

# Orkney Disability Forum Newsletter

## Spring 2021

Hello and Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

This has been a very strange and somewhat trying year for all of us due to Covid 19. But lets hope that the vaccine being rolled out will enable us all to get back to some kind of normality.

We have said goodbye to a few staff members. Hazel Aim has moved on to pastures new at Orkney Aggregates and I have taken over her role as manager, driver Brian Derby has moved on to Scottish Autism, Bob Marwick has retired but still drives occasionally as a relief driver, Ian Laird has also left us.

Here at Dialabus we have kept operating as much as we could throughout the pandemic taking passengers for shopping, medical journeys and visiting when allowed.

During the initial lockdown we did shopping and prescription deliveries we also kept doing scooter and wheelchair hires which enabled some of our members to be able to get outside for fresh air and exercise.

It has been a different year with fewer passengers on the buses at any one time to ensure the safety of our passengers through social distancing. We have restricted how many households we can carry on the buses at any one time to carrying a maximum of two households at any one time.

I know that a great number of you are missing going to Lunch Clubs and Social Clubs and at the moment I have no news as to when these will be starting up again but as soon as I know I will let everyone know.

We also brought in contactless card payments on the buses to further reduce physical contact, this has been well received with the majority of passengers paying by card on the buses now.

The Social Activities Co-Ordinator we had put in place last year had to be put on hold due to the pandemic but I have hopes that we can put someone in place within the next year to enable trips and tours to be available to our members. I will let everyone know when we are in a position to offer these again.

This year is 25 years since Dialabus started, I had hoped to plan some events to celebrate this but at the moment with restrictions in place this is not something we can do. I have put in place a Prize draw Raffle with some amazing prizes to win. I will tell you more about this later in the news letter.

I hope you will find our newsletter informative and as always please let me know if you have any information that might be helpful to other members or any suggestions for our services

Kind Regards

Lorraine Falconer

ODF / Dialabus Manager

The membership is £20 per year for first member in household, and £15 for second member. Our yearly fare & scooter hire increase from 1st April 21 will be as follows :

	Social/Leisure	Work/Education/ Medical
Zone A	£3.55	£4.60
Zone B	£5.10	£6.60
Zone C	£7.10	£9.25
Zone D	£9.10	£11.90

## Mobility Scooter & Wheelchair Hire

These plus more available to hire at 18 Junction Rd Kirkwall, Tel 871515, email [info@odforkney.com](mailto:info@odforkney.com)

### Road scooters

	<u>Dialabus Members</u>	<u>Non Dialabus Members</u>
Any part of a day	: £5.50	: £8.50
Whole day/Overnight	: £7.50	: £10.50
Weekly rate	: £21	: £26
Long term weekly rate (paying by monthly Standing Order) :	£17.50	

### Auto Folding Boot Scooter

Per week	: £23	: £28
Per Day	: £6.50	: £8.50
<u>Boot Scooter week</u>	: £16	: £21
Per day	: £4.50	: £6.50



### Rollators / Wheelchairs / Zimmer Frames

	<u>Dialabus Members</u>	<u>Non Dialabus Members</u>
Any part of a day (Zimmer, Rollator, W/C)	: £4.50	: £6.50
Whole day/overnight	: £7.50	: £10.50
Weekly rate	: £16	: £21
Hospital style overbed table :		
£11 per week	- Dialabus members	
£13 per week	- Non Dialabus Members	



## VOUCHERS

We have Travel Vouchers available to buy if you are looking for a gift for Mother's Day, Birthdays or any other occasion.

**We have £3.55, £5.10, £7.10 and £9.10 vouchers for everyday journeys, and for Medical journeys £4.60, £6.60, £9.25 and £11.90 vouchers.**

**Buy 5 single trips get 1 FREE**

Just call 871515 if you would like any more information.



**Gift  
Vouchers  
Available**

## DIALABUS BOOKINGS

**Just a reminder that Bookings for the bus need to be made the day before travel at the very latest and can be made Monday – Friday between 9am and 1pm, 2pm to 4pm. Please help our staff by booking in advance between these times.**

**Also bear in mind that the bus can be up to 15 minutes early or 15 minutes late sometimes this is unavoidable although our drivers always do their very best to be on time, and our office staff will try to call if the delay is going to be longer than that.**



## Co-op Local Community Fund

Orkney Disability Forum / Dialabus would like to thank all of the people who helped raise an amazing total of 🙌 £8567.91 🙌 by choosing us as your cause to support by shopping at your local Co-op and contributing to Co-op Local Community Fund.

The money was used towards the purchase of the vehicle pictured so that we can continue to get people out and about, visiting, shopping and to events when restrictions allow.

Once again a huge THANK - YOU from all of us at Orkney Disability Forum / Dialabus for choosing us as your cause to support



If you are having problems with your Computer or Tablet then this may be perfect for you.



There is a charity called AbilityNet ([www.abilitynet.org](http://www.abilitynet.org)) which is currently active in Orkney, For over 20 years, AbilityNet has helped older people (55+), and those living with disabilities or impairments to get the most from their technology in order to achieve their goals.

They are a national UK charity supported by IBM and Microsoft. They have a nationwide network of over 300 carefully selected and vetted volunteers who can visit clients in their own homes and support them with their technology, including a small team in Orkney. They can support clients remotely, or visit them in their homes. The local volunteers are Disclosure Scotland checked, have official AbilityNet ID cards, and can help with all sorts of IT challenges such as setting up a new PC, fixing printer issues, removing computer viruses, helping users get the most from their devices, and solving other technical issues. People can request help by:

☒ Using the form at [www.abilitynet.org.uk/at-home/request-free-it-support-home](http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/at-home/request-free-it-support-home)

☒ Calling our helpline on 0800 269 545 (freephone and minicom) during UK office hours

☒ Sending an email to [enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk)

They also take referrals from professionals and organisations on an individual's behalf so if you wish can ask us here at Dialabus to get in touch on your behalf.

If you want any more information on this just call Lorraine at ODF on 870340 or email [lori@odforkney.com](mailto:lori@odforkney.com)

## Face Covering Exemption

Face coverings are now mandatory in shops and on public transport if you believe you are exempt from wearing a face covering see the notice below. There is a telephone number 0800 121 6240 you can call to request an exemption card or you can apply online at [exempt.Scot](https://www.exempt.scot)



### THE TUESDAY CLUB

**The Tuesday Club** although not running at present due to coronavirus is a social activities club for disabled young adults.

The club meets weekly at Orkney's new Youth Café from 2.30pm till 5pm, and provides a safe environment for members to meet friends and take part in a wide range of activities including arts & crafts, board games, interactive computer games, baking / cooking, drama, and sports.

If you know anyone who would like to join our club just contact [lori@odforkney.com](mailto:lori@odforkney.com) or call 870340

We hope to have this club running again as soon as restrictions allow.

Our postal address; Orkney Disability Forum , 18 Junction Road, Kirkwall, KW15 1AB

Dialabus (Shona/ Sarah) Tel: 871515 Email: [info@odforkney.com](mailto:info@odforkney.com)

Booking must be made between 9.00 to 1.00, 2.00 to 4.00 mon to fri

Orkney Disability Forum and Independent Living aids (Lorraine) 870340

**Website:** [www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/odf](http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/odf)

We have an out of hours phone number 07500 304417. This is NOT a booking line. This line can be used only when the office is shut for advising of cancellations, changes of pick up or enquiries if the bus is more than 15 minutes late to pick you up.