diary!

We've now finalised the dates for the 2015 Volunteer Regional Forums:

Culzean Castle:

10th September 2015

Crathes Castle:

17th September 2015

We'll soon be issuing application forms via email and volunteer managers, but if you would like to reserve your place now, then do get in touch at: volunteering@nts.org.uk!

This year, we invited volunteers from across the Trust to the second NTS Volunteers' Conference, here at Hermiston Quay in Edinburgh. Just like our first conference two years ago, it was a great success - you can read more in our news stories and Twitter feed link below.

Our volunteers, whether in properties, gardens, outdoor conservation or in our offices, are at the heart of the Trust - thank you for choosing to volunteer your time to the National Trust.

Best wishes,

Violet

NTS Volunteer Conference 2015



On Saturday 30th May, we held the second Volunteers' Conference at Hermiston Quay, bringing together our volunteers from across Scotland to find out more about what's happening in the Trust.

It was a full day of speakers, workshops and networking - there were talks from staff members and current volunteers, and workshops included social media, collections care and a guided walk along the Forth-Clyde canal.

[Click here to see the photo album!](#)

[Click here to read](#) the live Twitter feed of the Conference!

Cheerio Sir Ken!



ProjectScotland

Congratulations to our friends at ProjectScotland - they're celebrating 10 years as Scotland's national youth volunteering charity. We've been working closely with them since April 2005, and as their largest heritage volunteering partner, we'll be helping to kick off their celebrations on 9th June at Falkland Palace.

We'd also like to say a big 'hello' to our new ProjectScotland placements - Timothy at Falkland Gardens, Oliver at Drum Castle and Tracy, Lawrence and Corwin, all based at Hermiston Quay.

If you know someone who is aged 16 to 30 and looking for volunteering experience this summer, then click [here](#) to find out more!



Talk to Us!

We're always looking for good news volunteering stories from around the Trust. Have you been involved in an innovative or exciting project, have you had a great time on a recent Thistle



The Volunteer Conference was also the final engagement of Sir Kenneth Calman as Trust Chairman, and we sent him off in style with a Five Year Long Service Award and his very own 'hamper of happiness'!

Many volunteers will have met Sir Ken over the course of his tenure as Chairman - whether at Volunteer Department events, Local Assemblies, Members' Centres events or the Annual General Meeting. He's signed over 230 Volunteer of the Year and Chairman's Award certificates - congratulations if you're one of the recipients!

We'd like to thank Sir Ken for all of his hard work over the last few years - we'll definitely miss him, but as Captain Jean-Luc Picard would say, it's time for Sir Ken to 'Engage' into the future!

Highland CVs Plant 'Trees for Life'!



Award-winning charity Trees for Life is working to restore Scotland's ancient Caledonian Forest, and in May, their volunteers joined forces with the Highland CV group to get planting!

One ambitious project is the development of the 10,000 acre Dundreggan Estate into one of Scotland's finest native woodlands, abundant in wildlife and protected for generations to come. With good weather, the volunteers planted 331 bare-root alder, 200 bare-root bird cherry and 125 plugs of birch - a grand total of 656 trees!

We wish Trees for Life every success, and look forward to working with them again in the future!

Camp or do you have a fabulous photo of volunteers in action? [Get in touch](#) and you could feature in our social media or even the eNewsletter!

Thanks to everyone who has 'liked' our Facebook page and followed us on Twitter recently - we're delighted to announce we now have **over 1000 Facebook fans and 500 Twitter followers!**

Social media is a great way for us to share photos, news and opportunities, quickly and effectively, so if you haven't yet found us - check out our social media pages now!



Keeping Up to Date!

If your personal or emergency details have changed, please let us know - it's really important we have the correct information!

If you drive to your place of volunteering, you may need to inform your insurance company - find out more [here](#).

The UK counterpart driving license will be abolished from 8 June 2015 - this will affect anyone who has completed a Drivers Declaration Form for the Trust. More information will be issued in coming months - in the meantime, [click here](#) to see the DVLA's information leaflet.

