

CITIZEN ADVOCACY CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone and welcome to our Christmas newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and whether you are a bit of a Grinch or more of a Buddy the elf we wish you a peaceful festive period however you are celebrating.

TEAM UPDATES

Lisa, Senior Development Worker

Lisa has had a busy year with the project and will be working full time up until September 2024. She has been focusing on recruiting more citizen advocates and has been out and about telling people about the work the citizen advocacy team do. She has also been busy after becoming a Nanny for the first time in June 2023. Her daughter Megan, who some of you may know, gave birth to Alayah Courtney Ann, who has brought so much joy and happiness. For those of you who have not had the chance to meet Alayah or seen her picture, here she is:



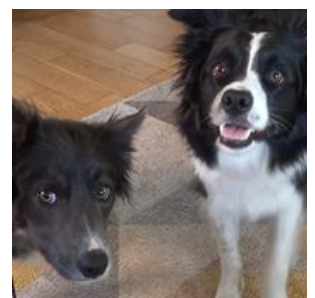
Lucy, Development Worker

Until recently Lucy was the Participation Worker for the Citizen Advocacy Team. In September she applied for the role of Development Worker, Mental Health, Citizen Advocacy and was very pleased to be offered the job! She is looking forward to meeting with existing partnerships and working with Lisa to find new partners and volunteers for the project. She will be getting out and about and spreading the good word of Citizen Advocacy around Arbroath and Friockheim. She had a fantastic holiday to Kenya in October with her family. They saw lots of animals – these are her favourites!

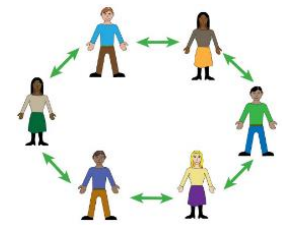


Mark, Development Manager

Mark has enjoyed his first year in the Development Manager Role getting to learn more about the project and having the opportunity to get to know members of the Steering Group, he has met some of the partners and volunteers. He has been using the experience of our partnerships to give feedback to various groups to improve the service they provide. The team are now looking towards the future of the Citizen Advocacy Project and how we can further support people. Mark is also busy with his family and 2 dogs who have endless energy and keep him on his toes.



Citizen Advocacy Steering Group Update



The Steering group meet up usually once every couple of months and have a cuppy and a chat and usually cake or pastries are involved! They help shape the Citizen Advocacy project and recently members were asked to take part in an Angus Council Project to help improve Policies and Procedures and make recommendations for Protecting People Angus.

The group has recently done a lot of work on their Terms of Reference and there are also opportunities to be involved in recruitment processes within AIA and raising awareness of the project at events. The Steering group also have an important role in looking at policies and making sure they are easily accessible.

We are always looking for new members so if anyone feels they would like to be on the Steering Group and has any lived experience of Citizen Advocacy, please get in touch with Mark our Citizen Advocacy Manager on 07546 951879 or mark@angusindadvocacy.org

PICNIC IN THE PARK

On Saturday 29th July we headed to Monikie Country Park with our picnics and enjoyed a lovely sunny day with food and laughter. We even had a few games!
Thank you to everyone who came along.

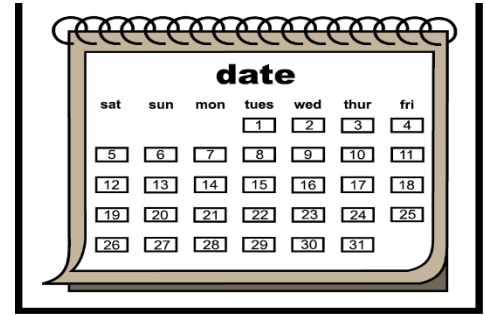
Thanks to Elaine's Sugar Fix for the lovely cupcakes she made with our logo!



Some pictures of the day!

Dates for your Diary!

