

Newsletter August 2022

Local news and services

Loud n Live

After a summer of meetings and planning, the ROAR committee's event – Loud n Live 7- was held in Orkney Sailing Club on Friday 19th August. The young volunteers put in a power of work to make the event happen. Some helped book performers, others put bands together especially for the occasion. They put together a publicity campaign on Facebook and gave interviews to Radio Orkney and the Orcadian. They organised a charity auction and a raffle, contacting local businesses to donate prizes. They decorated the venue stage, took photos, stage managed, helped the engineer, wrote reviews, shared MC duties, and some came along the day after to help tidy up!

Their hard work was rewarded with a full house and an audience in generous mood, digging deep for the auction and raising a total of £2660.72, to be shared between ORSAS and the Samaritans. A full review and photos put together by the young volunteers is available in the August The Orcadian.

Pictured left: Owen and Kirsty. Pictured right: Dogspawn.



VAO at the Shows 2022

For the first time in several years Orkney Show Week took place and VAO had a stand at both the West Mainland (Dounby) Show and the County Show.

VAO staff from a range of projects and the TSI team were on hand to speak to visitors, alongside display boards covering all aspects of VAO's work, take away information, leaflets, children's activities and freebie shopping bags promoting the Liftshare project, which were filled with VAO leaflets and flyers.

In addition to VAO staff, several VAO volunteers staffed the stand, and volunteers from other organisations such as the Girl Guides and Cats Protection were available.

Both Shows were extremely busy, with a very high turnout of public despite the wet weather which came on at the Dounby Show towards lunchtime. A good number of people stopped by the stand to talk about our services and opportunities, gather information or seek support. Several new volunteers were recruited for the Adult Befriending Service, contacts were made with the Development Team with plans for future engagement, and potential volunteers were supported with information about possible opportunities.

In addition to folk coming to the stand, the shows were a perfect opportunity for staff to visit other third sector organisation's stands, link up with partners, have conversations about collaborative work and activities, and generally get VAO's name out there.

All staff who attended felt it was positive and worthwhile taking part in the Shows, taking VAO out and about and engaging with the community. It particularly helped at the County Show that VAO volunteer TJ had her assistance dog Leo with her, which drew people into the stand!



‘Your Community....Your Voice’ and ‘Orkney Matters’

Thank-you to everyone who took time to give personal views on your community through both ‘Your Community...Your Voice’ and ‘Orkney Matters’.

Working together, Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO) and Orkney Islands Council (OIC) have taken on board your comments, ensuring they feed into local plans and guide some of the work we are currently doing. This is very much the start of the conversation.

There will be an Orkney Matters Newsletter – the first issue will be coming out soon. It will update you more fully, alongside more information online.

What is next in the Orkney Matters conversation?

In Spring / Summer 2023, OIC services and VAO will organise a series of meetings in your communities, to speak to about what you said, and to agree with you, what should happen next.

If you would like more information or to sign up for the Orkney Matters Newsletter, please contact Mark at mark.bailey@vaorkney.org.uk.

In the meantime, for more information please click [here](#).

New website for Home-Start Orkney



Home-Start Orkney have recently launched their new website www.homestartorkney.org.uk

They have also changed their main contact email to admin@homestartorkney.org.uk

Funding & Finance

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

Letter to the new Prime Minister

The Trussell Trust has teamed up with the Independent Food Aid Network and Feeding Britain to write a letter to our next Prime Minister, whether it's Liz Truss or Rishi Sunak.

The letter explains that food banks and other forms of charitable food aid are not the solution to financial hardship. Join us in asking that the new Prime Minister ends the need for our services, by ensuring everyone has enough income, from work and social security, to buy the essentials.

If everyone who volunteers or works with a food bank, community fridge or larder, food club, social supermarket, soup kitchen and community kitchen signs the letter, then our next Prime Minister will have to take urgent action. Please [sign the letter](#) today and make your voice heard.

Please note that the Trussell Trust hope to receive responses from volunteers and staff of community food projects, rather than the public at this stage.

Planning with People: Community engagement and participation guidance

Did you know that people living in Scotland have the right to get involved in the design and delivery of new health or social care services, and to comment on changes to existing services?

When it comes to designing or making changes to these services, it is important that NHS Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships, and Local Authorities listen to the views of people who might use them. The process of finding out your views is called 'community engagement'. In March 2021, the Scottish Government and COSLA published jointly Planning with People: Community engagement and [participation guidance](#). The guidance encourages collaboration between NHS Boards, Integration Joint Boards and Local Authorities. It also explains how people and communities can expect to engage with health and social care providers.

It is important that 'Planning with People' remains relevant, therefore, by sharing your views and opinions, you will help to improve the engagement process by providing essential feedback on your personal experiences. If you would like to do this, please complete an online questionnaire [here](#) by 30 September.

We would be grateful if you could complete and submit the questionnaire by Friday, 30th September 2022.

You are not required to read 'Planning with People' to take part, however, the Scottish Government Participation Team would encourage you to look at the guidance if you would like to find out more about engagement.

