

WEST CALDER & HARBURN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

VOLUNTEER
POWER

The Power of Volunteering



ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

Well this has been quite a year! And not the one any of us imagined. We ended 2019 with a successful Christmas Festival even if the weather did mean that the market was moved indoors again (to the Community Centre this year!) and the Santa Parade and Family Fete very well attended with Santa's new grotto a great hit. Over the year we produced and delivered a quarterly community newsletter across West Calder, Harburn and Polbeth and continued our public art initiative with the addition of some great murals by local artist Calum McCarra, with help from WCHS students, on the new skate-park.

The pandemic lockdown came as the Brunch Club Community Cafe (which the trust delivers in partnership with West Calder Community Education Association SCIO) was 15 months old and had proved to be a great success. For lockdown and the pandemic period we transformed it into The Brunch Club @ Home, raised funding and partnered with Braid House Care Centre to produce and deliver over 40,000 two-course meals locally and across West Lothian by November. We have now raised funding to continue this until March.

"A thriving, family friendly, lively and enterprising community with it's own unique rural identity"

This could not have been done without the awesome contribution made by the volunteers who stepped up - and continue to do so - to deliver these meals to the elderly, isolated and vulnerable in our community. As well as locally, during the pandemic your trust and the Brunch Club @ Home has supported communities and organisations in Polbeth, Addiewell, Stoneyburn, Whitburn, Longridge, Fauldhouse, Ladywell, Craigshill, Dedridge, Blackburn and across West Lothian.

Along with the meals we and our volunteers have delivered hearing aid batteries, run errands, collected prescriptions, made check-up calls, delivered activity packs to meal customers and to both local primary schools, provided games and activity boxes to local families and set up a counselling service.

A key partnership has been between the trust and Polbeth & West Calder Community Garden. Two part-time trust employees now work on our joint project to develop activities and enterprise for health and education. They delivered our hugely successful Sunflower Competition and re-started volunteer activity at the garden including growing flowers and veg, the zero-waste shop and the community workshop. We are really excited about the potential here together.

That partnership (along with the Community Council) has enabled us to start the next round of improvements to Union Square - the memorial and planter refurbishment. Watch out also for the artwork and opening of The Shale Trail which the trust has been part of since inception!

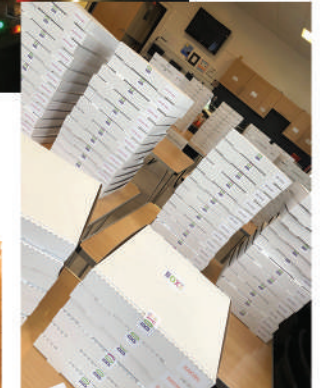
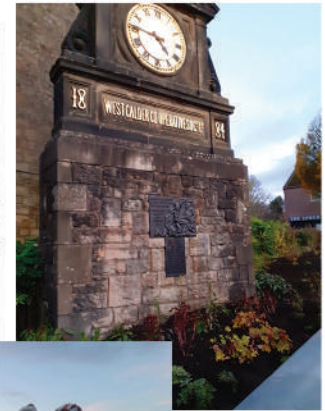
We are in the process of securing ownership of the Old Coop Bakery Building with the aim of not having to abandon the positive route to funding we developed (despite that being put on hold due to the pandemic) while minimising risk to ourselves. It has been a delicate and drawn-out process but we will be restarting our applications for funding in the new year. We are currently looking at how our concept of a Scottish Cooperative Discovery Centre, kitchen and events space, training and wellbeing support facilities can be improved so as to support our community in recovery from this exceptional period.

I want to thank all who have supported the trust this past year. Our members and volunteers, our local partners, the councillors and officers of West Lothian Council and our funders: Harnburnhead LDV and Pearie Law windfarms, The Scottish Government, West Lothian Development Trust and all the people who made generous donations.

It has been a challenging year and it looks to continue that way but we are in a robust position to continue to respond.

Here's to next year!

Gavin Henderson
Chairperson



Quotes from the community

"Thank you for a great service during this pandemic. Volunteers always been very pleasant."

"Thanks again for making such a big effort in making Halloween that little bit more special in what's been a very hard year for all"

"Great night and fantastic support from the community. Well done to all involved and keep up the good work."

"Wish to Thank the staff and volunteers at the Brunch Club @ Home for a brilliant community service during lockdown, you are all a true reflection of community spirit in action, we thank you."

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



In 2021 we plan to:

- Continue the Brunch Club @ Home meal service over winter
- Explore how to restart the Brunch Club Community Cafe again sustainably
- Develop more health & wellbeing support for our community
- Redesign and fund the Coop Bakery development project in a way that helps our community recover and grow
- Work with The Community Garden to develop our joint project and deliver more flowers, veg and activities for community wellbeing
- Complete this round of Union Square developments
- Develop and implement a thorough "walk the talk" environmental policy and strategy
- Hold a series of community events (hopefully pandemic allowing!)
- Continue to deliver a community newsletter



RESIDUAL INCOME
2018-2019
£167,197

INCOME
2019-2020
£452,662



OUTGOING
£474,367

FOR USE IN 2020-21 (deferred) £142,347



TRUST TEAM 2020

Matt has been Trust Manager now for over three years and is from Harburn. He is responsible for fundraising, staff management, key project development and working with and for the board on governance and strategy. **Mhairi** has been with us over two years and is in charge of community communications, events and design, she is from Fauldhouse. **Niamh** has also been with us for two years, is also from Fauldhouse and now works on project and volunteer support, administration and wellbeing support delivery.

Denise is manager of the Brunch Club @Home and **Leona** is our Cook Coordinator. Denise is from Polbeth and Leona is from Fauldhouse.

Amy is Volunteer & Project Coordinator for our joint project with Polbeth & West Calder Community Garden and **Róisín** works with her as Project Delivery & enterprise Officer.

TRUSTEES AS AT NOVEMBER 2020

Chair: Gavin Henderson, **Treasurer:** Steph Gibbs, **Secretary:** Carolyn Craig, Frank Boles, Kate Sneddon, Willy Findlay, Colin Shipton & Iain Gillespie

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST
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Pictured on the front and back cover are our amazing volunteers who have been instrumental in helping us deliver throughout the pandemic.