



Orkney Disability Forum

Spring 2024



Hello and Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

Here at Dial-a-Bus / Orkney Disability Forum things are going from strength to strength we are gaining new members week on week and our numbers are rising steadily with lots of fresh faces on our buses. It is great to see so many of our new members using the bus on a regular basis.

We have a few groups which use the service for transport on a Monday we take users to a Games Group and to the Dementia Singing Group at the Life Centre. On a Tuesday we carry people to a Craft Group at the Salvation Army and on a Thursday, we take members to another Games Group at the Life Centre. If anyone is interested in attending any of these groups, please get in touch and we will give you contact details for whoever runs the group.

The much-loved Dial-a-Bus tours and transport to events is now in place for this year – Lorraine Kerr has been working hard putting together a new list of events for the coming year. You can find more information regarding where and when further on in this newsletter.

Our large area for scooters, wheelchairs, and Disability Living Aid Shop where the Food Bank were previously has been a tremendous success. The ease of access for people hiring scooters with parking at the rear of the building has improved accessibility for our customers. The area also has access from the car park at the back of office making things much easier for getting a scooter or a wheelchair into your vehicle. You can also use this entry to get into the main Dial-a-Bus office without the difficulty of the step at the front door. There is also a bell which can be rung to make sure that the office staff know you are there to be dealt with.

We have not had an increase on membership fees since 2020 but feel that we have no other option than to make an increase this year. The membership will increase from £20 per year to £25 per year for the first member in household and from £15 to £20 for the second member and isles residents. These changes will take effect from 1st April 2024. We hope that you will feel that the benefits of being a Dial-a-bus member will outweigh this.

Kind Regards

Lorraine Falconer

ODF / Dial-a-bus Manager



The membership is £25 per year for first member in household, and £20 for second member. Our yearly fare increase from 1st April 24 will be as follows :

| | <u>Social/Leisure</u> | <u>Work/Education/ Medical</u> |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Zone A | £4.20 | £5.40 |
| Zone B | £6.00 | £7.70 |
| Zone C | £8.30 | £10.80 |
| Zone D | £10.65 | £13.90 |

Mobility Scooter & Wheelchair Hire

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

Road scooters / Boot Scooters Price Increase from 1 April 24

Mobility Road Scooters

| | <u>Dial-a-Bus Members</u> | <u>Non Dial-a-Bus Members</u> |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Per day (£1 Extra if overnight) | : £8.50 | : £12.00 |
| Weekly rate | : £24.00 | : £30.50 |
| Long term weekly rate (paying by monthly Standing Order) : £20.50 per wk. Or £89.00 per calendar month | | |

Auto Folding Boot Scooter

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Per Day (£1 Extra if overnight) | : £8.50 | : £10.00 |
| Per week | : £26.00 | : £32.00 |

Boot Scooter

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Per Day (£1 Extra if overnight) | : £5.50 | : £8.00 |
| Per week | : £18.50 | : £23.50 |



Rollators / Wheelchairs / Zimmer Frames

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Per Day (£1 Extra if overnight) | : £6.00 | : £9.50 |
| Weekly rate | : £18.50 | : £23.50 |
| Hospital style overbed table | : £12.50 | : £15.00 |



Dial-a-Bus Booking Cancellations

We all know that cancellations are unavoidable, but we ask that, when possible, you please provide the office with notice of your intention to cancel a booking by calling 871515 or leaving a message if we are unable to take your call.

More often we are finding that our drivers are calling to collect passengers only to find that the passenger has changed their mind about travelling but they have not called to cancel.

This means that a booking space has been wasted which could have been used by someone else.

We are finding that due to the rising costs of fuel etc. that we have been left with no other option than to charge the fare for these journeys if they have not been cancelled in a timely manner.

DIAL-A-BUS 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 absolute best to be on time, and our office staff will try to call if the delay is going to be longer than that.



