

INSPIRING

VOLUNTEERING

ACHIEVEMENT

AWARDS

2016



EdinburghCompact

WITH THANKS TO...

The Lord Provost and his office for the time and support they have given towards this event, and The City of Edinburgh Council who have kindly provided the venue and catering. Special thanks to Dawn Lawson and Graeme McKechnie for their support in the organisation of it.

Kris Von Wald, Convenor of the board of Volunteer Edinburgh.

Tommy McLean and Becky Black (Volunteer Edinburgh Trustees) for assisting with the short-listing for the Lord Provost's "Inspiring Volunteer of the Year Award".

The Edinburgh and Lothian Trust Fund (formerly EVOT) for their award of £200 to the host organisation of the Lord Provost's Inspiring Volunteer of the Year.

Volunteer Richard Morgan for making the Inspiring Volunteer of the Year film, also available to view on the Volunteer Edinburgh YouTube channel. <http://cutscenemedia.com>

Clare Johnston for providing the fiddle and recorder music at the reception. Clare can be contacted by email roserodent@live.co.uk

Lara Celini and Tyler Norrie for co-ordinating the event, Volunteer Edinburgh Volunteers Claire Ashford, and Gary Turner for their support in the organisation and administration of the event, and all the staff and volunteers helping to make the evening a success!

This event is delivered as part of "Inspiring Edinburgh's Volunteers: Strategy and Action Plan 2012-17" – Edinburgh's volunteering strategy developed by the Compact Partnership to better reward and recognise the contributions of volunteers.

PROGRAMME

6.00pm	Guest Registration
6.30pm	Ceremony Begins
Welcome	Paul Wilson, Acting CEO of Volunteer Edinburgh

All certificates will be presented by the Rt. Hon Donald Wilson, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Presentation of **Individual Achievement Awards**

Presentation of **Team Achievement Awards**

Presentation of **Saltire Summit Awards**

Presentation of **Investing in Volunteers Awards**

Presentation of **Special Recognition Awards**

Presentation of **Lord Provost's
Inspiring Volunteer of the Year Award 2016**

Presentation of **Good Citizen Award**

Joan Fraser, Chair of the Edinburgh and Lothian Trust Fund will present the **Good Citizen** award of £200 to Shona Black to use for volunteer development at Guide Dogs Scotland.

Thanks & Close	Kris Von Wald, Convenor of Volunteer Edinburgh
8.00pm	Drinks Reception in the European Room with music by Clare Johnston

WELCOME

Welcome to the Inspiring Volunteering Awards 2016.

Thank you very much for coming along this evening to celebrate Edinburgh's Inspiring Volunteers.

The volunteers that are receiving awards this evening come from all walks of life, have a whole range of skills and abilities and make their impact in a huge variety of ways. This is true of course of the many thousands of volunteers across Edinburgh, each of whom makes a powerful and unique difference by choosing to volunteer.

We'd like to thank each and every one of those volunteers for being truly inspiring and making our city a better place to live and work.

We hope you enjoy this evening's celebration.



Paul Wilson
Acting CEO of Volunteer Edinburgh

Please note that we will be taking photos throughout the event. These photos may be used in press coverage, social media and for other relevant promotional purposes. If you do not wish to be photographed or would prefer your photo not to be used for these purposes please inform someone at the registration desk.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

The following statements are edited versions of the nominations submitted, and give a flavour of the individuals receiving awards and the roles they fulfil.

Alexander Fleming

Committee Chairman Air Training Corps and Band Co-ordinator Volunteer

Alexander moved from being a uniformed member of staff to being the Civilian Committee Chairman of Air Training Corps 1143 Squadron (Portobello) around eight years ago. He brings a refreshing approach to his way of working and has even managed to establish a Drum Corps with cadets from three squadrons across Edinburgh becoming the Band coordinator. Alexander is keen to help in anyway whether it be; bag packing; transporting the cadets to and from events; making squadron recruiting posters and attending recruiting events. He helps extensively with fundraising for band equipment and items like white belts, gloves and much more. As well as all this Alexander volunteers at the local Food Bank, and is an elder at his Church. With his good manners and easy approach Alexander makes working with him very easy.

Alistair Stewart

Key Volunteer, Shelter Trading Ltd

Alistair is a "key volunteer" at Shelter Forrest Road; he takes on extra responsibilities and runs the shop when management are away. Without Alistair the shop could not open on Sundays. He has even volunteered on Christmas and New Year's Eve! Alistair is always looking for ways to attract young people and has suggested themes throughout the year which target students. He is a great team player and helps at other Edinburgh stores if they are short of volunteers. He next intends to volunteer in Aberdeen when he moves there later this year. Alistair has "built" his own Sunday team of volunteers who show up because they enjoy working with him as much as they actually enjoy working in the shop.

Andrew Niven

Volunteer Befriender, Ecas

Andrew spends at least two hours per week visiting someone who is isolated because of their disability. He is interested in people, is reliable, dependable, cheerful and with a good sense of humour, and he is always very committed.

Andrew started volunteering with Ecas following redundancy and bereavement. Through personal experience, he knows how important social contact for disabled people is. Usually a volunteer befriender has one befriender, however Andrew has two. In addition Andrew helps disabled volunteers to go out with their befriender by pushing their wheelchair and assisting on group outings. Andrew is an excellent ambassador for the Volunteer Befriender Service and over the years has helped Ecas recruit several new members.

