

Voluntary Action Swindon

Working for thriving communities and voluntary organisations



Annual Review 2018-19

Trustees, Staff & Volunteers

October 2019

Trustees

Arthur Amos (Chair), **Bob Barrett** (Vice Chair), **John Markey** (Treasurer),
Tim Ward, **David Bell**, **Ram Thiagarajah**, **Stephen Henderson**

Staff

Richard Hill (CEO) **Pam Webb**, (CEO 07/19) , **Andrea Barrett** (Development Manager),
Seniz Mutlu (Development Manager), **Shaz Qaddus** (Finance Officer),
James Moss (Property, Office and Shopmobility Manager),
Jonathan Harris (Facilities & Maintenance Officer)
Jo Roberts & Steve Stephenson (Development Officers equality and inclusion)
Naresh Ladhu & Mesut Mutlu (Shopmobility Supervisors)



Mesut, Steve, Naresh, Jonathan, Pam, James, Jo & Andrea—photo courtesy of
Shaz, missing from photo along with **Seniz**

Our valued regular volunteers

Linda West, **JB Gurung**, **Charmaine Fisher**, **Shabbir Ahmad**,
Meena Fernandes, **Pinar Tezcanli**, **Chris Hill**, **Fred Hagen**

Chair's Report

Arthur Amos

I am pleased to be able to report on another positive year for Voluntary Action Swindon. Having successfully secured the voluntary sector support contract we continue to provide funding and governance advice, training and other support services to the Swindon not for profit sector as well as a collective voice on key forums.

We are also pleased to be developing the Swindon Equality Coalition to be a fully representative voice for inclusion to help support and influence the equality agenda of Swindon Borough Council through representation on its Equality and Advisory Group.

We continue to run Sanford House as a successful community hub in Swindon and from April 2019 took over the delivery of the Swindon Shopmobility Service based in the Sanford House car park.

None of this would have been possible without the excellent leadership of our former CEO Richard Hill, who retired in July, our committed staff team and our wonderful volunteers. I express my appreciation to all of them as well as our valued partners, friends and supporters.

We were very pleased to welcome Pam Webb as the new CEO in late July and look forward to her considerable experience helping to take VAS forward.

Arthur Amos

Chair, Voluntary Action Swindon



Chief Executive Officer's Report

Pam Webb

I was delighted to join VAS at the end of July and it's a privilege to work with such a committed team of staff, Board and volunteers.

Richard has done a fantastic job at the helm for the last three years and I very much look forward to building on his success.



Many of you will know that I've moved from my previous role heading up the Zurich Community Trust. You may not know that I was born in Swindon and I'm very passionate about the town and its community spirit. I'm particularly passionate about the very vibrant voluntary sector in the Town and it's a real privilege for me to be leading the organisation helping this great voluntary sector to thrive.

As well as providing important services to the sector such as funding and governance advice and training and more recently running the Shopmobility service, I also very much see our role as a convenor and collaborator ensuring that all of the community groups in the town can maximise synergies and share best practice, which I appreciate isn't always easy in the reality of a competitive funding environment.

I also want to make sure that the voice of the sector is represented and heard in all of the key forums and is at the forefront where any key strategic change is concerned.

Many of you will have met me in my former role over the years and if we haven't met I very much look forward to meeting you over the coming months.

I've also seen first hand for many years the incredible impact of volunteers. What would this town and indeed this country do without the army of volunteers that manage our schools, deliver the judicial system, raise vital funds and of course help the voluntary sector to flourish and deliver so much for so little. So I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our valued regular volunteers at VAS who we simply could not do without and all of the volunteers helping the Swindon voluntary sector to help some of the most vulnerable people in Swindon.

