

# Newsletter May 2021

## Local news and services

### ROAR raises over £1000 for MacMillan Cancer Support

After months of preparation, 'Islands in the Live-Stream', the ROAR group's latest online event had its premiere on VAO's YouTube channel on Saturday the 1st of May. All the group's hard work paid off in great style as they raised £850 on the night. A further £205 was raised from the auction of Stewart Shearer's newly composed tune, which was sent out into the digital ether as an Encore after the main concert, giving a grand total of £1055 for MacMillan Cancer Support here in Orkney. You can still see the event on VAO's YouTube channel [here](#), and the [JustGiving](#) link is still open if you feel like raising the total a bit higher. Yeehaw!



## Volunteers' Week 2021

VAO will once again be virtually celebrating Volunteers' Week from 1st to 7th June and focusing on the incredible efforts of Orkney volunteers across the islands this year.

Volunteers' Week is a UK wide campaign set up in 1984 to recognise the fantastic contribution volunteers make and to take time to thank them. In another exceptionally difficult year, people from all walks of life around the UK have taken the time to volunteer and make a huge difference to their communities.



Tuesday 1st June	Tuesday 1st June	Wednesday 2nd June	Thursday 3rd June
12-2pm Drop In	7-8pm 'Volunteering in Orkney' online talk	12-2pm Drop In	12-2pm Drop In

Each day our social media will feature Orkney individuals and groups who have continued to volunteer this year, brilliantly adapting to new ways of working, using new technologies and rising to new challenges. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to hear their stories and be inspired to join one of our online events to find out how you can volunteer in Orkney.

Want to volunteer in Orkney but don't know how? Need to recruit volunteers to help in your community group but don't know where to start? Our Volunteer Development Worker, Sam Stringer, is new to the team and started in post in April 2021 and she is keen to hear from individuals looking to volunteer and from organisations who are looking for volunteers. Drop in for a lunchtime chat with Sam to see what support and help she can provide.

Not sure what volunteering is and why it might be beneficial? Come along to our Zoom talk 'Volunteering in Orkney' on Tuesday 1st June 7-8pm to learn what local opportunities are available and how becoming a volunteer can help you learn new skills, meet new people, grow in confidence and gain valuable work experience. Email [Sam](mailto:Sam) or phone 01856 872 897 to book a place. More information about Volunteers' Week can be found [here](#).

## Tech Peer Mentor Project Launch

The Tech Peer Mentor project launch was held on 6 May to raise awareness of both the project and the Transforming Local Systems Pathfinder programme that it is part of. The project has an aim of increasing the use of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) in Orkney and will work with organisations, service users and members of the public to encourage and support greater use of digital technology in health and care. Orkney is a named partner to East Ayrshire in the Pathfinder programme and we were lucky enough to have the East Ayrshire Pathfinder team attend the launch and also deliver a presentation on the Irvine Valley area, which is a focus for that team. The presentation was very well received by attendees and the similar themes and issues that have emerged in both the Irvine Valley and Orkney during recent public consultation

were commented on. The aim is that by matching areas with similarities there will be greater scope to learn from each other in developing the work of both projects. The event also included presentations by Lynda Bradford, Head of Health and Community Care and by Pete McAndrew, Tech Peer Mentor and facilitated discussion afterwards. Although the workshop session had to be cut short due to time constraints, lots of interesting points were discussed



and views shared. Some comments afterwards were that “listening to what other areas were doing/have done - it gives fresh ideas and perspective” and “lots of enthusiasm in the room, which was great!”

It was great that the launch was so well attended by a wide range of representation including from elected members, Orkney Health and Care, NHS Orkney and the Third sector. The session was recorded and is available to watch by following this [link](#).

During the event Pete spoke about the ‘one button computer’ that he currently has on a trial basis that is called Komp. This is a computer that can receive messages, photos and can be used for video calling but doesn’t need the person using it to have any digital skills at all! The one button is used to turn it on and it controls the volume (just like the old TVs, which it’s designed to look similar to). It’s used to reduce social isolation and loneliness for people who have no digital skills by enabling them to benefit from being digitally connected. If you are working with someone who

you think could benefit from this and would be willing to take part in a trial please get in touch. Gaining feedback from people using the device would be hugely helpful in informing whether this is something that would be invested in over a longer period. Please get in touch with [Pete](#) if you would like to know more, have a demonstration of the Komp or would want to take part in a trial.