Bret Stone

Day Care Club Support & Passenger Assistant Volunteer, Pilton Equalities Project

Bret liaises regularly with our club organiser on the tasks needing to be done. These include setting up tables and chairs, assisting with food preparation and serving and making tea and coffee. Bret also helps our service users with their jackets and getting to their seats before the fun (including board games and bingo) begins. Bret has brought many new and creative ideas to the day club and has been able to share his artistic skills with many of our members. Bret is a team player with a warm, friendly, patient and caring approach to all. He lives locally and volunteers every week which is critical to the running of our day clubs. He is always willing to assist wherever he can and has a positive fun nature. Bret is a great asset.

Caitlin Merrett King

Curatorial Volunteer, National Galleries of Scotland Arts

Caitlin began volunteering on a filing project and has also been working on a project with Glasgow Women's Library relating to 'Modern Scottish Women: Painters and Sculptors 1885-1965'. She has created a very detailed record of curatorial filing: a useful tool for the whole department. Caitlin is a very dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer, and is a pleasure to work with. As an artist herself, Caitlin displayed a genuine interest in the work of the gallery and the collection. Caitlin has always been open and willing to working and assisting on projects and whilst the initial filing project was not the most gripping of tasks, she undertook it with enthusiasm and professionalism.

Diane MacKenzie

LOOPS Phonenumber Volunteer, LOOPS @ Volunteer Edinburgh

Diane is incredible in helping on the LOOPS phonenumber and has compiled various information sheets and new systems which have proven very helpful to many people. With her pleasant manner Diane has gone beyond the role and helped out on many occasions and events especially at the Sew & Snack event and on a stall at Viewpoint Housing. Diane has been invaluable in driving the phonenumber forward and helping with promotion and marketing. Diane also assists the Social Media Volunteer and Resources Volunteer and together they make a great team. Diane was unwell for a long time and has always managed to come in on Fridays showing her determination and reliability.

Elizabeth Cownie

Shop Floor Volunteer, Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS)

Lizzie has volunteered with the Davidson's Mains shop for almost three years, starting at 14 playing the shop piano. Lizzie now helps with general customer service, taking in donations and making sure that the gift aid process is followed whenever possible. Even though she has had some health issues Lizzie has never let the shop down and is always on time and keen to learn and help. Recently Lizzie has been doing her exams and preparing for university, and even with all the hard work Lizzie is putting into her studying she still finds the time to come in every Saturday. Lizzie will be missed when she goes to university but has said she would like to volunteer in another CHSS shop or back with Davidsons Mains when she is home.

Euan Thomson

Heat Heroes Volunteer, Heat Heroes Volunteers (Changeworks)

Euan visits and delivers energy efficiency and billing advice to householders aged over 50. He helps vulnerable clients to understand their fuel bills and coaches them on how to use their heating effectively. He also identifies clients in need of further support, helping them to live more comfortably and improve their wellbeing.

Euan has gone above and beyond for the Heat Heroes project. He is very reliable and keeps the volunteer coordinator updated with details of visits and follow up work required. Euan is enthusiastic and as one of the more experienced volunteers plays a valuable role in assisting newer volunteers. Euan has been instrumental in developing how Heat Heroes focusses on bringing in further referrals from fuel poor areas and how to sustain the support provided by the project.

Graeme Shields

Admin Volunteer, Leonard Cheshire Disability

Graeme has been volunteering since 2009, taking on a number of roles including filing, shredding and completing a database. Recently he started training in reception duties, and enjoys this extra task. Graeme also helps with fund raising and encourages others in the organisation to do so too. He assists in interviewing our European volunteers and, prepares extremely useful information packs on coming to Edinburgh especially for them. In addition Graeme has arranged outings and introduced them to Scottish culture. Graeme is a very loyal and dependable volunteer and has been a great help in encouraging others to get more involved. His pleasant nature and his strong commitment to volunteering always makes the office a brighter place.

Gregor Donoghue

Volunteer Playworker, The Yard

Gregor started as a volunteer during our Saturday family session and now attends one of our youth clubs. Gregor supports the fundraising team during events and is an asset to every service he supports. He has a great rapport with the young people and their families and can handle challenging situations with little support. Gregor's knowledge of the families helps to support our new sessional playworkers. He has a fantastic understanding of the various support needs of our users and can ably adapt his approach, and play, to support this. Gregor always goes above and beyond for any task given to him and the children adore him. Gregor is a great advocate for The Yard and recently brought several friends along to a volunteer recruitment night and always speaks highly of our services.

Gwinny Gordon

Adult Literacies Tutor, Gilmerton Community Centre - Literacies for Life Group

Gwinny attends the Literacies for Life group every week. She has never missed a week, arrives on time and is fully prepared with resources that she has often designed herself. She is patient and motivates the learners in the group. She is a good role model for life long learning as she continues to develop her own knowledge through attending courses. Gwinny is an excellent communicator who is extremely popular with learners. She has considerable IT skills and designs interesting activities, from worksheets to games at home, to bring in for the group, and is always on the lookout for interesting resources, from newspapers to books, which she buys for the learners. Gwinny always remembers birthdays and regularly brings in amazing home baking!

Hannah Geddes

Create Project Volunteer, North Edinburgh Arts

Hannah came to North Edinburgh Arts to volunteer when she was 14, and since then has been committed to the Create Project, our under 5's creative sessions. She is kind, calm, helpful, creative, reliable, consistent; all the qualities we look for in staff members. She comes with great maturity and professionalism for someone so young. She interacts well with the children and parents and works with other staff and volunteers to set up the sessions and evaluates them at the end. The staff rely on her and value her contribution to making sure the sessions run well. Parents and children feel supported and Hannah does what is needed to ensure sessions run smoothly. She has created positive relationships with everyone she works with and is always professional and organised.