Volunteers are entitled to claim agreed travel expenses from their home to place of volunteering. The current mileage rate is 26p/mile (45p/mile on business, restrictions apply). For full details, see page 3 of the [Volunteer Handbook](#).

Volunteers also receive up to 50% off week-long holidays at Trust self-catering properties when booked a week in advance. Find out what's available at www.nts.org.uk/holidays/ - to book, contact the Holidays

To find out more about Trees for Life, [click here](#) to visit their website.

Check out our Highland CV [photo album here!](#)

A Centenary of Thistle Camps!



If you're volunteering in the outdoors, you'll probably know Jon Downie and Marcus Knight, our Thistle Camp Coordinator and Seasonal Leader respectively. Last week, they had a joint celebration - for both, it was their 100th Thistle Camp!

Jon and Marcus have been leading camps for around 10 years each, and they're a familiar sight at properties across the country. Last week's celebration was held at the Inverewe Estate camp, where they took time out from a busy week of activity to enjoy their milestone achievement!

The Trust has now run working holidays for around 50 years - this year, we have more Thistle Camps than ever before! If Jon and Marcus have inspired you to get hands-on in protecting Scotland's landscapes, then check out the Thistle Camps website to see what's still available for 2015!

Web: www.thistlecamps.org.uk
 Email: thistlecamps@nts.org.uk
 Phone: 0131 458 0370

Rewarding Long Service at Thomas Carlyle's



Department on 0131 458 0398 or email holidays@nts.org.uk. (Exclusions apply, see the [Volunteer Handbook](#).)



Congratulations Casey!

Casey Broomhall recently spent a week with the Dumfries and Galloway Ranger Service for his school work experience. He was involved in lots of activities around the estate, including pond dipping, building bat boxes and osprey watching - the team were so impressed they presented him with a certificate of achievement at the end of the week!



BREAKING NEWS

New NTS Chief Executive

The new Chief Executive for the Trust has been announced as Simon Skinner, previously Chief Executive of Aegon Ireland Plc.

Simon will take up his post next Monday, 8th June 2015.

For more details, [click here](#) to read the news story on the NTS website.

The Volunteering and Community Team

There was a celebration in May at [Thomas Carlyle's Birthplace](#) when a number of volunteers received long service awards for their dedication to the property. Assistant Director for the South region Nat Edwards was on hand to present the awards to the Carlyle volunteers.

Although signposted on the main road from Glasgow to England, this small property is often bypassed by visitors. Situated on Ecclefechan's High Street, why not drop in and find out more about this great Victorian historian and philosopher?

You can contact the Volunteering and Community Dept in various ways:

Address: Hermiston Quay, 5
Cultins Road, Edinburgh, EH11
4DF

Head of Volunteering: Violet
Dalton (Tel: 0131 458 0375)

Property Volunteering: Amy
Drysdale (Tel: 0131 458 0354)

Conservation Volunteers: Julie
Bond (Tel: 0131 458 0315)

Thistle Camps: Jon Downie /
Kirsty Walker (Tel: 0131 458
0370)

Outreach, Community and
Corporate: Heath Brown (Tel:
0131 458 0260)

Blooming Marvellous Volunteers at Threave!



Threave House, Gardens and Estate volunteers have also been celebrating during Volunteers' Week, as 51 current and recent volunteers received awards for their long service. The hard work of all the flower arrangers, gardeners, guides and ranger assistants was acknowledged at the event, and Violet was on hand with Trustee Amanda Herries to present the certificates and awards. Congratulations!

[Click here to see the photos](#) from the awards event!



Chris Linton - Young Scot Award finalist!



Chris Linton, winner of our 2014 Volunteer of the Year Gardens Award, has been recognised again, after reaching the final of the Young Scot Awards 2015. Congratulations to Chris - to be nominated for this prestigious award is a fantastic achievement!

[Click here to see Chris' nomination video](#), filmed by Young Scot on site at House of Dun!