

Boomerang News

20th February, 2023



Welcome!

Boomerang has had a busy start to 2023!
Here is some of what we've been up to...

Historytellers Exhibition

Boomerang was lucky enough to host the Dundee Historytellers Exhibition at the centre for a number of weeks. This was a great opportunity for our members to reminisce about Dundee's past. The Exhibition looked back on some of Dundee's most iconic locations; such as the original Overgate; Shore Terrace market; The Imperial Hotel and the Fifies. Our Reminiscence group loved the display, with Anne Leslie from DVVA delivering some sessions talking about the photos and hearing the stories from our members about Dundee's past.

Burns Afternoon Tea

Our famous Afternoon Teas returned for the new year on the 11th January and was well attended. We had full attendance for our Burns Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 25th January, where we served just under 40 guests!



Historytellers Exhibition



Some of our members enjoying their Burns Afternoon Tea

Walk and Talk

Our Walk and Talk group restarted after the festive period on Friday 13th January. It is great to see so many people involved, with numbers increasing every week!

Some New Additions to the Centre...

in January 2023, we said a huge welcome to Sophie Dolan, who is our new Stay and Play Youth Worker. Sophie will be a great asset to Boomerang with her past and present experience in working with children and adults.

We also welcomed Kaitlyn Stott to the team at the beginning of the year. Kaitlyn is in her 3rd Year of her BA Community Learning and Development degree and will be on placement with us until the end of March. We were also lucky enough to have Joanne with us for a short time. Joanne is a Masters Social Work Student who has left us to complete the rest of her placement with Homestart - We wish her all the best for the future!



Sophie with Linda and Christine in Toddlers



Gill with our two students

Volunteer of the Month

This month's Volunteer of the Month went to Ralph Russel. Ralph works extremely hard and gives a lot of his time to Boomerang, helping to run our community larder and assisting with big jobs around the centre, such as setting up our Santa's Grotto last Christmas, as well as setting up a new Carpet Bowls group at the centre. Nothing is ever a bother for Ralph and we really appreciate his dedication.

A Big Thank You!

We would like to thank Stobswell Church for their donation of a piano. We would also like to thank Ballumbie Carriers for collectig and delivering it to the Centre. Ballumbie Carriers are a fantastic company and do so much for charity - Thank you!



Ralph with Linda and Iolanda

Free Health Checks

Our free health check and advice service started again on the 18th January in our Cosy Cafe. This service is delivered by our Keep Well Nurse, Beverley. Upcoming days that this service will be running are Wednesday 22nd February, Thursday 2nd March and Wednesday 22nd March from 10am - 12pm.

Friends of Boomerang

We held our first Friends of Boomerang meeting on the 23rd January. The members that attended had some great ideas for the Centre for the year ahead. The next meeting is due to take place on the 6th March at 10am. All welcome!

Dundee Adult Learning Event

The first ever Dundee Adult Learning Event took place on the 24th January as part of the Community Based Adult Learning Group. 14 stalls attended from a wide range of organisations and there were many different activities to take part in such as cake decorating, crafts and horticulture. We had approximately 90 people come through the door, which was amazing to see. This was a great way to showcase all of the Adult Learning opportunities happening in Dundee. There really was something for everyone!

We also had a visit from Sylvia from the Co-op, who was very impressed with all the work we do here at Boomerang.



Cake Decorating Stall at our Adult Learning Event



Soup bags that were handed out during our Adult Learning Event

DCA Visit

Our Stay and Play group had a visit from the Dundee Contemporary Arts Centre on the 31st January. The children watched some short, word free animations from the DCA Discovery Film Festival. They then got involved in some fun sensory and arts and crafts activities based on what they had seen. Everyone had so much fun!



Children made "soup" with the DCA

Budget Cooking Class

We are starting our "Cooking on a Budget Class" from the 7th February

Food Larder

A big thank you to Fans Supporting Foodbanks Dundee for yet another amazing donation to our food larder.



Our Food Larder all nicely stocked up

We have some exciting times ahead here at Boomerang with various organisations coming in to deliver sessions. For example, our Storysacks sessions will run from the 14th February for 6 weeks. This is an opportunity for adults to get creative and make a storybook and storysack for their child.

We also have a fundraising Quiz Night coming up on the 28th February in the Fort. Teams of 3, 4 or 5, £5 Per Person. Please see Alison for more details.

We also look forward to our themed Afternoon Teas in 2023!

Letter From Centre Manager

We've been incredibly busy since the New Year! You may have noticed that we have had a lovely new fire system installed - big thanks to Maryfield Community Regeneration Fund for awarding us a grant to get this for the Centre!

We have also been awarded funding to help us support those who are struggling with the cost of living crisis and rising fuel costs by providing cosy blankets and food support.

Our Larder is also busier than ever, with more and more people accessing it during the week. Remember that there is no need for a referral to the larder, you can just drop in Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning 10am - 12pm and it will cost £2 - £5 depending on the option you choose.

We will be looking to start some youth activities in the near future after the closure of our Pitkerro Road Premises, so keep your eyes peeled for more information on that and we will of course be providing our Easter Holiday provision too.

We are having a massive clear-out and we will be holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday 4th March 10am-12pm. Pop along and see if you can grab yourself a bargain!

And of course we have our Easter Fair on Saturday 25th March 12pm - 3pm

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and it is great to see the Centre so busy!

Gill Bain

Centre Manager



Message from the Board

As we face the challenges in relation to the cost of living crisis we continue in our vision at Boomerang to create a better everyday life for the people in our community. In the last few months we have added to the variety of activities on offer and this has only been possible through listening to our members, staff and volunteers.

We have set up a "Friends of Boomerang" group, there are posters displayed in the centre, detailing dates and times of the meetings. All members are very welcome to attend to give their ideas and opinions on how we improve the services and facilities. Gill and a trustee are present at each meeting and ideas are actioned allowing everyone to have a say. We also have plans to set meeting dates for our merry band of volunteers to meet with Gill our manager and a trustee.

Mike Brown is a new trustee joining the board for our February meeting. He is a local family solicitor and he is delighted to be appointed to his new position and looking forward to helping take the charity forward. I am sure you will join us in welcoming Mike to the Boomerang.

It was an extremely difficult decision to take when we announced the closure of the No 1 café for the young people in our area. This was due to several factors including the funding stream coming to a close however, we are confident that we will re-provision services for young people in the near future at Kemback Street.

As a Board we have been working hard to ensure we truly engage and communicate with everyone involved and our partners to ensure we are providing the right services at the right time for our community.

Anna Robb

Chairperson