



February 2019 Newsletter

West Calder & Harburn Community Development News

KEY DATES

- Spring Photography Exhibition
Rodger Shearer
5th April - 22nd April
- Fireworks Display
Friday 1st November
- Winter West Fest
Sat 14th-Sun 15th Dec
- WCCEA Pantomime
Sat 14th December
- West Calder Christmas Market
Sat 14th December
- Santa Parade & Family Fete
Sunday 15th December



Calling all residents of West Calder & Harburn - new and old - we want to hear your voice.



Calling all residents of West Calder and Harburn – new and old – we want to hear your voice.

Back in 2013 our Community Council organised a Community Views Survey to discover what issues we felt were important as a community and to find ideas to make the area a better place to live, work and grow up in. The survey responses were used to produce the 2013-18 Community Action Plan (CAP) which set out the findings as actions and priorities under five themes. The original plan can be downloaded from www.westcalder.org. Contd. Pg2

The Community Centre welcomes The Brunch Club!

The Community Centre Café and its long standing and much-loved Lunch Club which served affordable meals to older people in our community was identified to be cut in the current round of council cut-backs. The Community Centre Management Committee and The Trust were determined to keep a service that provided good, healthy and affordable food in an accessible, comfortable environment, open to all. With financial support from West Lothian Development Trust and the Management Committee

the Management Committee themselves for staff, and West Lothian Council for equipment and set-up costs plus ongoing support from The Trust for administration, management and employment, we were able to start The Brunch Club at the beginning of the year. The Brunch Club is open from 8.30 am till 2 pm, Mon to Fri. The new Seniors Set Menu offers one, two or three course hot meal options to all over 65s at an affordable rate five days a week from mid-day. Contd. Pg 2

Community Action Plan

Contd from front cover



Now, five years on, the Community Council, Community Centre Management Committee, The Community Garden, West Calder FC, Harburn Residents Association and The Trust are aiming to update the plan this spring.

With this newsletter you will find a paper copy of the community survey which will inform our new plan. Please do take the time to complete this - or the online version at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/westcalderharburn> - to ensure your voice is heard

What is a Community Action Plan or CAP?

A CAP is a document created by a community which takes the opinions of the residents of an area (usually gathered by a mixture of a community survey and engagement sessions - like at the Christmas Fair) and statistical information about the area (like employment rates, health, education, poverty) and presents these as priorities and actions which reflect the aims of the people and community organisations of an area.

Why a CAP?

A CAP has three main purposes.

It helps a community express its voice clearly and often more loudly to bodies that affect that community; such as the local council or even national government and agencies such as the NHS and Police Scotland.

It makes it easier for community organisations that want to make a positive difference to apply for funding.

It sets a clear agenda for the changes that local community groups and individuals wish to make.

What effect did the last CAP have?

Well we don't want to pre-empt any answers to the questions in the survey but it is worth pointing out some of the achievements made by a range of community partners such as:

More community events - fireworks, Christmas Fair, heritage events, family fun days, Halloween events, community barbeques and pantomimes

Improved appearance of the Village - hanging baskets, planters, improved Christmas lights, new street lamps, village gateway signs, refurbishment of the War Memorial.

Improved facilities - Stickman Trail at the Community Garden, path improvements to Hermand Birchwood, new equipment at Harburn Hall.

It's your turn now to say what you think has or hasn't changed, what is good or bad and what you would like to see happen so please take the time to fill in the survey either on paper or on-line.

If you are interested in getting involved with any community groups, activities or in delivering any actions that might be identified in the new Community Action Plan please put your details on the survey form or contact getinvolved@westcalder.org.

Completed surveys can be returned to the Library, the Community Centre, Douglas' Newsagents & Harburn Golf



SKATEPARK PLANNING APPROVED!

We are delighted to say that we have received planning permission for the community's new skatepark facility to be built next to the football pitch between Parkhead Primary and the new high school. Now we need the weather to improve and to arrange the detail of construction access. Getting there!

