

Newsletter January 2021

Local news and services

Not So Silent Night

ROAR - VAO's group of young events volunteers – ended 2020 on a high note with a hugely successful online Christmas concert. The current sum raised by 'Not So Silent Night' for Orkney Charitable Trust stands at £1313. Anyone wishing to view the concert can do so [here](#). If you still wish to make a donation, the [fundraiser page](#) is still open.

Clockwise from top left: The ROAR group for 2020-21; Camron Dowell; Joanne Rendall and Graham Low – both former ROAR volunteers, in 2018 and 2013 respectively; The Brewer family; Craig and Corey.



Online support from CLAN



CLAN have added to their range of online support services with some live group classes starting with Mindfulness with Janine and Yoga with CLAN's own Carolyn Stewart. The classes start on Tuesday 9 February, with other live sessions to follow. These are live classes with limited spaces, so booking is essential. As with all their services, CLAN is there for anyone affected by their own diagnosis, or that of someone close to them and their services are free.

To register for one of these classes, or to see the full range of services, please click [here](#).

Kickstart Scheme



You may be aware the UK Government has developed the Kickstart Scheme to support young people into employment and help grow businesses. Orkney Islands Council, Orkney Construction Training Group and the Economic Recovery Steering Group

are looking to apply to become a Gateway organisation under ASPIRE Orkney.

They are looking to gather as many placement opportunities as possible from local employers, organisations and business. A minimum of 30 placements are required to progress a Kickstart bid. Any interested employers should complete and return the Expression of Interest Form as soon as possible.

Click [here](#) to view the leaflet or visit the [OIC](#) or [ASPIRE Orkney](#) websites for more information.

Legislation & Guidance

Guide to holding a Virtual AGM/Meeting

We know many of you will be starting to think about holding your AGM in the coming months and we understand this might not be possible in the usual way for some time to come due to obvious restrictions. This simple checklist sets out information and tips to help your organisation hold a successful virtual AGM. If you require any further assistance or would like an informal chat you will find our contact details at the foot of the document. Please find the Virtual AGM Checklist [here](#).

Planning Ahead

You may be a Third Sector Organisation who wants to move ahead with your work to help others. If you are unsure where to start or what the future might bring, take a look at our '[Covid-19 Scenario Planning Pack](#)' document, designed to help your organisation plan for the future months.

Returning to the Office?

Here's what you need to know to help you assess the risk of returning to your office to work.

- Firstly, check what Tier we are in - currently Orkney is Tier 3. Ask yourselves - are you now allowed to return to work? Refer to the appropriate government guidance for your sector, found [here](#).
- Secondly, do you need to return to work? Can you continue working from home? If so - use these [advice pages](#) for Working from Home here to help you and your staff make sure that the home environment is safe for working.
- Thirdly, assess the risk of returning to work to help you decide whether to return to work or not. For full guidance on risk assessment see the Health and Safety Executive website [here](#). Remember to sign and date your risk assessments!
- Fourthly, what do you do if someone develops coronavirus symptoms whilst in work? Guidance on decontamination can be found [here](#). If you have any questions or need some support to do this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us here at [Voluntary Action Orkney](#).

COVID-19 OSCR Guidance for Charities

The coronavirus pandemic is forcing many charities to change how they usually operate. This guidance brings together information charities need to know during this time and highlights other organisations who may be able to offer support. Full details are available [here](#).

COVID-19 Pandemic Volunteering & Remembering Data Protection Laws

Data protection rules will not stop you from helping those in need, however you should make sure that you take them into account to protect yourself and those that you are supporting. The Information Commissioner's Office has published an [article](#) for groups looking to help during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding & Finance

For a wealth of funding opportunities, please see our latest Training and Funding update [here](#).

Have your say

Scottish Government – Strengthening Scottish Charity Law Survey

Scottish Government are restarting their engagement with the charity sector to develop and refine the proposals consulted on in 2019. These broadly focus on improvements to charity law that would increase transparency and accountability to maintain public trust and confidence in charities and OSCR. The survey provides stakeholders with an opportunity to input and help Scottish Government formulate a position on the way forward. The closing date for responses is Friday 19 February 2021. To take part, please click [here](#).

Job opportunities at VAO

Are you looking for a career change and want to use the skills you have gained to help others in your community? We have two exciting opportunities available.

Community Development Worker

35 hours a week

£28,134 (including DIA and plus pension contribution)

Based in Kirkwall, Orkney

We are looking to recruit a Community Development Worker to join our busy and proactive team. In collaboration with colleagues, you will provide specialist advice, support and resources to emerging and existing Third Sector organisations. You will enable their set up and development and ensure they are able to access the services and learning they need.

You must be flexible, motivated and have the ability to work effectively within a small staff team and with a wide range of partners. Organisational management experience is beneficial and you will have knowledge of the voluntary sector and the issues that affect it, and have excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Closing date for applications is Friday 19 February 2021

Interviews will be held Friday 5 March 2021

Volunteer Development Worker

28 hours a week

£28,134 Pro Rata (including DIA and plus Pension Contribution)

Based in Kirkwall, Orkney

We are looking for an individual to actively promote, support and develop volunteering in Orkney and to advise on the principles and implementation of volunteering good practice. You will have experience of working with a range of people, understand the benefits of volunteering and have excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Closing date for applications is Friday 19 February 2021

Interviews will be held Monday 8 March 2021

Application packs are available from Voluntary Action Orkney's [website](#) or by emailing enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk (CVs not accepted).

If you would like further information on both roles, please contact [Rosalind Aitken](#).

Volunteering opportunities

Orkney Samaritans looking for a treasurer



Are you interested in giving up a few hours of your time to become treasurer for the Orkney branch?

