

Newsletter July 2021

Local news and services

Try out technology for health and care - New TEC Library service launched

The Tech Peer Mentor Project has launched a new 'TEC Library' service to give anyone with an interest the opportunity to learn how technology that is available for anyone to buy can be used to meet health, wellbeing and care needs.

Pete McAndrew, Tech Peer Mentor, will be at Kirkwall Library and Archive on Wednesdays between 10.00 and 12.30 to offer advice and guidance on the use of technology in health and care. He will have a range of devices from the TEC Library such as Alexa Echo, smart plugs and smart lightbulbs on display for people to see. Members of the public can try these out and speak with Pete about their potential for use in supporting health and care needs.

The TEC Library also has a small number of devices available for loan to people who have an identified health or care need. This gives the opportunity for people who are thinking about buying one of the devices to find out if it's something that suits them and that they would find useful. Drop by the Library foyer and have a chat with Pete about technology in health and care and see the TEC Library. You can also get in touch with [Pete](#) on 872897.



Introducing Clare Gee, VAO's new Community Development Worker

Clare joined the VAO team in June and is available to offer a wide range of support, advice and guidance for existing groups and organisations as well as providing support to people with an idea which they want to develop into a new charity or constituted group.

Many people will know Clare already from her work supporting arts and heritage organisations as part of her previous role at Orkney Islands Council.

Clare commented *“I am delighted to be working as part of the VAO team to support our communities to strengthen and develop local services and projects, and play an active part in the emergence of new and exciting activities across all aspects of community life in Orkney.”*

Clare can provide support and advice on fundraising, policy development, setting up a charity, setting up a social enterprise and updating your constitution, as well as providing training for groups, organisations and trustees. Feel free to contact Clare via [email](#) or phone the office on 01856 872897.



Dining at the Blide Trust

With Covid restrictions easing, The Blide Trust are resuming their catering services. The Haven Café, located at the Blide Trust (54 Victoria Street, Kirkwall), is open Monday – Friday from 10-3 and provides a range of hot and cold drinks, soup, sandwiches, snacks and daily specials to eat in or take away (see the [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for details). The café is open for members and friends of the Blide (anyone who understands the ethos of the organisation).

Alongside the café, the Blide will be re-starting their outside catering service – providing delicious sandwiches, soup and homebakes for your meeting or event. For more information on all catering services, please contact [Scott](#) or [Sandra](#) on 874874.

Orkney Disability Forum



The Orkney Disability Forum (ODF) offer several services, all with the aim of improving the lives and opportunities for disabled people in Orkney.

For disabled people in Orkney who would like to be a bit more independent (perhaps get out and about a bit more), the Dial-a-Bus service and Shopmobility (a nationally recognised symbol for the provision of wheelchairs and scooters) scooter hire offers essential transport solutions.

Dial-a-bus is Orkney Disability Forum's most visible service, with minibuses running seven days a week from 8am to 7pm. Essential MiDAS training for minibus drivers is also provided.

ODF have a range of road and boot scooters and manual or electric wheelchairs available, enabling people to hire or buy equipment to help them get out and about in the community. Hire is also available for visitors to Orkney.

They also stock a range of living aids for sale to help people in and around their home.

In addition, ODF can offer information and advice on equipment, services, access and transport.

More information can be found on their [Facebook page](#), [website](#) or by contacting ODF on 871515 or emailing info@odforkney.com.

Bereavement support and resources

Scotland's first Bereavement Charter for Children and Adults was launched last year. The Charter, together with Guidance notes, was developed by a coalition of individuals and organisations,

including NHS Education for Scotland. The Charter contains 13 statements which describe what the best bereavement care and support should look like. It has been developed to support individuals and communities who struggle with the death of someone they know or someone in their community. The Bereavement Charter and other resources can be found [here](#).



Another resource for individuals and organisations is the At a Loss [website](#). This national website contains information about bereavement services across the UK along with useful resources. If your organisation provides bereavement support, please [get in touch](#) with At a Loss to include information about your service on the website.

