

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



2022 was, again, a busy year which seemed to have the theme of moving from recovery and consolidation into new and exciting ventures.

The Brunch Club Café and meal delivery service settled into being back at home in The Community Centre. We run this project with West Calder Community Education Association (West Calder Hub) and we are really happy that that partnership has been developing positively with great potential for 2023. The Brunch Club team also catered for several key community events and provided Christmas meals to groups across West Lothian with West Lothian Council. Well done Brunch Club team and the fantastic volunteers that make it possible.

The Good Connections Community Wellbeing Project really grew with a dedicated member of staff in post (Mark replaced Amy S in the summer when she happily moved to a new job in Spain) and offered a wellbeing walk group, art therapy, woodland wellbeing, counselling, peer support groups for men and women and a self-support library as well as a one-to-one support for individuals to access services and activities. We are delighted that we have funding to continue this important project throughout the next year.

Our partnership with Polbeth & West Calder Community Garden has really developed. We managed to fund a team of three (two part-time development workers and a manager) to boost activity and enterprise at the Community Woods & Garden and also added a fourth person to the team through West Lothian Councils Long Term Unemployed initiative. Activity really started to pick up during the year with our brilliant volunteer groups helping make some improvements to the site, grow a huge selection of veg which has been used by Polbeth Hub and The Brunch Club, running several successful plant sales and some amazing craft sessions. We are also really pleased that our local schools are actively using the site.



CHAIRPERSON REPORT CONT

The partnership between the two organisations to run the site has developed to such an extent that the trustees of both have decided to amalgamate the organisations and are developing a new business plan to ensure that the Woods & Garden are available for the communities of Polbeth and West Calder long into the future. Throughout 2022, The Trust and Garden team also supported Easter Breich Woodland Community Group in their first year of ownership of the woods.

Another successful project was The Calder Witch Hunt which the Trust supported to deliver a range of activities over the year (with funding and support from Museums and Galleries Scotland and West Lothian Council Museums). Central to this was a weekend of fascinating talks, exhibitions and a pop-up museum in June as well as a dedicated website. The pop-up exhibition has since done a tour of West Lothian and the core volunteer group continue to arrange activities including a play planned for 2023.

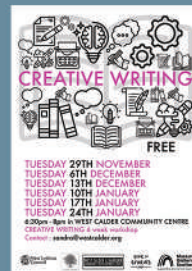
2022 saw huge progress in our plans to redevelop The Old Bakery Building (West Calder Workspace) as The Scottish Cooperative Discovery & Activity Centre. Our application to National Lottery Heritage Fund was successful and we have been able to develop detailed plans and do some really fun engagement and activities for the community. A really successful weekend of events in November included a photographic exhibition, a replica shop, a model of the building, arts and crafts activities, Lego sessions, building plans, lino prints and even a sweetie shop! We have also been consulting with a wide range of people and groups including our local neighbours.

We received another two great boosts with successful funding applications to Historic Environment Scotland and The Scottish Governments Regeneration Fund.

2023 will be really busy with new funding deadlines, planning and further consultation, but it looks like we will be progressing with the project which is hugely exciting.

The fireworks event was a great success again this year with a great turnout as was our Christmas event and Santa Parade. Both of these events are now delivered in partnership with West Calder Hub.

I would like to thank our fantastic volunteers who made our activities this year possible as well as our community partners, Community Council, Local Councillors and officers of West Lothian Council and our funders and supporters: The National Lottery Heritage Fund, The Development Trust Association Scotland, West Lothian Council, West Lothian Communities Mental Health Fund, Museums and Galleries Scotland, West Lothian Food Network, West Lothian Development Trust and Pearie Law, Harburnhead and Longhillburn windfarms.



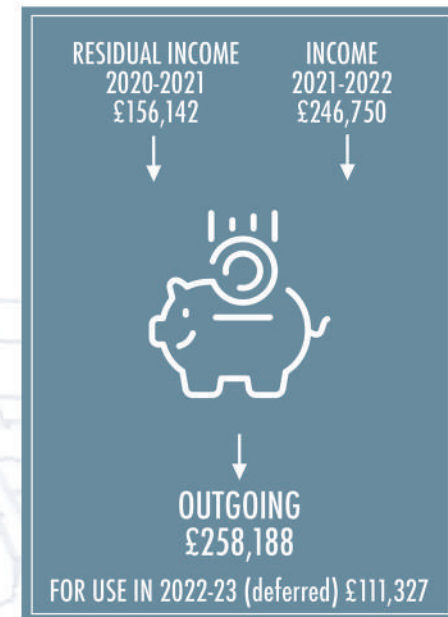
2022

In 2023 we plan to :

- To continue to develop the Brunch Club café and lunch club in partnership with WCCEA/West Calder Hub with a new café design
- Continue to deliver the Good Connections Community Wellbeing project
- To continue to produce a community newsletter
- Progress The Scottish Cooperative Discovery Centre
- To continue to manage and develop the Community Woods & Garden: Polbeth & West Calder
- To deliver a range of community events ourselves and in partnership
- To continue to support Easter Breich Woodland Community Group



Amy D Sarah Steph



Staff

Matt has been Trust Manager now for over 6 years and is from Harburn. **Mhairi** has been with us over four years and is in charge of community communications, events and design, she is from Fauldhouse. **Mark** is our Good Connections Community Wellbeing Link Worker and started with us in July 2022. **Sandra** is from West Calder and is our finance and admin officer and joined the team in Summer 22.

Denise is Manager of The Brunch Club Community Café and works with **Leona** our Cook-Coordinator and **Sadie** is our Kitchen Assistant. The kitchen team has been in place for three years now.

Amy D is Community Garden Manager and has been with us for over three years and headed a team that included **Sarah**, **Steph** and **Rhys** over 2022.

Trustees as at 31 Dec 2022

Gavin Henderson (**Chair**)
 Steph Gibbs (**Treasurer**)
 Frank Boles
 Carolyn Craig (**Secretary**)
 Guy Vernham
 Willy Findlay
 Colin Shipton
 Jim McEwan
 Sarah McIntosh
 Dorry McLaughlin
 Norman Lannigan

2022



Matt Mhairi Mark Sandra



Leona Denise Sadie