Heather Ford

ETF Committee Member, Treasurer of West Cromwell, Persevere and Citadel Residents Association, Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF)

Heather has been part of West Cromwell, Persevere and Citadel Residents Association, for a number of years and last June joined ETF's Executive Committee. Heather's friendly nature has meant she gets on well with staff as well as volunteers. No task is too big or too small and Heather is efficient in all that she does. Reliability is one of Heather's key qualities; something we really rely on with the work we do. Heather participates in each meeting and always manages to make time for ETF and her community. Heather has a real 'can do' attitude and is willing to give anything a go; she has the ability to juggle her personal and volunteering life as Heather is also studying for a law degree! Her consideration for her community and the tenants' movement really is commendable; Heather's passion truly shines through.

Heather Goodare

Convener and Newsletter Editor: Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Heather has been the driving force behind the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links team for many years. With her cheerful and determined personality, she keeps everything positive and constructive. Heather is always happy to lobby politicians and attend committees to do a deputation to appeal to the councillors, even though some of these sessions can be tough. Heather's lobbying has brought more money into the Council from the Fringe Festival Contract, which is good news for all users of the Meadows. Through her newsletter, Heather maintains a historical memory of the Meadows with articles, in recent editions, on the band stand (removed decades ago), and the water fountains.

Ian McWilliam

Befriender, Waverley Care

Ian is a highly valued member of the volunteer team and contributes in many different ways. Ian demonstrates a deep level of commitment and understanding and has supported two service users, revealing his resilience, and willingness to support people during every aspect of their journey. Offering non-judgmental support Ian assists change and positively impacts the lives of others. Ian brings an open mind, acceptance and a sense of humour to the role of befriender and is truly committed to the people he supports, often going the extra mile. Ian is dedicated to encouraging others to volunteer, participates in their training and with his positive outlook encouraged service users to volunteer. Ian is very involved in raising awareness of the work of Waverley Care and regularly volunteers his time and expertise to the fundraising and communications team. Ian is also more than happy to shake a bucket to help raise money. A true asset to Waverley Care, his dedication and enthusiasm is much appreciated.

James Moodie

Waste Wise Volunteer, Changeworks

James joined the Waste Wise Volunteer team in March last year and has gone on to be one of their best volunteers. James is reliable and over the last year has given 45 hours to the project, hosting stalls, attending community events and supporting the delivery of workshops. He has organized leave from his paid work in order to accommodate volunteering and always follows through on his commitments. If James offers to do something he will always attend and give it his best shot. James has embraced a variety of tasks associated with the project and turns his hand to most things. He has even offered to deliver an event on his own when no project officers or other volunteers were able to attend, and as a consequence, James has helped Waste Wise to reach their targets for numbers of events attended and the number of people engaged with.

Jeanette Scott

Trustee Home-Visiting Volunteer, Home-Start Leith & North East Edinburgh

Jeanette has been involved with Home-Start for over 20 years, as a home-visiting volunteer and a Trustee undertaking the role of Treasurer in recent years. She is dedicated and committed and has supported approximately 10 families over the years. Jeanette's consistency and regular visits are an important indicator to families, showing that she cares and is committed to them; enabling a positive, trusting relationship to be built with the adults and their children. As well as undertaking home-visiting and being a Trustee she has been involved in volunteer training, attending the Volunteer Peer Support Group, Fundraising Sub Group, recruiting staff and supporting numerous fundraising events. Jeanette's involvement within our organisation has had a huge impact; helping bring positivity and friendship into peoples lives.

Jennifer Learmonth

Volunteer Befriender for Ecas

Ecas volunteer befrienders visit physically disabled people who, because of their condition are vulnerable and/or isolated. Jen provides much needed social support visiting her befriender once a week, sitting and chatting, playing games or helping get her get out and about. Jen has an array of qualities and attributes that really help her befriender. She is committed, brings positivity in abundance, remains calm and wants to help bring happiness and provide support. Despite the challenges Jen perseveres and has learnt to adapt her approach and become more confident as a result. Jen approaches all her volunteering with a caring and considered level headedness, and despite being a full time student and working part-time too, Jen takes it all in her stride! Jen would do anything for anyone, even if it means going the extra mile. In her befriender's words Jen is '*kind hearted, understanding, easy to get on with.... just great company.*' Jen's involvement within our organisation has had a huge impact, bringing positivity and friendship into someone's life whilst also helping to increase the number of volunteers who get involved in Ecas. Thank you Jen!

John Brogan

Volunteer Driver, Positive Help

John is a volunteer in our Transport service and plays a crucial role in helping HIV or Hepatitis C positive clients get around – many of whom would otherwise struggle to attend their medical appointments, go shopping or attend support groups. Drivers like John are what make this service so important to our clients, many of whom are vulnerable and socially isolated. John has been with Positive Help for nearly three years and gives up 3 or 4 days a week and without John the service would not be able to get as many people to their hospital appointments and stick to their treatment regimens. John has a direct impact on the wellbeing of our clients. Despite having lots of other things going on in his life John approaches volunteering with enthusiasm – it is obvious he cares about the work he does.

John (Jack) Hunter

Chair, Leith Theatre Trust

Leith Theatre was gifted to Leith following its incorporation into the City of Edinburgh and has lain unused since the 1980s. Thanks to the efforts of Jack, and to Laura Bloxham, a Trust has leased the theatre and Thomas Morton Hall; a key step towards securing the future of the theatre. Jack, as Chair of the Trust, has organised fund raising events and secured support and sponsorship from local businesses. He established "The Leith Sessions" which have raised funds and showcased local musicians, singer/songwriters and a craft brewery. Jack's passion and commitment has drawn others to join the Trust and the events have raised the profile of the Trust resulting in increased support and offers of help.