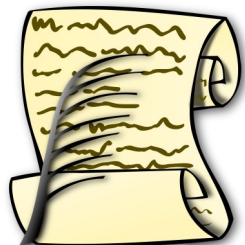
Membership Renewals

Please note that we no longer send out the OIC Concession Cards to be stamped on the bus. If you want confirmation of your membership, please send a SAE along with your membership Renewal form.



Emergency Out of
Hours Number
07423320534
CANCELLATIONS
ONLY NOT FOR
BOOKINGS

Dialabus,
18 Junction Rd,
Kirkwall,
Orkney,
KW15 1AB



Leave a gift in your Will

For over 25 years, Dial-a-Bus has been providing a door-to-door bus service for people living on Orkney. The buses are used for all types of journeys from shopping to visiting family, also group Social Trips & Tours organised by Dial-a-Bus to events or going for a meal.

Many users say that the service provided by Dial-a-Bus reduces social isolation.

Your kindness will ensure that the service can continue for many years to come.

A gift in your will ensures that we can continue to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

A large, vibrant red bow is positioned behind the text "Gift Vouchers Available".

**Gift
Vouchers
Available**

GIFT TRAVEL VOUCHERS

Buy 5 Singles get 1 FREE

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 £4.20 £6.00, £8.30, and £10.65 vouchers for Social / Leisure journeys, and £5.40, £7.70, £10.80, and £13.90 vouchers for Medical journeys.

Buy 5 single trips get 1 FREE!

Call us on 871515 if you would like any further information.

Suddenly Single



What is Suddenly Single?

Suddenly Single aims to be a supportive friendship group for people who have lost a relationship and who now find themselves on their own ***for whatever reason***. Suddenly Single is for adults of any age, gender, sexual orientation or other circumstance who are looking for friendship and understanding from those who may have experienced similar life events. The only criteria is that you have lost a relationship and want both to receive support and friendship and to show friendship, kindness and compassion to others in similar circumstances.

What do we do?

As a member led group, we do exactly what we want, simply with the aim of creating an environment where friendship can flourish. That could include anything you can think of that friends do together: walks, barbecues, movie nights, parties, dances, picnics, trips, talks, curry nights, fish and chips etc. etc. If you become part of the group it's up to you to suggest, organise and make things happen. If there are costs associated with some event, we all contribute equally.

What are we not?

Suddenly Single is ***not*** a counselling service. You may find yourself talking to someone who understands what you have been through and can give you good counsel but that is between you and them and does not adhere to any professional counselling standards.

Suddenly Single is ***not*** a therapeutic community.

Perhaps most importantly, Suddenly Single is ***not*** a dating club.

Contact Details

Les Cowan: 07599 605500; informationplus@compuserve.com

Heather Bond: 07867 5548793; heathermbond@hotmail.com

Contact either with questions or comments or if you'd like to join in.

Dial-a-Bus Coffee Afternoon

Sat 11th May 2024

2pm till 4pm

Entry fee at door £3.00

(Raffle will be drawn at 3.30pm so be early to ensure you get your raffle tickets)



We are looking for donations of Bric-a-brac, Raffle prizes, Bottles for bottle stall, home bakes etc.

Give us a shout if you have anything to donate or you can give to any of our drivers.

Alternatively, you can bring things along to our office at 18 Junction Rd, opposite the Post Office in Kirkwall.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Transport to and from the coffee afternoon is available for our members free of charge just call 871515 to book the bus.



Donate Now



**Dial-a-Bus are in the Blue Door for the week commencing
Monday 26th August 2024.**

We are now collecting clothing, Bric-a-brac and Raffle Prizes.

Nearer the time we will be in need of home bakes, jams, chutneys etc to sell during that week to aid with the fundraising.

Every donation you make will.

“Help keep the buses running.”

If you have anything to donate either give it to the driver or drop it off at Dial-a-Bus, 18 Junction Rd or alternatively give us a call on 871515.