Orkney Samaritans would be happy to hear from you if you have experience in finance and would like to join their team of volunteers.

If you would like further details, please contact [Tricia Urquhart](#).

Orkney Children's Panel members needed

Children's Panel members are part of the Children's Hearings system. The Scottish Government fund the system and Children's Hearings Scotland support the 3,000 volunteers throughout Scotland.

Panel members take part in Children's Hearings. With two other Panel members, you will get written and spoken information from the young person, their family, Social Work, and anyone else who needs to be involved. The information is to help you decide what is in the best interest of the young person at this point in their life – to ensure they are safe, loved, valued and respected.



It is a rewarding role and valuable to children and the community. You do not need any formal qualifications, but you need to be a good listener, compassionate, empathetic and trustworthy and relate to young people in difficult circumstances. You will need to be able to read quite detailed reports sometimes.

Full training will be given.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Annette Feeney on Annette.feeney@orkney.gov.uk or Annette.feeney@chscotland.scot for a chat about the role.

Annette can also arrange for you to speak to an existing panel member to get a real feel for the role.

For more information about the Children's Hearing system and application process, please click [here](#).

Volunteers wanted to be part of White Ribbon Orkney



Domestic violence manifests itself in all communities up and down the UK and Orkney is no different. However, in an effort to counter this, volunteers are sought to come forwards and be part of an exciting new project to achieve White Ribbon status for the County with the establishment of White Ribbon Orkney (WRO). As part of the Orkney Domestic Abuse Forum (DAF), a multi-agency group, who look to tackle the issues locally, an

ambitious project is underway to establish the charity here in an effort to make a positive difference and influence men to speak out about violence against women in all its forms.

Examination of services in Orkney identified an improvement opportunity if men could be encouraged to become more involved in the local response with adoption of a plan to establish White Ribbon as a status project and promote the charity White Ribbon Scotland (WRS).

[WRS](#) began as a charity in 2010 as an autonomous Scottish campaign linked to the worldwide White Ribbon Campaign operating across more than 70 countries. WRS are a Primary Prevention campaign contributing to the aims of the Scottish Government Equally Safe Strategy, who engage with non-perpetrating men to educate them about violence against women and what they can do to help eliminate it. Participants are asked to sign a pledge which states:

'I pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women in all its forms.'

WRS rely on the support of volunteers to pass on the messages of the campaign through grassroots conversations with men and by holding Speaker Events, which are only limited by their imagination. Speakers are asked to consider what opportunities may be presented through their private and professional lives to assist men to consider how their attitudes and behaviour might contribute to condoning violence against woman and whether they have remained silent about the issue in the past.

When recruiting volunteers WRS reach out to men and women from all walks of life who have access to a predominantly male audience as the aim is to address male attitudes and behaviour. Volunteers usually have some degree of interest in the issue, but do not need to have any campaigning experience as they will receive training to raise their confidence. Speakers can be aged 16 years upwards and are asked to make a commitment to assist WRS meet its goals of addressing violence against women by creating a gender equal society and educating men as to how they can play their part. By 'commitment' Speakers are not expected to dedicate all their time to the campaign, rather that they will be committed to playing a part in their local section of a National Speaker Network and make things happen in their local area. These will be respectful of restrictions in place, which are hoped to ease through time. All people should be considered equal and WRS seek to 'recruit' a wide diversity of volunteers.

Volunteer Speakers attend a one-day training course or a virtual two x 2.5-hour modules online where they will gain an increased knowledge of:

- What is violence against women and girls (VAWG)?
- Why do men need to be involved?
- Gender Stereotyping, peer pressure, gender inequality and how they adversely affect men as well as women.
- The background to the White Ribbon Campaign.
- Bystander Theory and how it can prevent incidents from escalating into VAWG.

At the conclusion of the training WRS invite participants to become Volunteer Speakers, however WRS understand however that some people may, for a variety of reasons, decide that they do not want to become Speakers. WRS in developing a Status Project would replicate the above locally in Orkney under the banner of WRO.

A Steering Group (SG) has now been established to coordinate the project under the Chair of Chief Inspector Matt Webb Police Scotland and Chair of Orkney's DAF. He will be supported by Mr Gerry O'Brien as Vice Chair, following his recent retirement from NHS Orkney. Other members comprise

of representatives from Housing, Health, Women's Aid, ORSAS, Local Businesses, VAO, Key Community Representatives, Category 1 responders, Elected Members and Transport Providers.

Following the formal launch of the SG on Thursday 10 December 2020, appeals were made for Volunteer Speakers in Orkney to contact whiteribbonorkney@gmail.com to register their interest in taking up this opportunity to make Orkney a more enriched environment for us all. The desire is to see volunteers from throughout the islands, with most, if not all, Parishes represented. The SG will also aim to spread this message throughout Orkney across various mediums and forums to encourage engagement with young and old and ensure as wide a reach as possible. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Speaker or just being part of White Ribbon Orkney, then we want to hear from you so please get in [touch](#).

Training opportunities

Training from the Orkney Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

orkney alcohol and drugs
partnership



The Orkney Alcohol and Drugs Partnership is a multi-agency organisation incorporating over 30 members, including NHS Orkney, Orkney Islands Council, Police Scotland and the Voluntary Sector.

They are committed to promoting positive change by addressing all aspects of substance misuse within Orkney. Through effective and efficient Partnership working, they aim to empower and support individuals, families and communities to move towards a safe and healthy lifestyle, free from the negative impacts of substance misuse.

They have recently released their Training Programme 2021. Click [here](#) to view the brochure.

If you would like to promote your organisation, an activity or project or have an interesting story to share, please contact Cecily.cromby@vaorkney.org.uk