Karen Reilly

Befriender/Mentor, Move on

Karen is a befriender who meets her client one to one, once a week, in the community, to help tackle isolation and to offer general social support. Our clients have been affected by homelessness and can have issues around mental health, addictions or lifestyle choices. Karen is reliable, flexible and willing to discuss important issues and, being a trained life coach, brings very good listening skills and positive engagement experience. Karen understands her clients issues and is also realistic, recognising that it is often the small changes that matter most. Karen has shown her commitment by the consistency of her work, giving her client support and at the same time maintaining boundaries so that the work is transparent and clear.

Latisha Reihill

Whale Arts smART CRAFT Group

Latisha has been supporting WHALE Arts' 'smART CRAFT' visual art workshops for adults with additional support needs. She helps facilitate sessions that explore creativity and expression, and participants are extremely fond of Latisha. She is a valuable member of the team, ensuring all participants feel welcome and keeps an eye on those who may need extra support. Latisha balances the demands of higher education with volunteering and her dedication is admirable. She gives her time freely and the group is richer and better supported as a result of her contribution. Latisha is able to gently encourage those who need support and also knows when to give individuals space to reflect privately on their practice. Latisha is a friendly face, never overbearing, always positive and sensitive to the needs of others.

Lynn Reid

Public Engagement Volunteer, National Galleries of Scotland (NGS)

Lynn offers invaluable support and insight into capturing and analysing visitor feedback. She quickly became familiar with the feedback process, introduced enhancements and has now captured thousands of visitor comments. These directly inform decision making and enable the NGS to understand visitor needs better, leading to improved visitor experiences. Lynn is well organised, efficient, pays strong attention to detail, and manages to inject fun into whatever project she's working on. Lynn is thoroughly reliable and willing to help with all manner of tasks, no matter how monotonous they can be! She is an essential part of the feedback team and we now really rely on Lynn's contribution.

Lynne Harley

Scotland Enhance Charity Shop Volunteer: Shop Floor/Stock Room/Admin Volunteer, Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland

Lynne is a very caring and loving lady, she is hard working and works well in a team. Lynne has brought new volunteers to the shop and they have stayed long term. Her role involves buddying, mentoring, training and supporting members of staff and volunteers and assisting customers; making them feel welcome. Lynne is a regular at helping in the shop on a Sunday and really enjoys being with the volunteers. She is well known in the community and customers love her and make a point of visiting the shop when Lynne is in (boosting sales). Lynne is one of our longest running volunteers and being fully committed to the charity she goes out of her way to maximize our sales.

Melissa Morris

Young Volunteer, SiMBA

Melissa is a quiet and passionate individual who likes to help others, whether it is volunteering at events or fundraising. Having a young person who is so dedicated and compassionate is rare, and she is a fantastic asset as she brings a young person's view on what we do and how we move forward. Currently in her final year of school, and applying for university, Melissa still finds time to help. Melissa has volunteered at many events such as our Butterfly Release, a children's singalong and the Christmas party. Melissa has helped with fundraising by taking part in the Great Scottish Walk & Run Festival and by modelling our tartan at a fashion show. She is now looking to organise a "Frozen Singalong" at her school.

Michele Lang

Weekend Resource- Day Care Support Volunteer, Pilton Equalities Project

Michele liaises with the club organiser and then arranges the setting up of tables and chairs, prepares and serves food and makes the tea and coffee. Michele assists the service users on and off with their jackets, helps people to their seats and assists and participates with the entertainment: bingo and board games. Michele is a good team player with a warm, friendly, patient and caring approach. She is open minded and tolerant of different lifestyles and values others. Michele has been volunteering for 13 years and regularly helps at the Weekend Resource Club where she offers support and friendship to those in the group. Michele has a positive fun nature and is an asset to PEP and our weekend clubs.

Mike O'Sullivan

LOOPs phonline volunteer, LOOPs @ Volunteer Edinburgh

Mike is an amazing advisor on the phone and helping older people by researching appropriate activities and then forwarding details to the older person or their families/carers. There is always a personal touch with the information that Mike offers. Mike also assists the new volunteers by showing them the systems and how to take calls and record information and how to get back to people. The new volunteers have built up friendships with Mike as a wise sage. Mike has also assisted with the Advisory Group and offered input as to the way forward including researching ideas and options so many different organisations are offered to help older people.

Nicola Jaimeson

Venture Volunteer, Venture Scotland

Nicola is a Venture Volunteer providing support for 16-30 year olds on our personal development programme. Participants face a range of issues including poverty, alcohol/drug misuse, mental health and homelessness. They choose to get involved to make changes in their lives with the aim of getting into work, education or training. Nicola works with staff to lead our residentials and day activities and brings enthusiasm and reliability to her role. Nicola is dependable in stressful situations and in engaging with the young people and volunteer staff team and is a great role model for the young people, being not that much older than they are. We can always count on Nicola to be here and 100% ready to take on each activity she has committed to.

Robert Williams

Café Assistant/Gardener/General All-Round Helper, North Edinburgh Arts

Robert does a range of roles in North Edinburgh Arts including working on his garden allotment and volunteering in our café. Robert gets involved with creative activities and is interested in all we do: he is literally always volunteering in some way. Robert is a quiet and calm man, who never complains and always seems happy. All the staff, other volunteers and service users love Robert and feel connected to him in some way. Robert brings calmness and consideration to the work we do and creates positive relationships with all who meet him. Robert has helped establish many lasting friendships and is at the heart of our community. We value Robert's contribution to our lives and all that he brings to the organisation.

Sandra Martin

Befriender, Waverley Care

Sandra has been a befriender at Waverley Care for 22 years. During that time she has supported two people living with HIV and HEPC, helping to mitigate some of the stigma and loneliness they experience as a result of their diagnosis. Sandra is unique in the consistency of support that she has provided and has been a regular presence in the lives of two people with very complex and challenging physical and mental health. Sandra has helped enormously in this time, just quietly getting on with it. Sandra is a kind, compassionate woman who as a result of her longstanding and reliable commitment to her service users and to Waverley Care has made a BIG difference. Sandra is an exemplar of the huge difference befriending/volunteering can make.

