



# Orkney Young Carers

welcome to our world.....

Newsletter 2009 - 2010

## Welcome

We are coming to the end of another year in the Orkney Young Carers Service. It has been a hectic but exciting year with lots of new developments!

This newsletter is to give you an idea of some of the things that have been going on throughout the year behind the scenes as well as the direct support the service provides.

We would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions or queries about the service or if there is anything you think we should be doing to improve our service.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Celia MacInnes  
Young Carers Support Worker

## Activities

We have had a great year of monthly activity sessions for both the Junior (primary) and Senior (secondary) groups.

Some of the activities enjoyed by the Junior group have been a treasure hunt in the library (which we had all to ourselves!), dancing with Stephanie Baird, a visit to Kirbister Museum, a Halloween party, pizza making and craft days (including making xmas crackers!).

The Senior group enjoyed a BBQ at the beach, archery, the Young Carers Festival (more about that later...), Halloween Party, brainstorming for the website, Cinema and Laser Quest.

We have got plenty planned for the next 12 months but if there is anything you think we should be doing then let us know!

## Website

We received generous funding in early 2009 from the Princess Royal Trust for Carers (PRTC) for designing and maintaining a website for the service.

Many of our Senior Young Carers were involved in brainstorming for the website (content, design, logo etc) and several of them attended a website design course at Orkney College with me last summer.

After many months of work the site is now online so please check it out at

[www.orkneyyoungcarers.org](http://www.orkneyyoungcarers.org)

At the moment the site is very much about providing information and we will be looking to develop it further to make it much more interactive and young person friendly! So any suggestions would be appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you.



## Young Carers Festival Trip

After receiving a generous donation of £980 from the Ronald F Slater Trust (managed by Lows Solicitors) and financial assistance from the festival organisers, we were able to travel with our Senior group to attend the second Scottish Young Carers Festival in West Linton (just south of Edinburgh).

Our four day trip was fantastic and the Festival was packed with activities from animation workshops, cake decorating, face painting, street dance, football with the Scottish Football Association, talent show & disco. The group made friends with other Young Carers and were given the opportunity to comment on many Young Carer issues which were then passed to visiting Politicians and decision makers for discussion in front of an audience of Young Carers and Support Workers.

The four day trip greatly strengthened friendships and peer group support in a way that was not possible previously.

We are working hard to obtain more funding so we can attend again this year!

## Funding

We have secured various successful grants as well as receiving much needed funding from local groups. We would like to give a big THANKYOU! to those who have given so generously.

**Awards for All** £5,420  
Educational Project Worker  
Info Leaflets, Posters etc  
Network Instillation  
Laptop

**Co-op Community Fund** £2,000  
Activity Costs

**Orkney Childcare Partnership** £1,000  
Activity Costs

**Ronald F Slater Trust** £980  
Festival Trip

**Orkney Rotary Club** £800  
Activity Costs

**Orkney Round Table** £300  
Activity Costs

We would like to give special thanks to Orkney Islands Council who core fund the Young Carer Support Worker post (12 hrs/wk) which is managed by Crossroads (Orkney).

## Contact

Tel: 01856 870500 Email: [orkneycarers@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:orkneycarers@tiscali.co.uk)

Web: [www.orkneyyoungcarers.org](http://www.orkneyyoungcarers.org)

Orkney Young Carers Service, Orkney Carers Centre, Anchor Buildings, 6 Bridge Street, Kirkwall, KW15 1HR.



## Educational Project

We were very pleased to receive funding from Awards for All which has allowed us to begin working with all schools and relevant professional organisations to raise awareness of Young Carers and to identify more Young Carers in Orkney.

Dagmar Sitte has been very busy over the last three months delivering workshops in all schools to pupils and teachers. She is high in demand for return visits!

Dagmar has also been delivering presentations to relevant organisations who work with young people and/or their families - Youth Workers (third sector, voluntary, OIC), Doctors Surgeries (incl outer isles), Community nurses, Social Services, OACAS (Youth and Adult Counsellors) and the Police.

With the funding we were also able to produce up to date information leaflets, posters, flyers and business cards. Illustrated with fantastic cartoons from Alex Leonard, they have been a great success and a useful tool for Dagmar on her visits.