

## Getting in Touch

Our offices are based in Union Square and we just love folk popping in to tell us about what they do and how we can help and so many of you do! Lots of people also stop every day to read our notice boards in the windows, so if you have a community story, a project, an idea or a poster you want us to put up, come in and see us. We are open 9am-3pm every day. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Our new Five Sisters Communities Website is Open 24/7, so when our offices are closed you can still keep up to date with all The Trust and Communities News and Events Online at [www.westcalder.org](http://www.westcalder.org)



We also have a new What's On Email Newsletter, if you would like to receive news to your email inbox then please contact us on [cdt@westcalder.org](mailto:cdt@westcalder.org)



## Contact Us:

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Find us on



The Trust Website – <http://www.westcalder.org>  
Scottish Charity No: SCO43914



# West Calder & Harburn Community Development Trust

## Welcome Errin to the team!

The Trust is really pleased to now employ Errin Anderson – who many will know from his youth work in the area – to work full time as a community development worker in Polbeth. This is through the Aspiring West Lothian project which The Trust led and Angela Constance MSP launched here in West Calder back in October 2017.

“I have really enjoyed working with the young people of this area and am looking forward now to supporting the wider community in developing plans for local projects.” Said Errin, who will be working closely with Alicia Mallagaray, the Family Support Practitioner who is working in St Mary’s RC Primary, as well as with other local organisations. Find out more about our community work in Polbeth on Facebook at Polbeth Community HUB or at [www.westcalder.org](http://www.westcalder.org).



## Are These Your Relatives?

**Did you or any of your family work for the Co-Op? Have you got any old photos or memorabilia? You can help us, we want to hear from you!**

The Trust are looking for memorabilia, your family stories and photos for the upcoming Spring Heritage Festival “Cauther’s Co-operative Movement – A Celebration”, so far we have discovered three Co-operative Jubilee Commemorative Tea Caddy’s and we are wondering how many there are in the village. Each member was presented with one for the Jubilee in 1925 and each members child under the age of 14 was presented with a ‘jug’ full of sweets, we have no idea what these looked like, perhaps you have one of these, we would love to find out what they look like, it’s a modern mystery!

The Trust is putting together an exhibition featuring displays on the Co-operative Movement and we are looking for stories of the people who worked there and their memories. If you have any memorabilia or photos that you would like to loan The Trust for the exhibition please call into the offices on Union Square or get in touch with us on 01506 872931 or [cdt@westcalder.org](mailto:cdt@westcalder.org)



## Let's Celebrate Cauther's Co-operative Movement

The Trust plans a celebration of the Co-operative movement in West Calder. The heritage festival will run over 10 days from the 18th to the 28th of April. There will be a series of displays, exhibitions and events at the old CIS building on Union Square and a centrepiece performance of **The Gallant 16** show at The West Kirk on Fri 20th April. This is a show of old and new songs and stories – some written with the pupils of Parkhead and St Mary's – celebrating the Co-operative movement in Scotland and West Calder. Created and performed by Ewan McVicar and it promises to be something special.

At the CIS building will be an exhibition of the history of West Calder Co-operative Society, The Trust's heritage mapping project, community memory sessions, talks and film-shows.

## We Want Your Stories and Memories!

So many of our lives have been touched and shaped by the Co-op here in the West Calder area. It is these memories and stories that have inspired this celebration. Do you have a story, an image or an artefact to share? We would love to hear from you. Pop in to No. 14 Union Square, email [cdt@westcalder.org](mailto:cdt@westcalder.org) or contact us on Facebook.

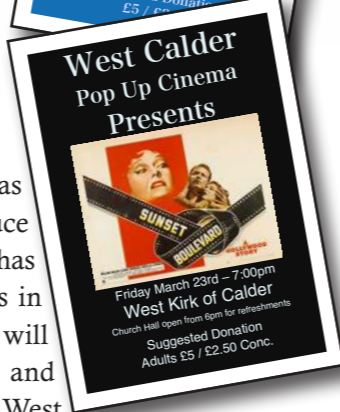
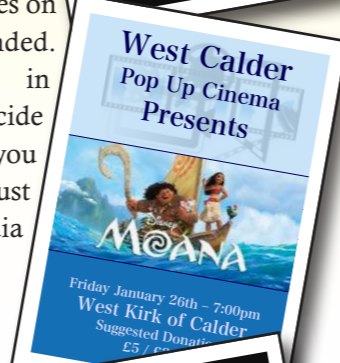
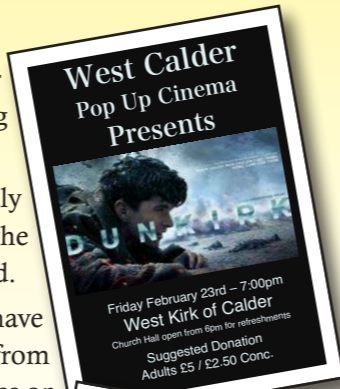