Shaista Ahmed

Volunteer Tutor for Sewing Group & Digital Skills Class, Saheliya Arts

Shaista started out as a student on our Skills for Work course in Early Education and Childcare and after completion wanted to use her skills and so stayed involved as a volunteer. Shaista immediately saw ways to improve and grow her role and has always been keen to welcome as many women as possible. Many who had completed their course wanted to continue learning and Shaista, recognising this, devised a new course. Not only has this group been a place where women learn skills in sewing, under Shaista's teaching, members have grown in confidence, producing work of a very high standard. Shaista has become a valued and respected role model for others attending The Saheliya Learning Centre, seeing what possibilities there could be for them too.

Sheila Tibbels

CbESOL Home Learning Tutor, ESOL Home Learning Scheme, Edinburgh College

Sheila has been a volunteer since January 2011. Sheila's qualities include patience, a positive outlook and a sense of humour; all essential when working one to one to develop English language skills. Sheila's student was keen to improve her English in order to apply for UK citizenship and in May 2012 Sheila's student successfully achieved an SQA ESOL assessment which she was able to use in support of her application. Since then, Sheila and her student, have continued to work together, enjoying an excellent relationship. Sheila's student has gained confidence and is able to cope more independently with everyday life.

Vic Joyce

Day Care Volunteer, Queensferry Churches' Care in the Community

Vic is a highly valued member of the team and over the years has attended training courses that allow him to take on additional responsibilities like First Aid and Moving & Handling. Vic is popular with everyone who attends the service due to his genuine interest in them, his larger than life personality and the varied life experiences that he can draw on. Vic's regular visits allow many hours of reminiscence. Vic visits on all day care days and joins the supper club for their Christmas Party. Besides volunteering in day care, Vic works overtime in December including in his role as Father Christmas. A genuine friend to all that attend day care and a colleague we rely on, Vic just wants to make life the best it can possibly be.

TEAM AWARDS

21st Century Gracemount Residents

21st Century Gracemount Residents nominated by Justine Bradd

21st Century Gracemount Residents' was born a few years ago when the area was regenerated by the Council. The group initially focussed on continuing the works in the area, ensuring the developer was being respectful of residents and their works being carried out well. As the group has matured they have looked into trying new things to involve the community. Firstly an event was held in the Autumn of 2015 where a number of local organisations were invited to hold a stall as a community information day, organised by the group. Buoyed by the success they have now organised two more events including a Christmas Fayre and an Easter Egg Hunt. The ambition and enthusiasm from the committee is admirable as they really do have the needs of their community at heart.

Ageing Well Volunteer Walk Leader Team

Ageing Well nominated by Brendan Brodie

Established in 2001 this is a partnership between Edinburgh Leisure, NHS Lothian and Pilmeny Development Project. The 'jewel' in the crown is the unique manner in which it is run; through a peer support approach. All Ageing Well activities are either delivered, or supported, by trained local older people themselves. The passion the volunteers have shown to reach as many people as possible, displayed by their forming their own volunteer working group for the promotion and publicity of the programmes, has been fantastic. Older members of the community have reported in Ageing Well evaluation questionnaires that they've; "made new friends" "feel less isolated, less lonely, less miserable", "enjoyed the exercise at their own level" and "experienced good fun"

"A Wee Flutter" Company

FastForward & Play nominated by Kai Peacock

The young volunteers came together to create and perform a socially relevant piece of theatre for young people. This involved the members receiving upskilling in 4 different areas and using this to help create their play. Once the script had been written the volunteers rehearsed the piece. It was then performed across Edinburgh in 4 different schools, one youth work setting and at a Youth Work conference. In total the piece "A Wee Flutter" was seen by over 475 young people. The volunteers started the project in September 2015 with the final performance in March 2016. Over that time, each member of the team had volunteered 60 hours. Some of the qualities and attributes exhibited by all the volunteers were; commitment, dedication, courage, understanding, willingness to learn and striving for excellence.

Board of Directors

Shrub Co-operative nominated by Joe Thompson

The team's main role is the strategic overview of the Co-operative. They were voted onto the board in November to serve the Co-operative: a role they have taken to and flourished in. Many of the directors are completely new to company management and project planning and delivery, however they have learnt a huge amount and taken their stewardship role seriously. Each member of the board has a unique skill-set to bring to the organisation from; pyrography to grant applications, and volunteer management to sustainable development. The 10 directors represent 8 different countries, range in age from 18 to 65, and with an equal gender split. This diversity, combined with the consensus-run decision-making process, means that many different views, and expertise, can be appreciated - the key for success in a community-run project.

Dr. Bells Family Centre Volunteer Team

Dr Bells Family Centre nominated by Fiona Clark

The team do a whole range of activities. Lynne, Ben and Shaani volunteer in the kitchen, preparing and serving with beautiful with smiles, laughter and light heartedness, making everyone feel welcome. Elaine, Aileen, Siobhan, Claire and Angela volunteer on reception bringing routine to the noisy family centre. Marise and Evelyn volunteer as Trauma Therapists, delivering front line services to those whom need it most, whilst their children are in our crèche. Our Trustees, Sarah, Evie, Alistair, Sheila and Alison, volunteer behind the scenes, developing our partnerships and securing funding so the family centre can continue to grow. Together all of our volunteers enable Dr Bells Family Centre to deliver the much needed services we provide and create a community of support and hope to families who need it most.

