

July 2023 Newsletter



Hello From MOOL

It has been a few months since we issued our last newsletter and there's been a lot going on! Read on to find out more but first put these dates in your diaries!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday 2nd August – Mix and Mingle visit to Dumfries Museum, 10.30 @ museum

Wednesday 9th August – A Taste of Ukraine, 10.30-12.30 at Mix and Mingle

Tuesday 12th September – Volunteers Social Evening, Dumfries 6-8 pm

Wednesday 13th September – A Taste of 10.30-12.30 at Mix and Mingle

20-29th October – Wild Goose Festival

Thursday 14th December – MOOL Christmas Party, Castle Douglas 6-8 pm



Staff and Trustees

If you check out our website you will see that our staff and Trustees have all updated their bios so there's a bit more information about us all. We are always looking for new trustees, anyone interested in joining the Board can contact David the Chair via email david@mool.scot.



Easy Fundraising



Did you know that you can raise funds for MOOL just by doing your shopping on-line? If you sign up for Easy Fundraising, MOOL will receive a percentage of what you have spent as a donation. It doesn't take long to sign up, and doesn't cost you anything but could make a big difference to MOOL.



SHIPMENTS



In June 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. Following a shout out for tents and sleeping bags there was a good supply for Care4 Calais. A massive thank you to Shirley, the team who helped pack up the van and anyone who donated stuff.

We are hoping to share a container load with another charity to get the current store of aid over to Lebanon.

Working with a charity called DistributeAid we have been partnered with Glasgow the Caring City who are looking to ship a load of soap out to the camps. This reduces our costs and means its more economically viable to send our aid. Approximately 300 boxes will be going so thank you all for your hard work donating, sorting and packing!

We will be looking to send two shipments per year so watch out for our campaigns for donations and funds.



LOCALLY

Mix and Mingle at MOOL

Mix and Mingle began in April and has been well supported both by volunteers and guests. We have done a variety of activities from pebble painting to baking. We play games such as Bingo and Jenga as well as have lots of varied conversations. Over the summer we will welcome children so that parents are still able to join us, and children's activities will be provided, alongside the adult activities. Anyone is welcome to join us, and you can be sure of a warm welcome as well as refreshments. We would love for more volunteers to get involved so we can share the responsibilities. We would also appreciate some creative input, so if you have a hobby, interest or talent that you could share with us please let Louise know so we can arrange a time for you to come and join us. We have Christine joining us to lead some sessions including beading on 12th July, Fimo clay on 26th July, crochet on 23rd August and needle felting on 6th September. We would love to fill the diary for the rest of the year, so please get in touch. Tom from Dumfries Museum will be leading a special session at the museum for us on Wednesday 2nd August. It would be great to show this event some good support, so please let any guests know about it. Meeting at the museum at 10.30. Thank you.



Litter Pick

As part of King Charles III Coronation we signed up for The Big Help Out Event held on 8th May. Unfortunately, it was a bit of a miserable day, so we didn't have as big a turn out as hoped for, however we still managed to make the streets of Dumfries a little cleaner, and were very grateful to a group of Ukrainian teens who came to join us.



Open Garden



On 28th May, Janet and Peter McGowan opened their beautiful garden at Craigieburn House, near Moffat. It was a well-attended event, and a percentage of the funds raised were donated to MOOL. Volunteers David, Sue, Janet and Kateryna went along to help out, as well as man a stall with some information about the work we do.

Dumfries Town Market

Regular volunteers, Avril and Liz, have been busy on Dumfries High Street with a stall on Market Day at the beginning of May and June. They have had lots of fun chatting with people and raising awareness of the work we do. We hope to run this stall around 4 times a year, so if you'd like to help out, let us know.



Youth and Philanthropy Initiative



Dumfries High School students Thomas, Katie, Luke and Thomas took part in the school's annual Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). They won their class round with their presentation about MOOL and were invited to take part in the final presentation held in the school on Wednesday 17th May, alongside pupils representing a variety of other local charities. Liz (trustee) and Louise (Volunteer Coordinator) went along to see the very high standard of presentations that the pupils had clearly worked hard to create. Despite the very stiff competition, Thomas, Katie, Luke and Thomas's presentation about MOOL was chosen as the winners. A huge thank you to these guys for putting so much effort into their presentation and winning £3000 for MOOL. This money will be used to support guests locally as well as to help distribute some aid overseas.

Guid Nychburris

We had quite a good turnout representing MOOL in the Guid Nychburris parade in June. Promoting UNITY, a mix of nationalities dressed in clothes representative of their roots and waving flags from around the world. Our banner bearers did a great job of keeping in line demonstrating a great sense of unity, and lots of fun



was had. We hope to take part again next year, with a bigger and better show of unity, so if you would be interested in being involved, let Louise know. It would be great if we could have a planning team to organise things in plenty of time.



Refugee Week:

A Taste of Scotland

The "Taste of Scotland" event was marvellous. We shared a wide range of food and had a good blether. There were some shop bought things including Tunnock's wafers, Irn Bru and oatcakes but there were also a range of homemade delicacies. From Cullen skink to dumpling, from kipper pate to potato scones. For dessert we had some healthy Scottish strawberries. It all seemed to go down well, and we had a lot of chat as we learnt about food customs. Our guests were keen to return the hospitality and we'll be arranging a Ukrainian food event for Wednesday 9th August during our Mix and Mingle session.



