

## Friday Friends at Eunson Kloss

A group of 10 young volunteers have been visiting 'Eunson Kloss' every Friday afternoon to entertain the residents.

Everyone involved has been having a great time, making new friends and joining in with the activities.

Last week the group decorated buns for the residents to take home!



## Comic Relief Award Process

Comic Relief recently announced they were going to stop receiving grants in order to review their award process. Principles have been published following a strategic planning process. These principles are universal to virtually all organisations in the third sector.

- Are you able to demonstrate these principles in the work of your organisation?
- Do you 'walk the walk' but struggle when it comes time to writing reports?
- Are you exploring the idea of starting a project?

For more information on project planning, strategic thinking, monitoring and evaluation, contact VAO on 872897.

**Online Promotion** Is your charity making the most of online promotion and fundraising? Google have teamed up with the Media Trust and the Charity Technology Trust to launch 'Grow Your Charity Online' – a resource aimed at helping small charities maximise their online potential. For more information visit: <http://community-toolkit.org.uk/Managin-and-Developing-your-group/Making-the-most-of-online-promotion-for-charities.htm>

## 500 Hour Saltire Award



Alex Clod recently received his 500 hour Saltire Award for volunteering at Employability Orkney.

Alex has moved onto employment and we wish him every success.

Well done!

## £50K up for grabs

The Peoples Millions is an annual competition run by the Big Lottery Fund and ITV which awards funding to community projects that will improve the lives of local people. Entries to be received by 12 noon on 13<sup>th</sup> May. For more information visit: <http://www.peoplesmillions.org.uk/>



## Need space for your next meeting?

Our central location and competitive rates make VAO an ideal venue  
contact us for rates...

## Dates for your Diaries

**First Aid Training** – 19th and 20th April, half day and full day training available. Contact Edwina at VAO for more details.

### **Intergenerational practice – one day course**

Thursday 25th April, 10am to 4pm (lunch included), venue: VAO

This course will be of interest to those who are keen to embed intergenerational approaches within their work.

Book at [www.generationsworkingtogether.org](http://www.generationsworkingtogether.org)

**Preparing for the Procurement Process (PPP)** has been developed specifically for organisations in Orkney considering working together to bid for public sector contracts. By looking at successful tenders and the techniques for proving your organisation's value, this programme will enable you to confidently approach the tendering process for supplying public services. 13th and 14th May, 2 day course, venue tbc. Book at the Social Enterprise Academy on 01463 238088 or email [kate@theacademy-ssea.org](mailto:kate@theacademy-ssea.org) , [www.theacademy-ssea.org](http://www.theacademy-ssea.org)

**Easter Holidays** - VAO will be closed Good Friday, 29th March and Easter Monday, 1st April.



### **Protecting people receiving passported benefits**

- The Scottish Government is laying down regulations which aim to protect people who have access to passported benefits such as free school meals, the Blue Badge and concessionary travel. These changes are necessary as a result of the transfer to Personal Independence Payment and the introduction of Universal Credit.

To find out more visit: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/46339.aspx> and click on papers from the 5 and 12 March.

### **New guide to the Bedroom Tax**

- The Scottish government has announced it will provide extra advice and support to help those who will lose out under UK Government housing benefit cuts like the bedroom tax. Holyrood is providing an additional £2.5 million to social landlords to ensure advice is available for people who will lose housing benefit due to the under-occupancy measures and other housing benefit changes being introduced by Westminster.

For more information visit: [http://www.carersuk.org/media/k2/attachments/UK1023\\_Changes\\_to\\_help\\_with\\_rent\\_the\\_Bedroom\\_Tax.pdf](http://www.carersuk.org/media/k2/attachments/UK1023_Changes_to_help_with_rent_the_Bedroom_Tax.pdf)

### **Free training for service delivery and support staff**

'One Parent Family Scotland' has been awarded funding from the Scottish Government to deliver its welfare reform, universal credit and child maintenance sessions for free to staff from service delivery and support organisations. Sessions are available in Glasgow and Edinburgh. To book a space visit: <http://www.opfs.org.uk/news/article/622>

**Women's Aid refuges** - is lobbying the UK Government for a commitment to ensure all refuges are granted exempt status so they are not negatively impacted by the implementation of Universal Credit and the Benefit Cap. To sign the petition visit: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/45058>

### **Scottish Welfare Fund**

The latest instalment of the 'Taking It On' bulletin shares everything you need to know about the Scottish Welfare Fund which will be introduced from 1 April 2013. Local authorities will be responsible for delivering the scheme from that date onwards. The new £33m fund will replace the Department for Work and Pensions' discretionary Social Fund, including Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses, which will be abolished from 1 April 2013.

For more information: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/welfare/welfarereform/scottishwelfarefund>

### **Charities Online: Gift Aid Repayment**

From 22nd April 2013, Charities & Community Amateur Sports Clubs can sign up to make repayment claims electronically. For more information visit: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/online/benefits.htm>

### **Charity Trustees**

If you're a trustee of a charitable company with connected companies, there are some changes to audit requirements which may affect you. For more information visit: [http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/386827/oscr\\_reporter\\_march\\_2013.pdf](http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/386827/oscr_reporter_march_2013.pdf)

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