## West Calder Pop-Up Cinema

West Calder Community Cinema have run a very successful trial of 3 films over the first three months of the year, showing in the West Kirk of Calder.

The trial has included: Family friendly Moana, the Blockbuster Dunkirk and the black and white classic Sunset Boulevard.

The numbers attending the screenings have been excellent with audiences ranging from 30-150, with incredibly positive responses on our questionnaires from all who attended. The Community Cinema Group in partnership with the Trust will now decide on a plan to take the project forward. If you would like to get involved contact the trust via email website or social media messaging.



## Public Art Project Update

Award Winning Artist Kate Ive, who has been commissioned to design and produce a piece of public art to sit beside the A71 has been out and about offering workshops in our community. The artwork she will produce will sit between West Calder and Polbeth by the entrance of the new West Calder High School and is due for completion for the new school opening in Summer 2018. Kate has been completing the engagement phase of the project by working with school children from the villages to create pieces of art work and inspire her on her design journey. She recently held a number of hands on workshop sessions with St. Mary's Primary School in Polbeth Village Hall. The children took part in a paper based activity to produce a 3D slice through the internal 'landscape' of their brains and filled the compartments with all the things that fill their minds! Very Interesting! Kate now has a temporary studio set up in West Calder High School where she will work with their S1 and S2 students. The work completed with the High School students will help her to produce artworks to be displayed inside the new High School itself.

## In Bloom

Spring is definitely on its way! At the time of writing, the snow from 'The Beast from the East' is still lying thick on the ground but the crocuses are pushing through, bringing with them the hope of warmer days. You may remember that Parkhead Primary Schools' Eco Group 'Park Pals' had a wonderful autumnal afternoon gardening at the Cleughbrae and kindly allowed us to share the photos on Facebook. Who could forget our wonderful 'Guerrilla Gardener' who not only helped us plant up Union Square but supplied her own bulbs too! The Trust are looking forward to seeing all the spring bulbs planted at the end of last year starting to push their way through, as a bit of fresh colour, really lifts the whole village & brings so much enjoyment to all of us.

We have been matching people who want to volunteer with the ways that they can get involved and help improve their community, from planting flowers to befriending. We even have social media admins who help out on community Facebook pages!

To find out what opportunities are available in your local area, contact The Trust or visit the website

[www.westcalder.org/getinvolved](http://www.westcalder.org/getinvolved)



## Jukebox Generation

Following on from the success of the Jukebox Generations pilot, a music based social club for our seniors. The Trust is now pleased to offer twice weekly sessions starting in March 2018. The social club which ran on Tuesday Mornings 10-12 at the Community Centre will start again on 13th March and the Trust will be adding a further session on Thursday evenings at Stewart Court, in the coffee lounge from 6-8pm. Participants are invited to bring along their music including old vinyl records and discuss their favourite song and reminisce about former musical experiences from concerts they attended to memories of local dance halls. There are also a variety of musical based activities from 'Name That Tune' to Quizzes and Bingo.

## Co-operative Bakery Consultation

The results so far! Between last November and this February consultants Community Enterprise conducted a survey on the community's views of a potential project based around taking the Old Bakery Building in to community ownership. We had 446 responses of which 85% supported the community ownership idea and 83% thought that West Lothian needed more family-friendly attractions and that that this could be based in West Calder.

They also analysed 132 responses to a wider community survey on the positives and negatives of our area, spoke to 188 people at community events, held a focus group with the immediate neighbours of Society Place and spoke to 11 other local organisations.

They have just issued a draft report to The Trust with options and risks considered. They also make some recommendations and suggest next actions.

Key among these is for the community to be aware of the challenges of such a large project and for the need for it to work in conjunction with our Community Centre.

As soon as this detailed report is finalised we will share it with the community and there will be a display and consultation in April alongside the "Cauther's Co-operative Movement – a celebration" event in April.

