

April 2023 Newsletter

Hello From MOOL

It has been sometime since we issued our last newsletter and there have been a lot of changes since then!



STAFF

As some of you will know we have some new staff at MOOL. This is an exciting time as we try and build on all the fabulous work that has been done before to make MOOL as sustainable and effective as possible. Our three paid staff are:

Depot Manager - Roman Leszczyszyn - so if you go into the depot, you're sure to meet him. Among many other qualities he speaks Ukrainian which has been a major help! Roman can be contacted on roman@mool.scot or on 07475 765 693

Volunteer Co-ordinator – Louise Proctor – if you volunteer, or want to volunteer then Louise will be in touch. We have a large number of volunteers on our database who Louise is working through to make sure that we are making the most of all the skills and experience that you bring! Louise can be contacted on Louise@mool.scot or on 0747 5765 705

Operations Manager – Lydia Burnett – this is a new paid role which is focussed on making sure the organisation runs smoothly and achieves what we want. There is lots to do from sorting out boring things like policies to organising shipments, and working with partners to arrange activities. Lydia can be contacted on lydia@mool.scot or on 0747 618 1846



TRUSTEES

We also have some new Trustees on our Board. The website has updated details of who's who but in brief we have:

Chair – David Formstone

Treasurer – Christine Jardine

Secretary – Alison Donelly

Trustees – John Crosby, Julie Smith, and Liz Dawson.



SHIPMENTS

In early March a shipment went out via Newstart Recycle Annan (Many thanks to Tony and his team!). This was about 300 boxes of clothing which is a fantastic achievement. Thank you to all those who donated, sorted or boxed the aid.



In February Shirley took a van load of aid down to Stockport to Care 4 Calais. This was the quickest way to get aid out to Calais and allowed us to take the specific items that are needed in Calais. A massive thank you to Shirley and the team who helped pack up the van.



LOCALLY

A lot our work has been focussed on Ukraine both getting shipments sent out but also supporting Ukrainian guest who have made it to D&G.

MOOL is working closely with the Council Resettlement Team and other partners such as D&G Multicultural Association, the Crichton Foundation and the Citizens Advice Bureau. We meet on monthly basis to con-ordinate welcome and orientation activities and events.

7 PM
FEBRUARY
26TH
USHER HALL
EDINBURGH

TICKETS
ONLY
£10

One year on from the russian invasion,
we ...

**SALUTE
UKRAINE!**

TOMA BUTKO • LAU • KARINE POLWART
SU-A LEE & HAMISH NAPIER • ELZARA BATALOVA
IONA ZAJAC • OKSANA MAVRODII & ALLA TKACHENKO
ROSS AINSLIE • JAMES ROBERTSON,
JIM MACKINTOSH • AIDAN O'ROURKE & JONNY HARDIE
and EDINBURGH UKRAINIAN CHOIR • KATHLEEN JAMIE

HOSTED by TANYA BALANOVA & MATTHEW ZAJAC VIDEO MESSAGES FROM THE FRONTLINE

MOOL co-ordinated the recent trip to Edinburgh to see the Salute Ukraine Concert, taking 26 guests to Edinburgh for the concert. A great time was had by all – including some cultural exchanges of songs you might sing on a bus.

Circles Of Support – the Dumfries group has met and is discussing what activities and events they could support in the Dumfries area for all refugees. Getting the chance to speak English to local

folk seems to be in demand so they are looking at how they might offer opportunities to do this – rather than the formal English classes.



There will be upcoming opportunities for guests to join **Incredible Edibles** in their work around Dumfries – in particular at Dumfries Station Garden. This will allow guests to access some land and be involved in some gardening and vegetable growing.

On Yer Bike! MOOL recently supported a family to get some bikes and had then refurbished by Dalbeattie Men's Shed. Four bikes in total were made available, allowing the family to get about and explore Dumfries and Galloway. Thanks go to the Men's Shed and those who donated the bikes!



UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

We are working with partners in Annandale and Eskdale to put on a **Wellbeing** event for Guests and Hosts. This will include taster session of therapies and activities that will support people's wellbeing. There will be the opportunity for chat and refreshments. If you are interested in coming along, or doing something similar in your area please get in touch. Also please get in touch if you are able to help at this, or similar events.

Louise has put out a call for anyone interested in offering a **Befriending** service to someone near them. Training has been organised, both in Dumfries and Kirkcudbright, so if you haven't been in touch with Louise then her email is near the top of the newsletter. So far we have had almost 40 people come forward so what a wonderful MOOL response! We will keep you updated on the progress of the service.



Under the Scottish Garden's Scheme, there is a garden near Moffat that will be open on Sunday 28th May to raise money for the work of MOOL. They have requested we have a stand to promote what we

do, along with a request for volunteers to help with the setting up, refreshments and clearing up afterwards. To make this work well it would be great to have a number of volunteers who can help with this. Is this something that you could do? Please let Louise know. This is a great opportunity for us, so it would be great to support it fully. Thank you.

Calling all designers and those with an artistic eye. We are looking for someone who has the knack of producing great posters, banners, newsletters etc. Do you have the skills for this? Contact Louise and let her know.



We continue to support individual requests for support – from requests for furniture to cleaning flats. If there are guest or hosts who you know who need support then please let us know and if we can't help we will know someone who can.

Mix and
Mingle at  Mool Mornings
massive outpouring of love
dumfries and galloway refugee action

Come and join us for FREE tea, coffee, biscuits
and chat every Wednesday morning from
10.30am -12.30pm

Friendly faces, games and craft activities in a
relaxed atmosphere will all be available.

MOOL, St Andrew's Parish Hall, Brooke Street,
Dumfries. DG1 2JL





Starting at MOOL, St
Andrew's Parish Hall,
Brooke Street, Dumfries

Where:

Monday 8th May
At 11 am

When:

Contact: louise@mool.scot



AND FINALLY



It will be a long time since we were all able to get together and celebrate MOOL. We plan to hold a celebration event in the summer when we can all come together and spend some time looking back at what you have all achieved but also look forward to what we want to focus on in the future. More details will once we have organised a date and venue.

THANK YOU

