

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## AT A GLANCE

- **What's New?**
- **What's Coming Up?**
- **What can I do?**
- **NEW SOFTWARE – Please sign up**

## What's New



What has been going on since our last newsletter?

## A Taste of ....

### Ukraine



Meet the chefs



So much food!



A good group to enjoy it



It was declared 'delicious'

On Wednesday 9th August, our Mix and Mingle at MOOL morning was dedicated to 'A Taste of Ukraine'. A group of Ukrainian guests prepared and shared a number of traditional Ukrainian dishes with everyone who turned up. We had a great response with a good number of both local people and new Scots joining us. It was wonderful to try dishes such as Borscht, Holubtsi (stuffed cabbage rolls), Nalisniki (filled with mushroom, chicken and mushroom as well as curd cheese and raisins), along with devilled eggs and courgettes with mayonnaise and garlic – all of which were delicious. It was fabulous to hear more about Ukrainian traditions and how food is enjoyed at different celebrations throughout the year and for our Ukrainian guests to thank local people for the warm welcome they have received in Dumfries.



## Syria



Not only did Sarab put on a fabulous spread, but the Standard gave us a good spread too!

After the success of A Taste of Ukraine in August, September was dedicated to A Taste of Syria, where enthusiastic volunteer Sarab prepared a huge spread of more delicious food, giving us the chance to sample some of the delightful flavours of Syria. It was lovely to hear more about Syria and to begin to understand a little bit more about traditions. We would love to continue the theme of tastes around the world, so if you know of a group of people who would like to share some things from their country, please let us know.



# Volunteers Social Evening

We held a social evening for our volunteers in September, giving us an opportunity to share a little more about our vision and missions, and how we are working towards developing them further.

Lydia shared a very informative presentation with us, and then we spent time meeting each other and investigating our skills to see what volunteering opportunities might suit us best. It was great to have so many volunteers join us, and to be able to put names to faces. Apologies to our volunteers further out of Dumfries, we realise that many of our activities are Dumfries based, but hope to replicate some of them further out in the future.



## New Arrivals

We are sure that by now you will be aware of a group of young men seeking asylum have arrived in Dumfries. We have had the pleasure of meeting a good number of them and, thanks to the generosity of so many people, have been able to provide them with phones, notebooks, pens, clothes and shoes. This is a very new situation in our area, and proving quite a steep learning curve for the MOOL team. Many of our volunteers are getting involved and we are managing to arrange some activities to keep the young men busy. Many of them are very keen on sports so if you are able to make any contacts with local groups to help integrate them, that would be amazing.

It is lovely to see some friendships beginning to bloom at Mix and Mingle, and how this is enabling some men to get out and about and see more of Dumfries. For example, 2 of our new guests recently enjoyed a Jazz Afternoon with one of our volunteers. We love to hear stories like this.

Many of the young men are asking for bikes so that they can get out and about a bit more independently. This is something that MOOL is working very hard to make happen. There are many things to consider before we can issue bikes, most importantly the young men's safety. We can assure you that we are on the case, we have acquired a number of bikes and are working with other groups to make sure we can meet this need in the best way possible. We will ensure that there is training given regarding the safe riding of bikes on our local roads (a very different experience to cycling in their home countries), the Highway Code, maintaining the bikes and ensuring secure storage. We will be issuing cycle helmets with the bikes, so if you would like to purchase one to donate, we would very happily receive these.

We will not be sharing any photographs showing these young men.



## Visit to Govan

Lydia, Louise and a couple of volunteers travelled up to Glasgow recently to visit Govan Community Project. A charity who has been supporting refugees and people seeking asylum across Glasgow for many years. It was very useful to meet them and learn of some of the services they provide for people needing them. It has given us many ideas of things we can do as we move forward with our growing community of displaced people. It also gave us some great encouragement of all we have achieved over the past few months, with the resources available to us.