Pam

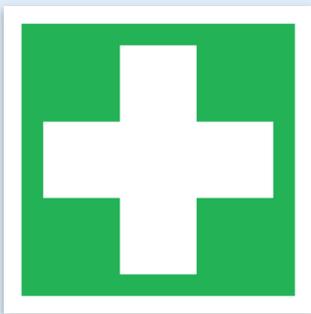


Training Courses at VAS

VAS offers a range of training courses for the local voluntary and community sector, including Fire Safety, First Aid at Work, Food Safety, Health & Safety, Life Support, Lone Working, and Manual Handling. Last year, we ran 11 courses attended by 50 people from the local voluntary sector.

Our training courses are aimed at the local voluntary sector, and are therefore heavily subsidised (typical course prices are £45 for a half day course, £95 for a full day course).

Some of our most popular courses include:



First Aid at Work

Make sure you are able to respond confidently to a range of first aid incidents and emergencies. This course will teach you the skills and knowledge to give emergency first aid in a low-risk work environment.



Fire Safety

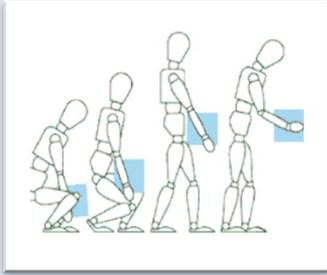
Learn essential knowledge about fire safety, including carry out a fire safety risk assessment, implement appropriate fire precautionary and protection measures and maintain a fire management plan.



Health & Safety

All employers are required to have the correct systems in place to ensure a healthy and safe working environment for employees and any other people who may be affected by their business activities.

“Please could you pass on my thanks to John Markey for the excellent First Aid at Work training he delivered for the Royal Voluntary Service on 22/10/2018. Not only was the training set at an affordable level for a voluntary organisation, but more importantly he made the training informative, fun and memorable.”



Manual Handling

Manual handling injuries are the main cause of lost working days in the UK. This training will look at how to prevent back injuries.



Life Support (basic)

Rapid response to emergency situations can save lives. This course will provide basic life support training.



Food Safety

This course reinforces the importance of food safety and provides learners with an understanding of how to identify and control food safety hazards

For our full list of training courses, including dates and information on how you can book a place, please go to:

<http://vas-swindon.org/training/>

The Swindon Sports Forum run an extensive Grants programme to help support clubs and physical activity groups develop their activities.



VAS is delighted to continue to support and promote the Sports Forum run by a committee of dedicated volunteers working to help sport and physical activity succeed and flourish in Swindon.

<http://www.swindonsportsforum.co.uk/>

Other Services at VAS

Our key support to the local sector and community



Funding & Governance Advice

Andrea is here to help you with funding sources, bid critique and governance advice.

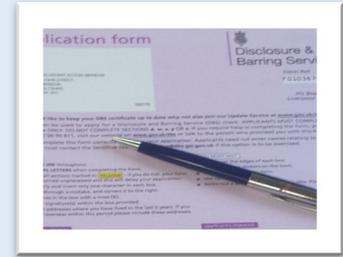
andrea@vas-swindon.org



Room Hire

A range of conference and other rooms available for hire from £15 an hour.

info@vas-swindon.org



DBS Checks

VAS is registered umbrella body for standard and enhanced DBS checks.

info@vas-swindon.org



PAT Testing

VAS' qualified PAT tester provides a PAT testing service for all class 1 and 2 electrical items at preferential rates.

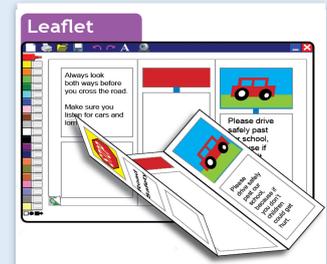
jonathan@vas-swindon.org



Shopmobility

Enabling independence in Swindon town centre. Mobility Scooters and Power and manual wheelchairs for hire.