Here is a list of all the learning sessions and events we have planned for you up until next May. We hope you will take advantage of the learning sessions we have planned for you, and we look forward to seeing you at our social events for a get together. 😊



7 th December 2023	Human Rights Learning Session	2-4.30pm AIA Office
8 th December 2023	Citizen Advocacy Christmas Party	5.30-8pm The Hub, Friockheim
17 th January 2024	Mental Health Learning Session	5.30-7.30pm AIA Office
25 th January 2024	Burns Brunch Open Day 	11am-1pm AIA Office
6 th February 2024	Adult Support & Protection Learning Session	2-4.30pm AIA Office
21 st February 2024	Group Preparation	3.30-6.30pm AIA Office
9 th March 2024	Bingo and Learning	12.30pm Details to follow
13 th March 2024	Non-Instructed Advocacy Learning Session	5-7.30pm AIA Office
26 th March 2024	Boundaries and Endings Learning Session	1.30-4pm AIA Office
9 th April 2024	Human Rights Learning Session	5-7.30pm AIA Office
24 th April 2024	Mental Health Learning Session	10-12pm AIA Office
18 th May 2024	Spring Fayre 	12pm-4pm St Andrew's Church, Arbroath
22 nd May 2024	Group Preparation	10-12.30pm AIA Office

If you have any ideas for events or learning sessions, please let us know by emailing: citizenadvocacy@angusindadvocacy.org

Volunteering Opportunities

We have a few opportunities within Angus Independent Advocacy.

Hello everyone! My name is Fiona Arnot, and I am currently Chair of the Board at AIA. My previous careers included being Head Teacher in a small rural primary school and latterly as a Counsellor. Both jobs gave me immense satisfaction, working with people young and not so young!

Since retiring much of my week is taken with looking after 6 grandchildren though not all at once! They keep me on my toes, so I also have a weekly session with a personal trainer to make sure I stay fit! I like to go to the theatre and cinema, and I love to eat out, meeting up with friends!

My involvement with AIA began in 2015 when I was invited by a friend to attend a Board Meeting and that was it! I was so struck by the caring and supportive Board that I had no hesitation in joining. AIA plays such an important role in supporting those who feel they have no voice, and it is a privilege to be a part of that.

We on the Board are very proud of the dedicated and conscientious team who work to provide support to those who need it most and it is our responsibility to ensure that this work can continue.

To anyone thinking about volunteering at AIA I think I can safely say that you will gain so much from being part of a great team while knowing you are giving someone the chance to be seen and heard.



We still have opportunities to join our Board of Directors. We are particularly interested in individuals who have a financial, legal, or marketing background but would be happy to hear from anyone with a passion for Human Rights who feels they can contribute to the effective governance of a third sector organisation. If you are interested in this opportunity or know someone who may be interested, please get in touch with Heather MacMaster (CEO) on 01241 434413 or email enquiries@angusindadvocacy.org to find out more.



It feels good to be able to support someone and know that their life has gotten better because of that support

We are looking for Citizen Advocates, particularly in the Forfar area of Angus. Citizen Advocates are ordinary people from the community who share our values and have the natural skills and life experience to support someone.

Do you have great communication skills? Do you believe everyone should have their voice heard? If yes, then we would love to hear from you. The first step is to meet one of our Development Worker's for an informal chat to see if Citizen Advocacy is right for you.

If you know anyone who may be interested in this opportunity, please contact us on 01241 434413 or email citizenadvocacy@angusindadvocacy.org

Merry Christmas

We would like to wish all our advocacy partners, citizen advocates, board of directors and steering group members a peaceful and relaxing Christmas. We hope you all experience happiness and love in 2024.

Can you unscramble the letters to find a Christmas word?

Cinme ipse

Owns anm

Nthor lpeo

Skctongi

Eykurt

Nasta

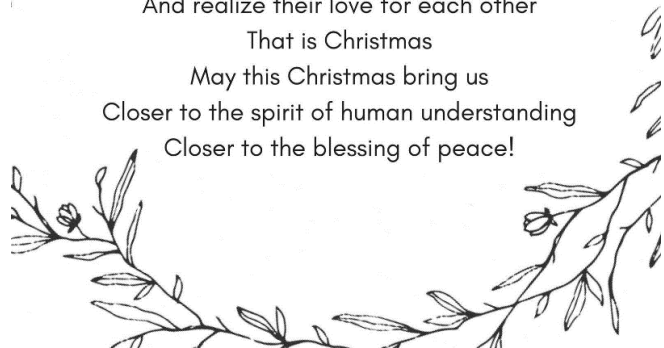
Ghlits

spretnes



Christmas...

Every time a hand reaches out
 To help another...that is Christmas
 Every time someone puts anger aside
 And strives for understanding
 That is Christmas
 Every time people forget their differences
 And realize their love for each other
 That is Christmas
 May this Christmas bring us
 Closer to the spirit of human understanding
 Closer to the blessing of peace!



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PRESENTS

SANTA

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