Edinburgh Crisis Centre Helpline Volunteer Team

Edinburgh Crisis Centre nominated by Penny Stafford

Volunteers have been working with us for over six months, handling helpline calls during evenings and weekends. They have integrated into the Crisis Centre team delivering a professional and sensitive response at times of crisis, providing immediate emotional support and undertaking safety assessments and safe planning with callers who are at risk of harm. Our helpline volunteer team provide active listening and empathy to callers who may be distressed, with many of our callers experiencing suicidal thoughts at the time they contact us. Our volunteers provide a calm and person centred response providing a first point of contact for those wanting to come into the centre for crisis support. The volunteers make a vital contribution, complementing the work of paid staff, ensuring they have more time to support service users who need face to face, or overnight, support.

Edinburgh Young Stroke Service Volunteers

Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland nominated by Maggie Young

The volunteers have amassed over 66 years of volunteering with the charity, and, with volunteers from 8 countries, its a multiculturally rich. Working either 1 to1, or in small groups, the volunteers empower younger people with complex communication impairments, post stroke, to interact, engage, challenge and develop amazing conversations, in a way appropriate to them. This is achieved via activities designed to support them reach their goal of reconnecting with their communities. Communication leads to community and for many who have become socially isolated post stroke, the unwavering support offered by our inspirational volunteers in St Cuthberts is crucial in their journey to recovery. With their endless energy, enthusiasm and deep desire to improve lives, our volunteers make a lasting impression on the people and communities they work in.

Health in Mind Fab Fundraisers Group

Health in Mind - Fundraising nominated by Katherine Sellar

They are a fantastic fundraising group! They have raised over £2,000 from organising fundraising events ranging from a 'depressed cake shop' to a comedy night at the Stand and a great ceilidh! As well as raising money for the charity, they have been fantastic at raising awareness of our work and the support available if you are experiencing mental health problems. The group come from a range of different backgrounds and experiences and they have been great at working well together and welcoming new members.

Patients Council Volunteers

Royal Edinburgh Hospital Patients Council nominated by Simon Porter

Our volunteers help to provide the collective advocacy service to current and former patients. Once we establish the patients' views and have agreed upon how to proceed with them, volunteers go on to attend meetings with hospital staff, managers and other relevant decision-makers, in the hope that proper consideration of the patients' perspective will lead to an improvement in the services they receive. In support of this role, our volunteers attend weekly drop-ins to discuss matters of interest, as well as holding regular public meetings with invited speakers like the local MSP or involvement workers from the Westminster Parliament. Uniquely, our volunteers all have lived the experience of in-patient mental health care. Much of their ability to engage with patients is doing so as peers, with authenticity and compassion, coming from them being experts with experience in this way.

Statestreet Volunteering

Leonard Cheshire Disability nominated by Carol Findlay

Statestreet Volunteering are a team from Statestreet, a nearby investment bank, who have volunteered for the past 4 years. They have taken part in corporate days for painting and gardening projects. They come with a budget and supply paint, plants and bags of energy. Statestreet also offers skills training which was eagerly embraced by the organisation. The volunteers come with enthusiasm and a friendly disposition. The team have decorated a number of bedrooms of the people who use our service and this has made a huge difference to their quality of life. The bank organised a Volunteer Day and gave information on our befriending opportunities, which resulted in two new volunteers for the services. This means two more people will be getting individual time and attending outings they previously were unable to.

Tuesday Day Care Volunteers

Queensferry Churches' Care in the Community nominated by Lorna Russell

With a combined 62 years of service, every volunteer member brings their own unique qualities, underlining their commitment to make day care the best it can possibly be. Our receptionists provide a warm welcome and are always happy to help in any way they can. Our 6 day care support volunteers have a genuine interest in all our service users and their colleagues. All our volunteers care and have a genuine interest in all our service users as individuals, promoting confidence and self esteem. Our volunteers have a lifetime of experience, a combined 556 years, proof that age is no barrier and that life experience is hugely valuable. The whole team is committed to providing a positive and valued day care experience.

The Young Peoples Committee

The Spartans Community Football Academy nominated by Jamie Tomkinson

The group meet to discuss ways to help make their Community a better place to live. While they are facilitated by a youth worker, they are essentially autonomous and the ideas, plans and, in particular, the fundraising are all their own work. The group has been running for about 18 months and at first what may have seemed 'uncool' to be a part of, their work and passion have made them real positive role models, with many others wanting to become part of the group. Last year the volunteers organised a youth event The Quest. This was completely planned, organised, facilitated and evaluated by only 8 young people: a fantastic achievement. However, not only did the community benefit, the Young Peoples Committee members gained valuable life skills (such as organisation and planning) and learnt lessons which will help them throughout life.

**Volunteer Receptionists, Hope Park Counselling Centre
University of Edinburgh** nominated by Sue Tomkins

The group is part of the University of Edinburgh offering a respectful and confidential space for people to explore thoughts and feelings within one to one counselling sessions. It is staffed predominantly by students. Our receptionists are the first point of contact for clients offering a professional, confidential and supportive welcome. Their role requires enormous attention to detail, diplomacy, openness and the ability to work effortlessly as part of our team. The volunteers calmly manage unexpected events from fire alarms to clients arriving with cats in baskets, whilst welcoming all our clients, taking donations, booking appointments and, at the end of the day, doing the washing up. Each volunteer has given us an unquestioning and consistent weekly commitment whilst also engaged in other employment, advanced studies and additional volunteering roles. All have given beyond expectations.