07379 689128



Printing and Copying

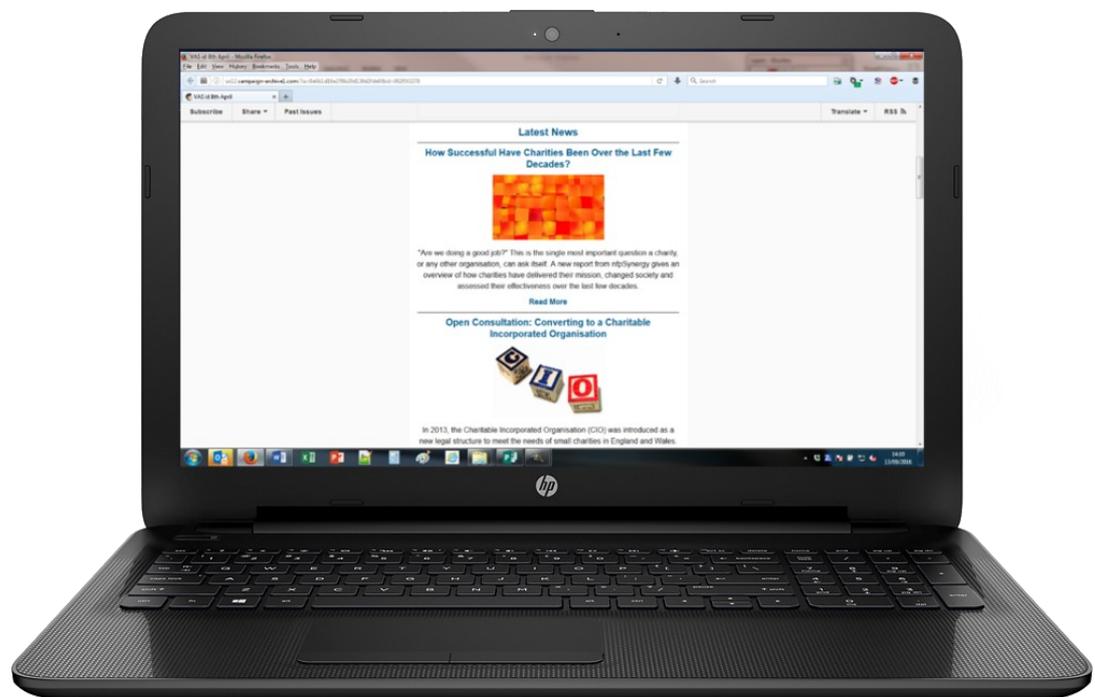
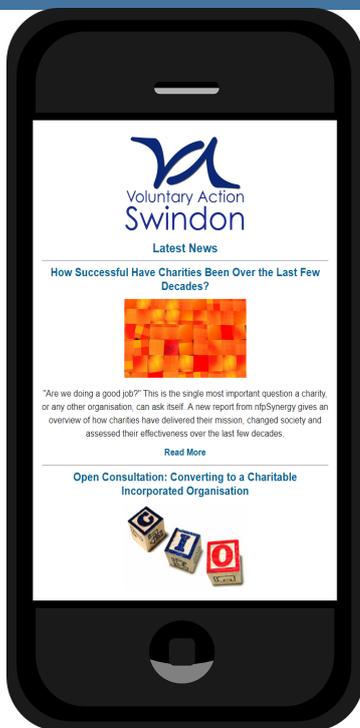
Charity leaflets, newsletter, posters and all your copying needs at preferential rates.

info@vas-swindon.org

VAS id (information digest) is our weekly e-bulletin, helping to keep you up to date with voluntary and community sector activity in Swindon. Sign up to receive local news, upcoming community events, training courses, funding opportunities, voluntary and community sector vacancies, charity law updates, and advice on fundraising and governance.

You can also let us know what your charity or community group is up to, and we'll feature it in VAS id. Just send us an email:

vasid@vas-swinton.org



Sign up here:

<http://vas-swinton.org/subscribe>

Sector Support

Some of our achievements in the last year:



We helped a range of local organisations including the Swindon Carers Centre, Shine PND, Nepalese Community, Swindon Fencing Club, Toothill Junior Youth Club and the Pride of Swindon Awards secure funding totalling £186,380.