Louise & Lydia meet Traci



## Mix and Mingle at MOOL



Mix and Mingle continues to thrive. We have begun meeting in the upstairs hall to accommodate everyone who comes along. We have had some great sessions, learning some basics in crochet, felting and ukulele as well as much more. It is lovely to have so many people come along and join us and conversations have been great. Anyone is welcome to join us at Mix and Mingle at MOOL on a Wednesday morning between 10.30 and 12.30 for fun, games, crafts, conversation and of course refreshments. A great opportunity to meet people, make friends and have fun. We meet at St Andrew's Parish Hall, Brooke Street, Dumfries. Dg1 2JL. We are keen for people to sign up to lead sessions, so if you have a hobby or skill you would like to share, please let us know.



## Shipment

Our container is almost full, preparation has been done, paperwork is in the final stages, so we have a shipment due to leave us on Monday 23rd October. This shipment will go out to Lebanon to help support some of the displaced people who are living in camps there. A huge thank you again to Dumfries High School pupils Thomas, Katie, Thomas and Luke who were the winning pupils of the school's annual Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), winning an amazing £3000 for MOOL, enabling this shipment to go ahead. We will need some muscle power to help transfer the boxes from our container to the transportation, if you have time on the morning of 23rd October and are able to be part of a human chain to pass boxes along, please let us know.



## What's Coming Up?



### Dates for your Diary

**21st October** – Musical evening by Bare Boney at Kirkmichael Village Hall, DG1 3NA

**23rd October** - Shipment leaving for Lebanon, Box movers required! 10.45 am

**20-29th October** – Wild Goose Festival

**25<sup>th</sup> October** – Mix and Mingle, Art Session

**27th October** - Sorting donations collected from Wild Goose Festival

**31st October** - 2pm, Event Planning Meeting at our depot

**8th November** - Dumfries Academy Community Event

**27th November** - MOOL AGM followed by Board of Trustees Meeting

**7-10th December** - Christmas Tree Festival

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



# What can I do?

There are so many ways that you can get involved



## 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. Funds we raise through Easy Fundraising will be used to help our local guests feel loved over Christmas. So far we have raised just over £400, through our 33 signed up supporters. Can you help us increase that?

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/h>

### Massive Outpouring Of Love (MOOL) - Dumfries & Galloway Refugee Action

Dumfries, Dumfriesshire

**£433.75 raised**

33 supporters

Shop now and raise



massive outpouring of love  
dumfries and galloway refugee action



## Amazon Wishlist

You can purchase items that we need to support people without leaving your home. How? By simply following this link, making your purchase and we will do the rest:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk>



## 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. Perhaps you are a Vinted fan and enjoy buying items through Vinted, check out our account Moolsales

<https://www.vinted.co.uk>

Or maybe you have items to donate? Or would even enjoy listing some items? Let us know!



## New Software

We are changing our on-line system to something more up to date and user friendly. This will give us the opportunity to update our records and ensure our news is reaching the correct people. To give you the control of the information we hold for you, we would really appreciate it if you could sign up on our new system, and we will then delete your old record. The new system will allow you to unsubscribe yourself at any time. Sign up as a volunteer here: [Volunteer Sign-up](#)

There is also an option to receive our newsletter only, so you are not also receiving emails about volunteering opportunities, which I know will suit some of you better. Please sign up for that here:

[Newsletter Sign-Up](#)

If you are more comfortable with us transferring your information from our old system, please email [louise@mool.scot](mailto:louise@mool.scot) and we can do that for you. **If you wish to continue hearing from us, please do this or you may not receive any communication in the future.** Thank you.



## New Premises

We are searching for some new premises to run our operations from. We are looking for a larger and accessible to all premises where we can have a depot area for receiving, sharing and packing donations as well as an office space and an area we can use for social occasions. It does need to be in Central Dumfries so we are easy to find and access. Do you know of anywhere or have any links with someone who may be able to help us. Obviously as a charity, we have a restricted budget!



## Reach Out



For questions, feedback, article ideas, or story contributions, email [hello@mool.scot](mailto:hello@mool.scot), and we'll be in touch.

Check out our website at: <https://www.mool.scot>

View past newsletters here:

**July 2023** - [July Newsletter](#)

**April 2023** - [April Newsletter](#)