For more information, please contact Louise White and Laura-Isabella Muresanu, Participation Team, Scottish Government at pwpp@gov.scot

News from The Scottish Parliament

The latest e-bulletin from the Scottish Parliament is available to view [here](#).

The bulletin contains details of open petitions to parliament on subjects ranging from the affordable housing crisis to the provision of public toilets.

There are also links for people wanting to give their view on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill and the Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Bill.

Dates for your diary



Annual Community Halls Event 2022

The Annual Halls Event 2022 organised jointly by Voluntary Action Orkney and Orkney Islands Council's Community Learning and Development Service will be held face to face and will take place in the Cromarty Hall, St Margaret's Hope on Saturday 24 September from 11am – 2.30pm.

For those who cannot attend in person there will be the option to attend online.

Programme details are still being finalised, but we are planning to run the following sessions:

- How to use social media and other tools to promote and benefit your hall
- The opportunities and possible role of Halls in the Islands Games 2025
- Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) and free OIC energy audits
- Quick-Fire Round where halls share any issues and successes

- Funding update

Lunch and refreshments will be provided along with a very warm welcome.

Please register by Friday 3rd September with the number of representatives from your Association that will be attending this event, by e-mailing cld@orkney.gov.uk or phoning CLD on 873535 ext.2408 and detailing if you will be attending in person or online.

The Orkney Climate Festival



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.

The Orkney Climate Festival will celebrate and engage communities throughout the islands in Climate action. The Festival will be comprised of community groups throughout Orkney leading events centred around climate action, whether it is showcasing what climate action projects already exists, engaging in new activities, providing information or just talking about climate change, any event and group can be involved, no matter how big or small.

Viking Festival

The third Orkney Viking Week will be held on 8–18 September 2022. It will be a blended online and face-to-face outdoor festival, jointly organised by Orkney Time Travel and Orkney Archaeology Society. If you have an event that you want us to consider including on the programme, email info@brodgar.co.uk. Click [here](#) for more information and to see what's on.

Social Security Scotland drop-in sessions

Social Security Scotland are holding drop-in sessions at the following locations throughout September to provide information and advice regarding their benefits. The local Orkney team will be on hand to answer any questions and will also be sharing information about the face-to-face support they offer clients throughout the Isles.

- 2:00 – 16:00 Tuesday 6 September in the Marwick Room at Orkney Library and Archive, Kirkwall
- 09:00 – 12:30 Wednesday 7 September at Milestone Church, Dounby
- 12:30 – 16:00 Thursday 8 September at Orphir and Stenness Church, Orphir
- 10:00 – 16:00 Monday 12 September in the Archie Bevan Room, Stromness Library
- 13:00 – 16:00 Tuesday 20 September in the Marwick Room at Orkney Library and Archive, Kirkwall
- 10:00 – 16:00 Monday 26 September in the Archie Bevan Room, Stromness Library
- 12:00 – 16:00 Wednesday 28 September in the small meeting room at Hope Community School, St Margaret's Hope (Access via left side entrance closest to car park)

Social Security Scotland deliver a number of benefits for families on low incomes, people who need help paying for a funeral, disabled people, carers and young people entering the workplace. For more information on our benefits, please click [here](#).

Job opportunities



ENABLE Scotland

Enable Scotland are recruiting several personal assistants with full time, part time and sessional hours available.

Personal Assistants (Support Workers) have the most important role within ENABLE Scotland by making a positive difference every day to the lives of the people they support. No two days are the same for our Personal Assistants but what we can guarantee is that you will be supporting someone with a learning disability to achieve their goals and outcomes – whatever they may be!

Each person ENABLE support has different support needs, so your role as Support Worker may include assisting them with various aspects of personal care, moving and handling or positive behavioural support whilst expanding their social networks and connections.

For more information on the roles available, please click [here](#).

Training opportunities



Money Counts Training

Money Counts is a single 1-hour session designed to help frontline workers and volunteers best use the 'Worrying About Money?' leaflet to support people struggling with money worries or financial crisis. The training is free and delivered virtually via Microsoft Teams. It centres around the 'Worrying about Money?' leaflet for Orkney which can be viewed and downloaded [here](#). Free printed copies are also available from the NHS Orkney Health Improvement team.

The Money Counts training learning outcomes are:

- Increased understanding of poverty and its impact
- Increased understanding of the financial advice and support services available locally and nationally
- Increased confidence to support people to access financial advice and support services

Registration is now open for the below dates.

- Tuesday 6 September 09:30 - 10:30
- Tuesday 13 September 14:00 - 15:00
- Wednesday 14 September 10:30 - 11:30
- Thursday 22 September 11:00 - 12:00
- Wednesday 28 September 10:30 - 11:30
- Thursday 29 September 11:00 - 12:00
- Tuesday 4 October 14:00 - 15:00

Register to attend [here](#) at least 48 hours before the session to guarantee you receive the link in time to join the session. A minimum of 6 people is required for the session to go ahead.

Money Counts Training can be offered separately for your team or department. To explore this option or to find out more about the sessions contact ork.healthimprovement@nhs.scot.

Volunteering News



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