[Cruse Bereavement Care](#) is one of the main bereavement support services in Scotland. They offer a freephone helpline and telephone and face to face (where available) counselling services. Cruse Bereavement Care are currently looking for new support workers in Orkney. If you would like to find out more about the role of the support worker, please contact [Nicola Reed](#).

Funding & Finance

Third Sector Emergency Covid-19 Funding

VAO is delighted that Orkney Islands Council approved the request to establish a fund totalling £300,000 to provide emergency support to the third sector organisations that are facing financial pressures and increases in demand as a result of the pandemic.

It was agreed that VAO should administer the fund and that organisations will be able to apply for up to £30,000 with an option to re-apply later in the current financial year depending on their circumstances at the time and the remaining funds available. It is recognised that organisations other than those mentioned in the proposal paper may be facing similar problems.

Once application arrangements have been agreed with OIC more information will be available.

OSCR Guidance - Restarting Fundraising

One of the key impacts of COVID-19 on charities has been on the way in which it has affected certain types of fundraising activity. In OSCR's most recent surveys, over 50% of charities reported that their fundraising had been negatively affected by COVID-19 and the associated restrictions. As restrictions begin to ease in Scotland, it will be a priority for many charities to look at how they can restart these fundraising activities.

Find out more [here](#).

Did you know that VAO produces a monthly Training & Funding Update? It contains useful information and links about current training and funding opportunities as well as enterprise and governance advice. To sign up, email: enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk and let us know you would like to be added to the mailing list. The July update can be viewed [here](#).

Job opportunities

Substance Misuse Support & Outreach Worker at RS Orkney

Hours: 36 hours per week (flexible, includes evenings/weekends)
Pay: £29,000 (gross)
Term: post runs to end June 2022
Closing date: 6 August 2021

This post is funded by the CORRA Foundation Drugs Improvement Fund 2021-22
Please contact enquiries@rsorkney.org.uk for an application pack.
For more information about RS Orkney please visit their website at www.rsorkney.org.uk

RS ORKNEY

counselling, mediation & family support

A member of Relationships Scotland



Reg. charity SCO23164. Company No. 380628

Volunteering opportunities

Want to become a citizen scientist?

Citizen science is a way that volunteers can help with scientific research, usually by completing a straight-forward, practical task or by collecting data or both! We have some great opportunities in Orkney for volunteers to help with citizen science wildlife projects and here are some to get you started.

The National Plant Monitoring Scheme are looking for volunteers in Orkney who can identify plants or would be keen to learn. Now in its 7th year, this partnership project (JNCC, UKCEH, Plantlife, BSBI and DAERA) is the only long-term monitoring scheme of plants and habitats of its kind, giving essential data on how plant communities are faring under increasing pressures and drivers of change. As a volunteer you will be assigned a 1km square plot to visit regularly and there are currently 18 squares available in Orkney. Information, training and support will all be given, and further information, webinars and YouTube videos can be found [here](#).



National Plant Monitoring Scheme



Whale and Dolphin Conservation are looking for help with surveying whales, dolphins and porpoises in Orkney. Through the Shorewatch 2021 project you can learn how to identify and record what you see and how your data will help understand and protect these wonderful animals. Training is free and online via Zoom on Sunday 1 August 10am-3.30pm or Thursday 2 September 10am-3.30pm and you need to book a place in advance by [emailing](#).

Help Butterfly Conservation take nature's pulse by joining the Big Butterfly Count 2021. The Big Butterfly Count is a UK-wide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies (and some day-flying moths) we see. This year's Big Butterfly Count will run from 16 July to 8 August 2021 and they need volunteers to count Orkney butterflies. Click [here](#) to sign up.

If you miss these dates don't worry! You can take part in the Garden Butterfly Survey at anytime! This helps research how important gardens are as a habitat for butterflies and further details can be found [here](#).

More citizen science projects can be found on our [website](#) on the Micro-volunteering and Short-term volunteering pages. For any further information or advice about volunteering in Orkney do contact [Sam Stringer](#), Volunteer Development Worker.



Dates for your diary

Orkney Blide Trust AGM

20 August 2021

Orkney Blide Trust AGM will be held via ZOOM on Friday 20 August 2021 at 12 midday. Anyone wishing to attend can email admin@blidetrust.org or call 01856 874874

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