We supported 110 people directly with funding and governance advice including help on safeguarding, gift aid advice and to become formally incorporated or constituted including the Swindon Bhaktapur Friendship Group, Swindon Food Collective, IPSUM, Open Door, Toothill Junior Youth Club, Renew and Butterflies Families Matter.



We continued to provide representation to the Swindon Equality Advisory Group, supported the development of Swindon City of Sanctuary, including during refugee week. We helped the campaign to encourage LBGTQ+ people to speak out and report domestic violence and we delivered a Knife Crime rally and an education programme in schools around the effects of knife crime.

Thank you for a very interesting and informative course.

Thank you to the VAS team for the very efficient way our PAT testing was progressed.



We delivered 11 training courses to 50 attendees as well as facilitating DBS checks, delivering PAT testing and supporting a range of community groups with their printing and copying needs.

Finance Report Summary

This summary financial information is taken from the trustees' annual report and statutory financial statements, which has been approved by the trustees before the AGM. The statutory financial statements, independently examined by Chris Vaughan, Chris Vaughan Accountants, will be submitted to the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission.

This summary information may not contain sufficient information to give a complete understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The full Trustees' report, statutory financial statements and independent examiner's report may be downloaded from the VAS website or the Charity Commission website - <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>

VAS Accounts Summary: Year to 31 March 2019		
	2018-19	2017-18
	£,000	£,000
INCOME		
Rent	93	82
Printing	4	4
Training	3	4
Interest	2	0
Other (1)	9	9
PROJECTS/FUNDING		
SBC - Community Sector Support	70	62
SBC - Sanford House	110	109
VCS - Involve	1	1
Wiltshire Community Foundation	5	5
Other Income	0	0
Total Income	297	276

VAS Accounts Summary: Year to 31 March 2019		
	2018-19	2017-18
	£,000	£,000
EXPENDITURE		
Staff Costs	-151	-144
Other Costs (2)	-119	-105
Audit/Independent Examination Fees	-1	-2
Total Expenditure	-271	-251
Net Deficit/Surplus	26	25
BALANCE SHEET		
	2018-19	2017-18
	£,000	£,000
Fixed Assets	91	90
Bank Accounts	259	244
Other Assets	9	6
Total	359	340
Liabilities	-25	-32
Net Funds	334	308

(1) Other includes income from our DBS checking and PAT testing services, and charges for advertising vacancies in VAS id.

(2) Other Costs includes admin and management staff, premises expenses, community print and publications, governance costs, and costs associated with training and conferences.

How to Find Us



Voluntary Action Swindon
1 John Street, Swindon,
Wiltshire, SN1 1RT
Tel: 01793 538 398

Email: info@vas-swinton.org
Web: <http://vas-swinton.org>

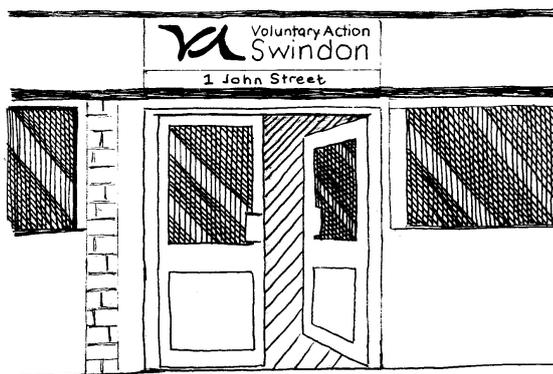
<https://www.facebook.com/VoluntaryActionSwinton>

<https://twitter.com/vaswinton>



We are based in the town centre, only 5 minutes walk from the Fleming Way bus station. You can reach us by turning off Fleming Way onto Fleet Street and following the road around to John Street. Our building is on the left.

The cheapest car parks near to us are the Whalebridge (Islington Street, SN1 1TN) and Spring Gardens (SN1 2BF) car parks.



Special thanks to our funders:

