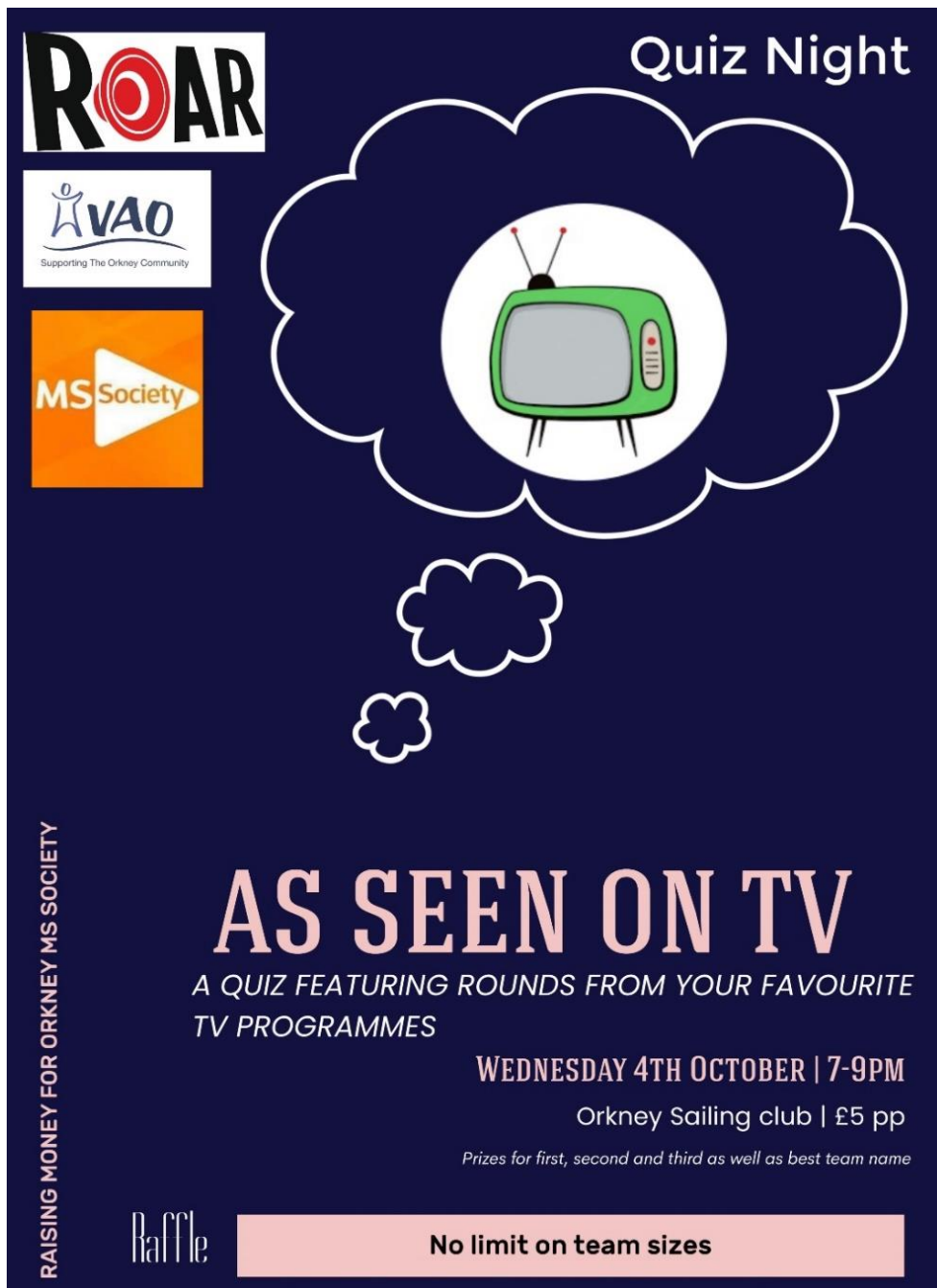


# Newsletter September 2023

## Local news and services

### ROAR fundraiser for MS Orkney – Wednesday 4 October

ROAR is formed by a group of 6th year pupils at Kirkwall Grammar School who run public events to raise money for charity. Their latest event is a quiz on Wednesday 4 October to raise money for the MS Society. For more information, please contact [brian.cromarty@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:brian.cromarty@vaorkney.org.uk)



The poster is for a 'Quiz Night' fundraiser. It features a dark blue background. In the top left corner, there are three logos: 'ROAR' in a stylized font with a red bullseye, the 'VAO' logo, and the 'MS Society' logo. In the top right corner, the text 'Quiz Night' is written in a white, sans-serif font. In the center, there is a large white cloud shape containing a green vintage television set. Below this cloud are two smaller white cloud shapes. At the bottom, the text 'AS SEEN ON TV' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, in smaller white text, is 'A QUIZ FEATURING ROUNDS FROM YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMMES'. Further down, the date and time 'WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER | 7-9PM' are listed, followed by the location and price 'Orkney Sailing club | £5 pp'. At the very bottom, it says 'Prizes for first, second and third as well as best team name'. On the left side, running vertically, is the text 'RAISING MONEY FOR ORKNEY MS SOCIETY'. At the bottom left, there is a 'Raffle' logo. At the bottom right, there is a pink rectangular box with the text 'No limit on team sizes'.

**Quiz Night**

**AS SEEN ON TV**

A QUIZ FEATURING ROUNDS FROM YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMMES

WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER | 7-9PM

Orkney Sailing club | £5 pp

Prizes for first, second and third as well as best team name

RAISING MONEY FOR ORKNEY MS SOCIETY

Raffle

No limit on team sizes

## Annual Community Halls Event

The annual get together of Orkney's community halls took place on 23 September. A jointly organised event between Voluntary Action Orkney and Orkney Islands Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) team, the session was as busy, fun and informative as always. Hosted this year at the exceptional Birsay Hall, (thank you Birsay Community Association!) around 30 community hall volunteers came together for a series of presentations, conversations and shared learning as well as a tour of the Birsay Hall and a fantastic lunch.

Topics covered included:

- The responsibilities, principles and methods of fundraising
- An information session on local funding opportunities, in particular the Council's Community Development Fund and Crown Estate funding as well as the VAO managed Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults
- Tips for recruiting volunteers
- The lowdown on the roles of office bearers and other trustees
- A session on the current pilot which is bringing Creative Scotland funded Community Touring Theatre to Orkney
- The benefits of setting up a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
- The quickfire round where Halls shared their successes, challenges and solutions from the previous year.

If you think you might be interested in attending the 2024 event or have any ideas for topics we should cover next time around, please contact Clare Gee at [clare.gee@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:clare.gee@vaorkney.org.uk) or Kerry Spence at [kerry.spence@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.spence@orkney.gov.uk) and we can make sure you get an invite for the 2024 event.

## Orkney Money Matters



Orkney Money Matters is a new partnership project developed by a group of local third sector and statutory organisations. It aims to reduce the levels of financial insecurity in Orkney by increasing access to advice and cash-based support. It will do so through the creation of an 'advice-and-cash-first' referral pathway. The project will develop frameworks and resources to support closer working between organisations,

build capacity in the third sector, and develop a centralised promotion campaign to raise awareness of available support.

The project has a Facebook page, which will be a safe space to find information about the support around Orkney. It will share any events, available support and offer a place to browse at your own pace what is going on in Orkney for those worrying about money.

This page will also offer contact details for anyone who may need support in a crisis.

If you are in a crisis and need support now, please call the Orkney Money Matter links workers on 01856 875 621.

If you would like to download a poster, please click here: <https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Money-Matters-Poster.pdf>

Facebook: Orkney Money Matters - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550063537115>

# Community Events



## Social Security Scotland information sessions

Social Security Scotland will be holding information sessions every Wednesday between 11:00 - 13:00 in Orkney Library and Archive to raise awareness of their benefits and provide information on their Local Delivery service. Information will be provided on all 13 benefits currently available, including Adult Disability Payment.

The Orkney Local Delivery Team will be on hand to tell you about the benefits they deliver and how to access the support they provide at your home, in the local community or on either video or phone calls.

People in every Local Authority, including Orkney, can book an appointment with a Client Support Adviser by contacting Social Security Scotland free on 0800 182 2222.

For more information on their benefits, please see [www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/benefits](http://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/benefits)

## Funding & finance



### Orkney Zero Waste Grant Scheme

Are you interested in Reusing, Repurposing and Recycling Orkney's waste? You can apply for a £200 grant from Orkney Zero Waste for projects associated with:

- Waste Repurposing and Reuse
- Waste Reduction
- Waste Recycling
- Travel within Orkney associated with the aims of the grant scheme
- Training within the aims of the grant
- The scheme has two grant periods each year (spring and autumn). It is open to:

Individuals from age 5 (supported by parent/guardian if under 18 years old):

- Community Organisations
- Schools
- Church Groups
- Charitable Groups

Find out more: [www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/OZ/index.asp?pageid=733502](http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/OZ/index.asp?pageid=733502)

### Scottish Sea Farms - Heart of the Community Trust

The broad aim of the Heart of the Community Grant Trust is to provide financial grants for community projects that deliver lasting change within the regions in which the Company operates, which includes Orkney.

7 Key areas for support include:

- Creating affordable, family-oriented activities
- Giving younger generations the same opportunities as those in more central areas
- Safeguarding mental wellbeing
- Combating isolation
- Providing lifeline services

Applications can be made at any time.

Find out more: [www.scottishseafarms.com/community/how-to-apply](http://www.scottishseafarms.com/community/how-to-apply)

## Orkney Local Employability Partnership Innovation Fund

Utilising Scottish Government funding in support of No One Left Behind in the Orkney, The Orkney Local Employability Partnership have agreed to run a one-off Innovation Challenge Fund in financial year 2023/24 to develop innovative approaches to support people experiencing particular challenges which prevent them from progressing towards and within employment.

The fund is open to constituted third-sector organisations who have an operational base within Orkney, to apply for funds to the maximum of £10,000 which can be used for additionality/innovation within an existing project or for new project activity.

Applications will be accepted until 15 December 2023 and can be used for projects that will be completed by 31 March 2025. Projects that would fit the criteria are those that:

- Provide short-term work that adds value to existing projects which increase individual employment prospects.
- Pilot a new approach in a particular area or for a particular client group focused on increasing participants' employability prospects and opportunities.
- Undertake feasibility/ planning work for further development, focused on employability support.

Please click below for more information.

<https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/innovation-fund-2023-24-open-for-applications-by-the-orkney-local-employability-partnership/>

## Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund – Round 3

A grant fund aimed at supporting community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing within the adult population is open for applications.

The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults has a total of £75,000 available for projects in Orkney, with the Fund being managed on behalf of the Scottish Government by Voluntary Action Orkney in partnership with the Orkney Partnership.

The projects supported will benefit communities right across Orkney, and can offer a wide range of activities, such as fitness and gentle sports, provide equipment and enable the set-up of self-help support groups, support those with long term and life limiting illness, offer access to learning and arts activities.

The successful applications will deliver against some or all of the local priorities for the Fund, which were developed by a panel which included local statutory and third sector organisations and people with lived experience of mental ill health. The local priorities are:

- Poverty
- Social isolation
- Prevention of Suicide
- Unpaid Carers
- Older People

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 12 January 2024.

For further information, the application guidance and application form, please go to <https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/communities-mental-health-and-wellbeing-fund/>

**VAO produces a monthly Training & Funding Update which 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](mailto:enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk) and let us know you would like to be added to the mailing list. The latest update can be viewed [here](#).**

# Job opportunities



## Volunteer Development Worker at VAO

Hours: 28 hours

Salary: £27,578.00 FTE (£22,062.40 Pro Rata)

Closing Date: 5pm 11 October 2023

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.

Please visit the VAO website for more information.

<https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/volunteer-development-worker-3/>

## Community Link Practitioner

Hours: 17.5 hours

Salary: 17.5 hours

Closing Date: 5pm 4 October 2023

Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO) provides responsive and innovative support and representation for the Third Sector in Orkney. We work in collaboration with Orkney Health and Care (OHAC) to run the Community Link Practitioner service through GP Practices in Orkney, to ensure patients are referred to services that suit their wider requirements. We are recruiting for an additional Community Link Practitioner to join our team.

Please click below for more information.

<https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/community-link-practitioner-5/>

## Remembering Together Orkney Public Art Project

An experienced artist or artists are sought to co-create a piece or pieces of public art with and for communities in and around Orkney. Remembering Together is the Scottish Government's Covid Memorial Programme. The project is funded by the Scottish Government and overseen by greenspace scotland. For more information visit: [www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/remembering-together](http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/remembering-together)

The project is locally managed by Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO), supported by Orkney Islands Council (OIC) and a local stakeholder panel. The project will deliver up to 5 site specific public artworks in Flotta, Holm, North Ronaldsay, Sanday and Shapinsay. Artists must be based in Orkney or have a demonstrable connection to Orkney. Each site has a total budget of £16,000 including artist fee (£7,000), materials, fabrication and installation (£7,000) and ongoing maintenance (£2,000).

For further information and a copy of the Artist Brief, please contact Emma Gee, Arts Officer, Orkney Islands Council, School Place, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY, email: [emma.gee@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:emma.gee@orkney.gov.uk) or telephone 01856 873535 extension 2406.

Deadline for return of proposals is 9am on Monday 30 October 2023.



# Have your say

## Domestic Abuse with Older Women

Women's Aid Orkney have been looking at various different topics through their Institutional Advocacy work and recently started to explore domestic abuse with women over 60.

They have created a short anonymous survey to collect information on the current situation for support with older women and domestic abuse. The survey consists of seven questions and shouldn't take more than a minute to complete.

Take part here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KVM2HCT>

## Volunteering news

### Need volunteers to help your organisation?

We can help match up volunteers to opportunities, so if your organisation, charity or community group has a volunteering opportunity, let us know. We can spread the word, promoting this on our website, social media and to volunteers we are meeting in person or at events. Just complete and return a Volunteer Opportunity form to get started - <https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Volunteer-Opportunity-form-2022.pdf>

### Latest volunteer opportunities



**Kirkwall Guide Hall** are looking for committee members across a range of roles to help with tasks including general maintenance, cleaning, and fundraising. Get in touch if you can spare a few hours a month and want to help out.

<https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/volunteering/volunteering-opportunities/#/opportunity/a0g0800000SsIRsAAN/committee-members-orkney?distance=10&view=widget>

**Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland** are offering free in-depth training to become a supporter of bereaved children and young people and their families/carers. Please click on the link for more information.



<https://www.crusescotland.org.uk/volunteer/current-volunteer-opportunities/children-young-people-supporters/>



**Citizens Advice Bureau Advisors** - This is an interesting and rewarding role suited to those with good listening skills and a knack for breaking down complex issues into manageable pieces. To be an Advisor you don't have to be an expert as CAB has all the knowledge you need on their system and there's lots of training and support.

<https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/volunteering/volunteering-opportunities/#/opportunity/a0g0800000Qhk3UAAR/advisers?distance=10&view=widget>

**Citizens Advice Bureau Receptionist** - Looking for a sociable role that helps your local community? Orkney's CAB office in Kirkwall are looking for a volunteer receptionist to be the friendly face for those reaching out to CAB for support. You'll be answering phones, arranging appointments, and welcoming those who drop in with a query.

<https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/volunteering/volunteering-opportunities/#/opportunity/a0g0800000V7HnNAAV/receptionist?distance=10&view=widget>



**White Ribbon Scotland** are looking for volunteer speakers to hold events across Orkney to encourage men to play their part in ending violence against women. You will be supported with, training, material, peer guidance and 'buddy' assistance to host events. Make a difference and join the campaign to reduce violence against women and girls and be part of a world-wide movement, rooted firmly in Orkney.

[https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/volunteering/volunteering-opportunities/#/opportunity/a0gQD0000002ch7YAA/volunteers-speakers-to-help-end-violence-against-women-across-](https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/volunteering/volunteering-opportunities/#/opportunity/a0gQD0000002ch7YAA/volunteers-speakers-to-help-end-violence-against-women-across-orkney?distance=10&page=3&view=widget)

[orkney?distance=10&page=3&view=widget](https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/volunteering/volunteering-opportunities/#/opportunity/a0gQD0000002ch7YAA/volunteers-speakers-to-help-end-violence-against-women-across-orkney?distance=10&page=3&view=widget)

**Orkney Zerowaste** are looking for people with a passion for recycling, reusing and repurposing waste to come and join them as board members.

<https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/volunteering/volunteering-opportunities/#/opportunity/a0gQD0000003teHYAQ/board-member?distance=10&page=3&view=widget>



For all volunteer enquiries contact:

Alison Sharkey - VAO Volunteer Development Worker  
01856 872897 extension 311  
[alison.sharkey@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:alison.sharkey@vaorkney.org.uk)  
[www.vaorkney.org.uk](http://www.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](mailto:Cecily.cromby@vaorkney.org.uk)**