Party in the Park



Alex, Carrie, Margaret, Doreen and Susan had great fun at the Party in the Park held at Dock Park at the end of Refugee Week. They engaged children in some fun activities such as leaf pictures, and writing notes of love to go into shipments we send overseas to displace people living in tragic circumstances. They were able to share about some of the work we do and help people understand some of the difficulties faced by refugees across the world.

Youth Beatz

MOOL was down with the kids at Youth Beats Musical event at Park Farm Dumfries on Saturday and Sunday on 1st & 2nd July.

Youth Beatz is one of biggest events of its kind and was attended by about 40,000 young people and parents from all over the country.



A key part of the musical event is a larger group of other stands providing information and activities.

Our MOOL stand was constantly busy, we raised awareness about:

- where refugees come from and who hosts the most
- who MOOL are and what we do in D&G
- Face-painted MOOL hearts
- got some great messages from children

(thanks to Stephen and Angela from Eastriggs Photography for this photo)



ROYAL GARDEN PARTY

It was a great honour and privilege for Liz and I to represent MOOL at the first Royal Garden Party in Holyrood Palace hosted by the new King, earlier this month.

When I asked Liz if she would come, she was in shock with delight - and trepidation. Why Liz? Liz is one of the precious, reliable, regular, wonderful group of volunteers who are at the very heart of ALL that MOOL does and believes in. She, like them, embodies the Massive Outpouring Of Love. I first met Liz when we went to Calais a few years ago on behalf of MOOL to work with the refugee camps there through an organisation called Care for Calais. So Liz was the first person I thought of. And I knew she would enjoy it.

So, the invites arrived, arrangements were made, and up we drove from Dumfries on the morning of the event. Forgotten jackets, swapping of hats, spells of heavy rain, squishy grass underfoot - none of it took any of the enjoyment away from such a fun experience. Our lovely taxi driver added to the pleasure of the day with his great chat on our round-a-bout journey from a quick lunch and change at my sister's home in Edinburgh to Holyrood Palace.

People watching was the best entertainment of the day. We wandered and mingled amidst the colour and finery and funnery, loving the range



of interpretations of the dress code. Top hats and morning suits, to kilts and bespoke lounge suits, long dresses, short dresses, trouser suits, kaftans, fascinators, tiny hats, huge hats, glitter and sequance and denim and silk, tartan and stripes and checks, sandals and boots, heels and flatties - what a range and joy it was to see.

We were fortunate to find two seats not puddled with rainfall in one of the two huge tea tents and took it in turns to help ourselves to cups of tea (or iced coffee or elderflower soda) and tea plates of goodies. Delicious sandwiches and exquisite little cakes and tarts. And yes, we did go back for seconds. We also had an opportunity to chat to a couple of the thousands in attendance about why they were there.



We mingled again and skirted a huge horseshoe shape of people, 5/7 deep, who were waiting to see the king as he left the special tea tent and started his walk around to chat to the throng. Liz and I are small and relied on some very lovely taller couples to talk us through what was happening under a canopy of umbrellas and large drips of rain. I was behind Liz and over a few minutes gently nudged her forward as politely and invisibly as I could so at the right moment, there was the King - right in front of her. They shook hands. And he asked Liz what organisation she represented and she told him about MOOL and refugee action and support and they discussed housing problems and the Ukrainian situation. And she asked him where Camilla was and he smiled and he pointed to further up the crowd.

And then he looked at Liz and told her she was wonderful. And then came the second handshake.

Well Liz was delighted. And I was delighted because she was so delighted. A very special and privileged experience. What a day. Very memorable.

But most of all, it was a tribute to our precious MOOL, all it has done, is doing and will continue to do.

Julie Smith



Vinted

From time to time, we receive donations that aren't suitable for sending to refugee camps, and are too good to forward to our local charity shops. This has led to setting up a MOOL Vinted account where we can sell these items to raise money for our funds. Since starting in May we have so far raised over £100. Is this something that interests you? It would be great to have a volunteer who can take over the administration of this, such as listing the items, monitoring sales and sending items out. If this is something that you think you could do, please let Louise know. Perhaps you are a Vinted fan and enjoy buying items through Vinted, check out our account Moolsales.





Volunteer Recruitment – many hands make light work

We are always looking for new volunteers, but we also have plenty of opportunities for our current volunteers. Maybe one of these roles would suit 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?

Are you organised and creative, or have lots of ideas? We are looking for a group of people who can help us with event planning and preparation. It is always good to have fresh ideas and have volunteers to see it through. We have quite a busy calendar coming up, so would love to have a team to ensure the smooth running of these events.



Maybe you are interested in using social media, sharing information and promoting events? Then I'm sure we can make the most of these skills!



Perhaps you have an interest in clothes, and have an eye for quality. If so you could be our next Vinted sales coordinator, to list, sell and send out items to raise funds for MOOL.

Do you like in a more rural part of Dumfries and Galloway? Are you keen to be more involved? We would love to reach more people outside of Dumfries, so are looking for volunteers to plan and run localised events, such as donation collections and 'get togethers' in areas outside Dumfries, such as Langholm or Stranraer or anywhere in between.

If any of these opportunities interest you, and you would be willing to help out, please contact Louise – louise@mool.scot



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 in any way, then please let us know, (hello@mool.scot) and if we can't help we will know someone who can.



AND FINALLY

It has been a long time since we were all able to get together and celebrate MOOL. We plan to hold a celebration event on 12th September 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 follow once we have confirmed a venue. We will also be celebrating Christmas and hope you will join us in Castle Douglas on 14th December.

THANK YOU