THE TUESDAY CLUB

The Tuesday Club is a social club for adults of all ages with additional support needs. It is an opportunity for members to meet friends, chat and catch up, taking part in a variety of fun activities including:



Interactive Tablets

Board Games

Word Puzzles

Adult Colouring Books

Listen to Music



The club meets every Tuesday afternoon at the Youth Cafe in Kirkwall Community Centre, St Magnus Lane KW15 1DH, and runs from 2.30pm - 5.00pm. The cost for members is normally £3.50 per week, rising to £4.50 for outings.

Benefits of Keeping Your Dial-a-Bus Membership up to date.

- It ensures that you will be able to book your requested travel at a time and date that suits you in the safe hands of our MiDAS trained drivers in our wheelchair accessible vehicles.
(please note this is reliant on bookings already in place, we try our best to make the booking as near as possible to your requested time).
- Door-to-door service, pick up from your home to go where you request on mainland Orkney.
- 3 Free return trips per calendar month if you are in possession of an OIC concession card.
(Medical journeys are not included in the free journeys)
- Ensure eligibility for an invitation to book a place on the Dial-a-Bus Trips & Tours, Transport to Events etc. (more information further on in this newsletter).
- Eligibility to be included in the exciting new Member of the Month Draw.
(further details on the next page).
- Bulk buys— 5 single Dial-a-Bus bus fare vouchers get 1 single Free.
- Discounted rate on the hire of Shopmobility equipment for Dial-a-Bus members i.e. scooters, wheelchairs, rollators and much more.
- Yearly Newsletter including Trips & Tours List sent to all members.
- Yearly Invitation to attend the AGM.

Member of the Month Draw



BE SURE TO TRAVEL WITH DIAL-A-BUS TO BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING

In February we started a new and exciting monthly draw for all Dial-a-Bus members as a “Huge Thank You” for choosing Dial-a-Bus as your means of travel. There are no restrictions on whether it is a social or medical journey you just need to book the bus and travel to be in with a chance of winning. So go ahead and book with us on 871515 to ensure your names in the draw.

It will be a monthly draw of all Dial-a-Bus members who have travelled on one of our buses during the month. The first draw will be done at the beginning of March 2024 from all members who travelled in Feb 2024.

If you travelled with Dial-a-Bus in the month your name will be put into a draw to win an exciting prize as the “Member of the Month”

The prizes will consist of a return voucher for use to travel on Dial-a-Bus amongst various other items.



We as the promoter reserve the right to publish winners name on our social media page.”

Dial-a-Bus Tours and Transport to Events 2024

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| April (dates TBC) - | Italian Chapel Tour & lunch at The Sands, Burray. |
| Sat May 11th - | Dial-a-bus Coffee Afternoon 2-4pm, King St Halls (Transport free for Dial-a-bus members). |
| Sun May 26th - | Fiddlers Rally (limited ticket availability). |
| May - | Lunch at Orkney Brewery & Tour (postponed from February). |
| June (dates TBC) - | Trip to Shapinsay & lunch at The Smithy. |
| July (dates TBC) - | Lunch at The Neuk, Albert Hotel. |
| Sun August 4th - | Vintage Rally. |
| Thu August 8th - | Dounby Show. |
| Sat August 10th - | County Show. |
| August (dates TBC) - | Deerness Distillery tour & lunch. |
| September (dates TBC) - | Lunch at Polly Kettle, Burray. |
| Wednesday Shopping - | Shopping with company (Out of town once a month) (Kirkwall members). |
| Every 2nd Monday - | Harrray Music. |
| Monday once month - | Chippy tea Harbour Fry (Kirkwall members only at moment) |

Please complete and return to us the separate tick box sheet for the events you wish to attend.

Keep this copy for your own records.

You can use your free trip for any of the trips and tours otherwise there will be a bus fare to pay in addition to other costs.

Tel: Lorraine Kerr 01856 871515 for any further information.



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

Dial-a-Bus (Sarah / Iona) Tel: 871515 Email: info@odforkney.com

Bookings 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

We have an out of hours phone number 07423320534 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.