

Newsletter July 2022

Local news and services

The Orkney Climate Festival



The Orkney Climate Festival will be an opportunity for groups across Orkney to host events that allow local communities to celebrate their activities, engage in climate action and raise awareness around climate change. The festival will be taking place through a series of in person and online events throughout Orkney over the period 1–7 September 2022 and will coincide and work in collaboration with the Orkney Science Festival. Please click [here](#) to find out more.

If you are a community group, organisation or business that would like to be involved, feel free to submit an event using the link above, or email [Jonathan Bennett](mailto:Jonathan.Bennett@orkney.gov.uk).

News from Social Security Scotland

Adult Disability Payment will be replacing Personal Independence Payment in Orkney on 29 August. From this date new applications can be made for Adult Disability Payment. People currently in receipt of Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance do not need to apply. Social Security Scotland will notify clients by letter to advise when the process starts to transfer their case to Social Security Scotland and then again once the process is complete.

SSS National Engagement Team are running a series of online information sessions for stakeholders on Adult Disability Payment. Please click [here](#) for events taking place in August and September.

Locally, SSS are running several drop-in sessions for clients:

- 10:00 – 16:00 Monday 1 August in the Archie Bevan Room, Stromness Library
- 12:00 – 16:00 Tuesday 2 August in the Marwick Room at Orkney Library and Archive, Kirkwall
- 09:00 – 12:30 Wednesday 3 August at Milestone Church, Dounby
- 12:30 – 16:00 Thursday 11 August at Orphir and Stenness Church, Orphir
- 10:00 – 16:00 Monday 15 August in the Archie Bevan Room, Stromness Library
- 13:00 – 16:00 Tuesday 16 August in the Marwick Room at Orkney Library and Archive, Kirkwall
- 12:00 – 16:00 Wednesday 24 August in the small meeting room at Hope Community School, St Margaret's Hope (Access via left side entrance closest to car park)

Several flyers and factsheets are available for stakeholders and clients on the SSS website. Please click [here](#) for more details.

For more information, please contact [Megan McWilliams](mailto:Megan.McWilliams@orkney.gov.uk), Client Support Team Leader Orkney.

It's Showtime!



VAO will be at the Dounby Show on 11 August and the County Show on 13 August and we would love to see you there! Drop by the VAO stand to find out how we can offer advice and support to community groups, charities and voluntary organisation and how our work supports the third sector in Orkney.

Funding & Finance

The Lunch Club Innovation Grant

Applications for the Lunch Club Innovation Grant are still open. The scheme, launched in April 2022, aims to provide groups with funding and support to explore new ways of working following the challenges of Covid-19.

Groups can apply for funding of up to £1000, for activity taking place before March 2023. You can apply for funding for a range of costs, including PPE, venue hire, activity resources and to subsidize food.

We encourage groups to get in contact to discuss your ideas, and we can support and advise you.

To download the application visit the VAO [website](#) or if you wish to discuss please contact our Lunch Club Development Worker, [Charlotte Spence](#) on 872897.

'About Dementia', an Age Scotland and Scottish Government Partnership Fund

The purpose of the fund is to support and encourage community-led, grassroots support for people with lived experience of dementia that helps them to live better in their community. £145,921 of funding is available and organisations can apply for awards of £5,000 - £20,000 for a 12-month period. The fund has been co-produced with a lived experience panel of people living with dementia and unpaid carers.

The fund is open to both new and established organisations and community groups including those with and without a constitution; national organisations as long as it is clear that the proposal is to develop something new within a particular community and is distinct from their national work. Applications are open until 24 August.

The next round of funding will be released in August and will support the development of meeting centres.

More information on the funds can be found on the Age Scotland [website](#)

There will also be an online information session 3 August. Please contact DementiaGrants@agescotland.org.uk for more information or to arrange an informal chat.

Places for Everyone

Places for Everyone is Sustrans' permanent infrastructure fund for Scotland. Supported by Transport Scotland, they provide funding and expertise to help deliver walking, wheeling and cycling improvements across the country. Click [here](#) for more information.

They currently have more than 200 projects at various stages of development, ranging from multi-million pound transformations in Scotland's cities to new walking routes between some of Scotland's smallest communities.