SALTIRE SUMMIT AWARDS

Ian Ramsey Young Scot: Junior Climate Change Fund (JCCF)

Ian has been a consistent and reliable volunteer for over a year and part of his role involves deciding which groups, applying for funding, are successful. Ian has devoted a great amount of his time to the lasting legacy of the JCCF grants panel and been actively involved in planning to visit local projects close to interview grant award recipients. Ian highlighted his work with Young Scot by promoting the Young Scot card and services to young people in his local community and has been one of the founder members of the Young Scot Focus group. They meet every six weeks to look at the services of Young Scot and contribute to the work that we do.

Jamie Cowie Heriot Watt University Sports Union: Tennis Club

Jamie has been involved with the HWUTC throughout his student life at Heriot Watt University and during that time, Jamie has served the tennis club in a wide variety of ways. James has progressed from first being the Club Secretary, then Club Treasurer, next Vice President and finally the President. Jamie successfully campaigned for the creation of Women only coaching sessions, along with a reduced female membership fee, which has seen a 75% increase in female members.

Paul Broadfoot Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: Edinburgh Phoenix Programme

Paul has been a volunteer from the humble beginnings of the Edinburgh Phoenix Programme, at the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. During his time as a mentor, Paul was seen as the older sibling of the group and has had a very positive impact on students; helping them with any skills they were struggling to develop. Paul is a great role model and has demonstrated great maturity and compassion for his age by helping and supporting others.

INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS

AWARD



Investing in Volunteers is the **UK quality standard** for all organisations which involve volunteers in their work. investinginvolunteers.org.uk

This year an award will be made to **Bridgend Growing Communities** for achieving the standard, demonstrating a very real and important commitment to their volunteers by undertaking the process and raising the standard of their organisation's engagement with volunteers.

"Our aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Edinburgh through providing opportunities to participate in community growing activities."

We are based at Bridgend Community Allotments in Edinburgh. We use community growing to bring about positive changes for both communities and individuals. Our projects promote social inclusion, build community capacity, develop individual's skills, and sustain healthy lifestyles. We have the skills, experience and facilities to support vulnerable and excluded groups and individuals to engage".

Bridgend Growing Communities bridgendgrowingcommunities.org.uk

Award will be collected by Iain Shaw & Karen Carrick

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

AWARDS

Beth Inglis

Youth Volunteering 2016

Volunteer Youth and Children's Worker, The BIG Project

Beth volunteers in one of our younger children's clubs, ROOTs, whose focus is to improve social skills by organising activities that are fun, and also allow staff to support children in forming friendships, learn good manners, deal with disappointment and generally build their self-confidence. Beth's personal qualities of remaining calm, being patient, listening and encouraging children, contributes massively to the children's experience. Beth has been a constant in this group for 4 years and despite moving on and getting a job she still manages to help the Club every week. Beth was the first "local" young person to volunteer with us and since then many more have followed in her footsteps. Beth is an excellent role model for children and has been a superb advocate for the whole organisation.

Brian Pettie

Health and Social Care Volunteering 2016

Volunteer Driver, Sacro

Using his own car Brian transport families and friends to visit people in prison. Maintaining contact with their loved ones is crucial to a prisoners rehabilitation. Whilst transporting the passenger Brian provides a non judgemental, friendly, supportive, listening role instantly putting his passengers at ease. This is an invaluable quality as we transport everyone from young children to elderly disabled adults and Brian is often the only source of social contact that our passengers may have. Visiting someone in prison is extremely stressful and Brian has never been late or not turned up for the journey and he is willing to drive any time of the day or night, seven days a week even at very short notice. Brian epitomises the perfect volunteer; he is supportive, helpful and welcoming to new volunteers. Brian is 100% committed and so very willing to help.

David Wilson

Environment and Conservation Volunteering 2016

Venture Volunteer, Venture Scotland

David has volunteered for many years originally giving up weekends to do conservation and maintenance work at the bothy in Glen Etive. David now supports 16-30 year olds on a personal development programme based in the outdoors. The participants face a range of issues including poverty, alcohol/drug misuse, mental health and homelessness. David helps lead residential events which involve 3-5 days living in a bothy or camping in the Highlands or Scottish Borders. David supports groups to do anything from canoeing to gorge walking and also helps train. David brings enthusiasm and passion to his role and is always the first one up of a morning to cook a fry up for everyone. David is a total joker and there is never a dull moment with him around – David keeps everyone smiling!

Frances Farmer

Trustee Volunteering 2016

Management Committee Member, The BIG Project

Fran joined the Management Committee in 2010 as Secretary bringing valuable skills and experience, later progressing to Chairperson. Fran's involvement has brought changes to the constitution and we are now becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Fran brings lots of enthusiasm and commitment to her volunteering. She is always happy to take on extra tasks, attend meetings with partner organisations as well as help out at our community events; running raffles and organising refreshments. As a member of the local community Fran talks to local families and feeds back their views. Fran has encouraged new people to volunteer to join the committee and she is always ready to support them. One of Fran's personal interests is artificial flower arranging and she has produced an array of table decorations for BIG Project functions.

Ganithaa Kannan

Administration Volunteering 2016

Admin Volunteer, Smart Works Edinburgh

Ganithaa supports the office manager in the running of the Smart Works office. Ganithaa answers the phone and deals with enquiries and her strong communication and people skills make this a naturally easy task for her. Ganithaa manages email enquiries, data bases and social media accounts and her IT skills mean she achieves these tasks efficiently and effectively. Ganithaa compiles the volunteer rota and is excellent at welcoming clients and volunteers into the office. Ganithaa is comfortable working alone in the office and as a team member and has a great 'can do' attitude. Through her delightful personality, her ability to get on with people and her intelligent dependable contributions Ganithaa is much liked and respected. Ganithaa has most certainly had a positive impact on the development on the charity.