### Would you like to try out the KOMP?

- ▶ We have the KOMP one button computer for 2 months.
- ▶ We would be keen to arrange a short trial with a service user.



If you’ve been thinking about how increasing digital participation and using technology could help with health, wellbeing or care, get in touch with Pete. You can now make referrals to the project either for support with general TEC queries or more specific TEC related issues such as referrals for individuals. Get in touch by phoning VAO on 872897 and leaving a message, or by email to [enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk)

## Legislation & Guidance

### Each and Every Child initiative



#EachandEveryChild aims to tell a new story about children and young people in the care system #KeepThePromise

The overall purpose of the Each and Every Child initiative is to tell a compelling story about children and young people in the care system in Scotland, transforming the current public narrative and mobilising people at all levels in the community to take action to improve their life chances. This initiative has exciting potential to fundamentally shift public attitudes, tackling the common assumptions held by the wider society which research has shown are a fundamental barrier to building public support for a more progressive approach to caring for children and young people. Find out more [here](#).

# Funding & Finance



## SCVO - Adapt and Thrive Programme Extended

The Adapt and Thrive Programme, introduced in late 2020 to support the third sector response to Covid-19, has been extended until the end of June 2021. It offers grants and loans to support organisations to adapt to the challenges presented by Covid-19 and build back better to thrive in the future. Also, offers specialist advice on how to build recovery plans.

Find out more [here](#).

## Tesco Community Grants

Tesco Community Grants will award funding to charities and community organisations for local projects that focus on supporting children and families. Projects that tackle food poverty are also invited to apply.

Funding pots of £500, up to £1000 and up to £1500 will be available for projects and Tesco customers will be able to choose which project receives the most funding by voting in store every time they shop. The scheme is open to registered charities and not-for-profit organisations, via an on-line application form. Greenspace Scotland's team of friendly Community Enablers can support you to apply or answer any questions.

Find out more [here](#).

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

# Have your Say



## Scottish Government - Survey on Volunteering and the Third Sector Response to COVID-19

The Scottish Government's Volunteering Survey aims to gather information about:

- how volunteering has contributed to the Third Sector response to the pandemic;
- the challenges that the sector has faced in continuing to support volunteering during this time;
- and – crucially – organisational perspectives on what is needed to support volunteering during the recovery period and beyond.

The survey is split into two routes:

- one targeted at TSIs, Local Authorities and intermediary organisations;
- the other aimed at organisations working directly with volunteers (volunteer-involving organisations).

There is still time to complete the [survey](#) as the closing date has been extended until 11.59pm on Tuesday 1 June.

# Volunteering opportunities

## VAO is looking for new Board members

VAO is recruiting additional trustees/directors to its Board. If you are a member or would like to be a member of VAO and are interested in contributing and shaping our work at a very challenging and interesting time, or would like to find out more please contact Gail at [gail.anderson@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:gail.anderson@vaorkney.org.uk) or call 01856 872897.

## Home-Start Orkney is looking for a Volunteer Treasurer

Home-Start Orkney is looking for a volunteer treasurer. Duties include:

- Overseeing the financial management of Home-Start Orkney, reporting to the Board of Trustees
- Liaising with the Senior Co-ordinator regarding budgets, funding and applications
- Reconciling the accounts monthly
- Liaising with the Senior Co-ordinator and administrative assistant over book-keeping



Are you interested? Please contact [postmaster@homestartorkney.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@homestartorkney.org.uk) for more information. They look forward to hearing from you!

## Dates for your diary

### VAO AGM

14 June, 2.30pm

The VAO AGM will be held in Teams on Monday 14 June at 2.30.

Please call 872897 or email [kerry.wilson@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:kerry.wilson@vaorkney.org.uk) to confirm your attendance.

All welcome.

### Home-Start Orkney AGM

23 June

The Home-Start AGM will be held on Zoom on Wednesday 23 June.

Please contact [postmaster@homestartorkney.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@homestartorkney.org.uk) for more information.

**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](mailto:Cecily.cromby@vaorkney.org.uk)**