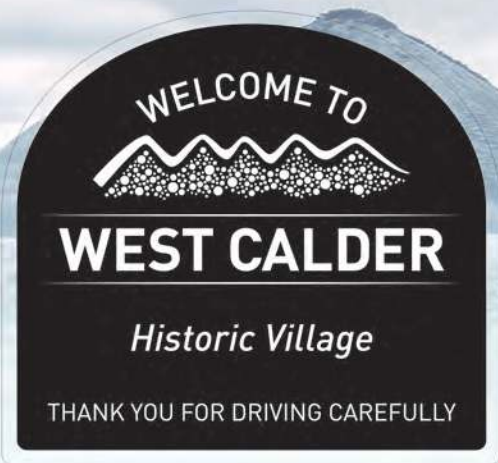
Contd from front page



Everyone though is welcome to use the café/lounge in the Community Centre - read the papers, pick up a book, use

use the wi-fi, find out what's on, find support they need - and they can also get breakfast, brunch and lunch. We have cereals, fruit, yoghurts and hot breakfast rolls, panninis, baked potatoes, soup and hot lunch options - not to mention the home baking!

You are always guaranteed a warm welcome from our two fantastic staff members Leona and Denise and the college students and volunteers that help them so pop in and join us soon.



GATEWAY SIGNS MAKE AN ENTRANCE

Slowly but surely our new Welcome to West Calder (and Polbeth!) signs are appearing. It's been a long road to get here but with kind help from Siemens Power Lines and Walker Homes on the installation we are set to have all the ones we have permissions for up and brightening up the entrances to our village.

Spring exhibition with a co-operative twist.

Some of you may have seen the stunning trio of photographs of The Five Sisters by Rodger Shearer in The Community Centre lounge. They are part of a series Rodger- who is from Fauldhouse and a student of West Lothian College - has done on the local post-industrial landscape. Four of his pictures hang in the Scottish Parliament and we are very proud to be able to host a full exhibition of his work over the Easter holidays in The Community Centre. Rodger has also taken on a commission from The Trust to photograph the buildings of West Calder Cooperative Society as they are now and these will also be on display. Pop in and see the images in the centre now and we will keep you posted on the upcoming full exhibition.

West Calder Fire Station is currently recruiting retained Firefighters



At the moment we are primarily focusing on recruiting for DAYTIME cover
Are you aged 18 or over?
Do you want to become part of a dynamic, hard working team?
Do you want to receive the comprehensive, ongoing training needed to fulfill your role as a firefighter within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Would you like to play a part in keeping your local community and further afield safe?
Do you work shifts?
Are you physically fit and in good health?
Do you have a permanent residence or work in the area and are you able to respond to and be at the station within FIVE minutes for emergency calls? (pager is provided)
If the answer is YES to all of these questions then we would love to hear from YOU!
Drop in to the station on a Monday night between 7pm and 9pm and ask for Crew Manager Rand or Crew Manager McCormack to find out more!

WE'VE MOVED



Most of you will know we have moved to West Calder Community Centre from our Union Sq office. In early October we took up the invitation to take up residence in order to help support the Management Committee in re-invigorating the centre, respond to recent cuts and secure a long-term future for the centre as the heart of the village.

We are delighted to be working in partnership with them and are enjoying our new surroundings within the hub of the community.

Our Office is open 9am-5pm
Monday to Thursday.



Contact Us:

West Calder & Harburn Community Development Trust
West Calder Community Centre
Dickson Street
West Calder
EH55 8DZ

Telephone: 01506 872931

Email : cdt@westcalder.org

Find us on



**GOOD CONNECTIONS
DROP
IN
EVERY
WEDNESDAY
10-12
WEST
CALDER
COMMUNITY
CENTRE
CAFE**

Good Connections is for anybody wishing to contribute to the place they live, gain experience and opportunity, and maintain or improve their health and well-being. We currently have 30 members of the local community who give their time to support others, contribute to the area, and take part in meaningful activity. If you would like to hear more about opportunities you could be a part of, such as our gardening group, cafe team, IT and marketing, crafts, events and Heritage teams please come along to our weekly drop in running Wednesdays 10-12.

or email : getinvolved@westcalder.org

Have ideas and skills you would like to share? want to get involved in something new? looking to get more active? Drop ins are held in at West Calder community centre cafe and led by members of the community who are keen to hear from you.

REGISTER WITH YOUR G.P



Remember and register with your GP! Winter is the time for bugs, viruses and other nasties. If you do need the help of a doctor, they can help you much more quickly and efficiently if you have pre-registered with them. It's easy to do. Just pop into your local medical centre and ask.

Let's look after ourselves this winter!