If you have a project that you think might benefit from the funding, please make an expression of interest [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](#).

Have your say



Flexible On Demand Bus Survey

Flexible on demand bus services or demand responsive transport (DRT) services typically operate in local areas where there are few or no conventional bus services. The exact route and stopping points are usually flexible. Journeys are booked and arranged in advance. Some on demand services are only for specific groups of people in the community, such as elderly and disabled.

Orkney Islands Council are currently in the process of carrying out a review of Community Transport in Orkney. The intention is not to reduce existing services but to consider ways to expand these so that they are available to the wider community and identify where gaps may exist in specific areas.

They would like to ask you whether you would consider using a flexible on demand service in your area and how it may help you to access key services or reduce car use and travel more sustainably. A separate questionnaire has been drafted for existing users of community transport services so this questionnaire is to establish the need from the wider community and whether flexible on demand services would be used in areas across Orkney.

The survey is available [here](#).

If you would prefer to complete a paper copy need assistance to complete the survey, please contact the [Transportation Service](#) on 873535.

Closing Date: Sunday 7 August 2022.

Dates for your diary



Doors Open Days

[Doors Open Days](#) is Scotland's largest free festival that celebrates places and stories, new and old. Every September, the [Scottish Civic Trust](#) coordinates Doors Open Days across Scotland,

giving residents, new arrivals, and visitors free access to over 1,000 different venues and activities around the country.

West Of Scotland Regional Equality Council (WSREC) is hosting an information session with Scottish Civic Trust on Wednesday 31 August 2.00pm – 3.00pm, via Zoom, to encourage people from diverse communities, such as those from minority ethnic backgrounds, to learn more about Doors Open Days, see highlights from this year's programme and hear from members of the community who have taken part. Please click [here](#) to book your place or contact [Jennifer Novotny](#) for more information.

Training opportunities

Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Training

27 September 2022

The training, for all professionals who work with children and young people, will be held via Teams on Tuesday 27 September 2022, from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm.

To book a place on this training, please email OHACTraining@orkney.gov.uk with your name, organisation and the email address you will be using on the day.

There are limited places available this time, so please be quick if you are interested.

Volunteering News

Volunteering is good for YOU!

Volunteering is incredibly beneficial to the Orkney community, but did you know that volunteering is also good for YOU? Volunteering can help you learn new skills, meet new people, apply for study, apply for jobs and improve your physical and mental health. Most of all it is great FUN! VAO can help find a role that suits you and Orkney volunteering opportunities can be found on our website, including the latest ones below. Don't see something of interest? Get in touch and we can work with you to find something that is.



[Befriender](#) - Young Person's Befriending Project

[Kennel Assistant](#) – Loving Homes Dog Rescue

[Horticulture Activities Assistant](#) – St Colm's Day Centre

[Treasurer](#) – Orkney Cats

[Shop volunteer](#) – Mind On Orkney

Volunteering drop ins

Our regular drop-in events are for anyone thinking about volunteering in Orkney or for any organisations needing help with recruiting or managing volunteers and this month we are also at the Dounby and County shows! Come by for a chat and let's get you started:

- Wednesday 3 August 10am-1pm – Jobcentre Plus, Kirkwall
- Thursday 11 August 9am-5pm – West Mainland Agricultural Show, Dounby
- Saturday 13 August 9am-5pm – Orkney County Show, Kirkwall
- Tuesday 23 August 10am-12 noon – Skills Development Scotland Careers Centre, Kirkwall

Want to volunteer?

Want to volunteer in Orkney but not sure where to start? Fill in the [Volunteer Registration form](#) on our website and send this to Sam who will meet you for a chat about how we can help. Also have a look at the VAO [volunteering website pages](#) for ideas of current opportunities in Orkney just now.

Need volunteers?

Need new volunteers, committee or board members for your organisation but don't know how to find them? Fill in the [Volunteer Opportunities form](#) on our website and send this to Sam who can give you advice and help promote your opportunities.

Contact Sam

Sam Stringer - VAO Volunteer Development Worker
01856 872897 extension 311
samantha.stringer@vaorkney.org.uk

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