Jim Martin

Adult Learning Volunteering 2016

IT Tutor, Grassmarket Community Project

Jim teaches IT skills; internet use, emailing, word processing and Microsoft office skills to vulnerable adults most of whom have little knowledge or skill in these areas. Jim volunteers every week of the year, often alone, sometimes with as many as 12 people. The adults he supports include people who have severe mental health issues, people who are recovering alcoholics or drug users, people just out of prison and people with physical disabilities or neurological disorders such as autism and dementia. Jim is incredibly patient with the members. He is tactful and sensitive and is an excellent communicator. Jim demonstrates compassion and kindness without being patronising and he is an inspiration to other aspiring volunteers. Many of the members who attend Jim's class attend no other activity and live very isolated lives: literally they would be staring at four walls without him.

Josie Horton

Arts, Culture and Heritage Volunteering 2016

Crochet Champion, Knit and Natter

Josie enthuses everyone with her skills in crocheting. She brings patience and humour to teaching her skills to the group which meets in the North Edinburgh Arts café. Josie doesn't just teach crochet skills, she shows how to be a generous person. Since her disabled son is now living his own life, Josie has become more involved in the community and without her, the Knit and Natter group would not have thrived as it has. Josie is also involved in the Chat Café - making friends with recent arrivals to the community. Josie is also a mainstay of the Community Meal which brings people together to make and share a meal. Josie's taken the group onto another level.

Karma Lennon

Tenant Participation Champion 2016

Secretary and Shop Volunteer, Tenants and Residents In Muirhouse (TRIM)

Karma is a volunteer manager at Muirhouse Community shop where she motivates the team and deals with residents on a daily basis. Karma strives to deliver the best for everyone, volunteering over 25 hours per week and during the festive period Karma offered a 24 hour call out service. Karma works with many vulnerable volunteers, taking them under her wing and bringing out their strengths. Recently Karma mentored a volunteer who herself had social issues. Karma understands why volunteering is so important and is a passionate individual who works well on her own and with a team. Karma plays a key role in the Muirhouse Community Shop and is a major reason for it's success and popularity.

Rab Thomas

Long Standing Contribution to Volunteering 2016

Communication Partner Volunteer, Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland (CHSS)

Rab has been a loyal volunteer for over 22 years. We often say in CHSS that 'a stroke doesn't come alone'. With Rab's kind, patient, non-judgemental and unwavering support, many in our services, with complex communication needs, soon realise they are not alone in those daunting early days, post stroke. Rab supports them, working 1 to 1, or in small groups, to accomplish their communication goals and helps them to re-engage in their communities, where they have so much to offer. Rab has extraordinary energy, great interpersonal skills, an inimitable sense of humour and is a passionate advocate of our aim for Longer Stronger Lives for the people of Scotland. Rab is driven to improve the lives of others and will do all he can to make this so.

Val Smith

Charity Shop Volunteering 2016

Enhance Charity Shop Volunteer: Shop Floor/Stock Room/Admin Volunteer, Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS)

Val runs the day to day tasks on the manager's day off making it the most profitably day in the shop to date! Val started as as shop floor volunteer and developed very quickly to taking on a lot of the day to day responsibility. Val has a passion for the gift aid process and keeps us well informed of the statistics and changes. Val works well on her own and well with others, indeed she is an amazing team player who is very approachable. Val never complains. Val lives in Kelty and travels to and from here each day to give her time and even helps in other shops to make sure they remain open whilst giving other managers a day off when they are short staffed. Val is an ambassador of our charity shop and the charity.

LORD PROVOST'S INSPIRING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2016

Shona Black

Campaign and Information Assistant, Guide Dogs Scotland

Shona is a very enthusiastic guide dog owner and brings so much to her role as Engagement and Information Assistant. Shona is very knowledgeable on the workings of guide dogs and as a guide dog owner herself can give first hand experience of visual impairment and using both long cane and a dog. Part of the role Shona volunteers for is talking to groups of people who have been newly registered as partially sighted or blind. Shona's knowledge and understanding of having a visual impairment helps her to show and to share her compassion, understanding and knowledge and she is always eager to do this and offer her support. Shona is a great ambassador for ensuring that people with a visual impairment are given the same opportunities as everyone else and Shona is tireless in campaigning for better conditions.

EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN

TRUST FUND -

GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

This year E<F is delighted once again to be able to make a small award of £200 to the host organisation of the 'Lord Provost's Inspiring Volunteer of the Year 2016'.

This award is intended to help with their volunteers' development progress throughout 2016.

Joan Fraser Chair of the Trust Fund will present the award to Shona Black of Guide Dogs Scotland.

E<F – Edinburgh and Lothian Trust Fund administers grants to relieve poverty of families and individuals in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

E<F also award grants to help the development of small voluntary organisations who operate in the area of social welfare.



EDINBURGH
AND LOTHIAN
TRUST FUND

#VolunteerWeekScot

For more details about the work of Volunteer Edinburgh, or to find out more about getting involved in volunteering please visit our website at volunteeredinburgh.org.uk

On the home page of our website you can stay in-touch with us by signing-up to our free monthly **Volunteers' Bulletin** which features the latest volunteering news, opportunities, and details of community events.

You can also email us at admin@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk, call us on **0131 225 0630** or drop-in for a visit at:

Volunteer Edinburgh
222 Leith Walk
Edinburgh
EH6 5EQ

We are on social media!



You can join us on Facebook at facebook.com/VolunteerEdinburgh

follow us on Twitter* at [@VolunteerEdi](https://twitter.com/VolunteerEdi)

and watch us on YouTube at youtube.com/user/VolunteerEdinburgh

* If you are tweeting about the Awards on Twitter then please use the hashtag **#VolunteerWeekScot**.

Volunteer Edinburgh is a recognised Investor in Volunteers.





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