

OAMOCA

2015

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP INPUT BY GAIL ANDERSON

Gail Anderson VAO presented a session on the Community Planning Partnership and its recent re-structuring. What does this all look like now and how can the Halls feed their comments and desires to the relevant part of the partnership – of which OIC is one. There are three priorities identified, Positive ageing, A vibrant economic environment + Healthy sustainable communities. Halls signed up to take this dialogue forward.



INFORMATION INPUT, COURSES FOR FUTURE HALLS MEETINGS & CONCLUSIONS

**Useful Information** Edwina reported that a meeting with OSCR, Scottish Government and the British Banking Association was being held and she would be attending. This was to look at the common challenges charities and other voluntary groups had when dealing with banks and to produce booklets of advice for Charities and for the banks themselves. Watch VAO newsletter and website for future updates.

**Hot off the press!** At last years' Annual Halls event folk asked for a web page specifically for Community Halls. We are pleased to tell you that on VAO's website, we have created a web page specifically for Community Halls! - The question is, what do you want to see on this page? We really want this to reflect the information and concerns YOU have, so please contact Edwina at VAO to give her all information you can and want to see on YOUR page!

**Useful websites requested by participants:**

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/can-do-guide-for-organisers-of-voluntary-events>
- <http://www.communitybarnet.org.uk/data/files/socialmediaplanningguide.pdf>
- <http://locality.org.uk/resources/social-media-toolkit-twitter-facebook/>

**Courses wanted in the future by Halls:** Food Hygiene, Serve-Wise, Door Supervisor, Events Management, First Aid, HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point)

**Policies and procedures- Effective Running of a Community Organisation, Seeking funding and filling out forms, Financial & legal aspects of running a Community Association.**

Areas (in green) are covered by VAO right now, please contact Edwina for further details. Other courses can be facilitated by VAO/CLD through the College, as the Serve-Wise, First Aid and Food Hygiene have been done in the past, so be on the lookout for news.

**Conclusions:** *It was an extremely worthwhile day and those present reported that it had been an excellent networking event, as well as providing some practical skills and developing confidence and abilities of those returning to the halls in their own areas around the County.*



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ORKNEY'S ANNUAL MEETING OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS



On Saturday September 26th 2015



was the venue for the 14th Annual Community Associations Meeting.

This popular event is run jointly by Voluntary Action Orkney, in partnership with Orkney Island Council's Community Learning and Development Sector.

Going on evaluation feedback from previous years halls events, what the representatives wanted was more practical training courses that would help their committees enhance their skills and confidence in various roles. Taking the aforementioned very much into consideration and with thanks to financial assistance, from the Strategic Community Learning Group (North Alliance Up-skilling Fund) along with monies from VAO & CLD, this year we saw two training sessions run simultaneously. "Serve-wise", for Halls who on occasion operate licenced bars, was delivered by Orkney College and "Using Digital Technology in Your Hall" by Janette Mackie, with assistance from Russell Manson.



Some of the hall representatives enjoying a short break during the morning session

On the day 14 folk from 10 halls turned up, on what was a bright September morning, to take part in the practical training sessions on offer. After a wonderful lunch prepared by the Blide Trust (of vegetable soup, some really excellent sandwiches and home bakes!) everyone came together to provide a very brief update of what was going on in their hall/ community and what were the successes and some of challenges they were all facing.



**SERVE-WISE TRAINING COURSE RUN BY ORKNEY COLLEGE**

The Serve-Wise training course (delivered by Sheila Chapman from Orkney College) was a very popular choice on the day, with a total of eleven people taking part. This course is a must for halls who are serving alcohol at any licenced events they may be running e.g. weddings or Harvest Homes. Those attending the course received a certificate for taking part and also have the option of sitting an exam at a later date.



Attending Serve - Wise Training is a requirement for anyone who serves or sells alcohol and encompasses three disciplines - the law, alcohol and people skills. The courses are designed to address the range of problems and situations that could be faced by everyone who serves alcohol.



Feedback comments from the participants on the Serve-Wise course were as follows:

- ◆ Excellent course with plenty of useful information to pass on to colleagues.
- ◆ I will now ensure our hall is up to date with legislation when serving alcohol.
- ◆ After attending this course we will be more effective undertaking bar work.



**USING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR COMMUNITY HALL**

The - "Using Digital Technology in your Hall" course was jointly run by Janette Mackie and Russell Manson. This workshop was a real mix of information and practical support, for the four participants who took part. The session covered tips on setting up and using online documents, social media, and how to develop a web presence to market and run your community hall. Other topics around Crowd-Sourcing and best practice ideas for halls to reach their targets were also explored.



**Comments on Using Digital Technology**

- ◆ Really enjoyable, food for thought and have taken away good ideas.
- ◆ Basic but interesting, I was able to set up some new email addresses.
- ◆ A very informative session x two.
- ◆ It was good to have course delivered by someone from another hall.

**FEEDBACK SESSION FROM HALLS - SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES**

**Successes:**

- ◆ Certain Community Associations had a renewed interest in their Halls for weddings.
- ◆ Others had a good core of folk who are willing to do a lot for their hall and some less so and needed a call out for help from the Community – which was successful.
- ◆ Room bookings for Sandwich were up, due in particular to flourishing cub groups.
- ◆ Halls had embraced the digital and mobile technologies and enhanced phone signal reception and webpage updates.
- ◆ Bookings for many were strong and one reported healthy bookings already for 2016.
- ◆ St Andrews had finally resolved the water rates exemption and had a vibrant football club and playgroup who recently had new equipment bought through grants.
- ◆ The existence of a development worker for (Birsay), was reported as "a real boon".

**Challenges:**

- ◆ A lack of volunteers (and younger volunteers), particularly as Committee Members
- ◆ Planning events which contained a bouncy castle (Health and Safety + Insurance)
- ◆ Difficulty with getting some repairs done
- ◆ Issues with banks - around setting up and changing signatories for accounts
- ◆ Struggling to get funding for refurbishment and updating garden of a garden area

