

ANNUAL REVIEW 2019



Chair's Report

Our first full year based at the Community Centre has come to an end and it has been quite a year. Our annual fireworks event was a great success, with at least 2500 people enjoying the event again this year. Our new format, two day Christmas Festival was also a success – despite weather necessitating a move of the Saturday Market from Union Square to the West Kirk at the last minute! – and the Sunday Santa Parade and Family Fete was very well attended.

We organised two exhibitions at the Community Centre – Rodger Shearer's amazing "Abandoned" series in the Spring and West Lothian College students "West Calder Heritage" in the Summer. Also on an art theme, two new decorated phone boxes joined the Canary on Main Street with the Gala Bunting themed box in Parkhead and the Garden themed box at the Community Garden along with the decorated "Fun For All" containers there.

Also at the Community Centre we have – in partnership with the Management Committee - run the Brunch Club Community Café for nearly a year now. Serving over 5000 lunches to local senior citizens as well as many other customers, events and dining evenings. Support us in 2020 to help make this important provision sustainable.

We have worked in partnership as well to help bring The Advice Shop, Access 2 Employment, Men Matters and The Food Bank into the Community Centre to support our community.

We had the new Welcome to West Calder signs installed as well as the fantastic finger posts at the library and in Union Square. New map boards are up as well and maps on their way. We built the new Five Sisters Skatepark on Parkhead playing fields which has already proved a great success with local kids of all ages – watch out for the grand opening event next Spring.

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

We submitted a comprehensive Community Asset Transfer request to West Lothian Council for the Old Coop Bakery Building and started to implement a funding strategy to develop it as a Museum and Discovery Centre based around our own local, and wider Scottish, Cooperative heritage with a stunning events hall and facilities for those on the autistic spectrum and with special needs. We have had an invitation to apply for a large amount from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and have had positive feedback from the Scottish Government. It is a long process but still heading in the right direction.

Our new community newsletter had its first edition distributed this Autumn with information from a wide range of local organisations.

We delivered – on behalf of the Steering Group – the new West Calder and Harburn Community Action Plan this Summer which will help ourselves and other organisations plan and fund the things we want to see as a community. Along with this we helped facilitate the Five Sisters Community Partnership which helps local community organisations meet, communicate, plan and voice common goals on behalf of our community.

The £250 000 Aspiring West Lothian project led by the trust came to a successful end with its most local legacy being the growth and development of Polbeth Hub SCIO and the rejuvenation of Polbeth Village Hall.

We distributed around £15,000 in local community grants this year including a £10,000 contribution to the redevelopment of Harburn Village Hall and a commitment to bank-roll the cash flow for that work as it goes ahead.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the trust this past year. All of our local community partners, our Community Council, local Councillors and officers of West Lothian Council. The Development Trust Association and our funders: Harburnhead and Pearie Law Windfarms, West Lothian Development Trust, Sports Scotland, West Lothian Council, The Scottish Government, Coalfield Regeneration Trust, Edinburgh Airport, The Levensat Trust and all those who made donations for our events.

We have spent a lot this year on delivery but end the year in a robust position for next year.

I would also like to offer particular thanks to the volunteers who make everything we do possible; from my fellow directors, to leaders and inspirers of projects, to event stewards and Brunch Club helpers, litter pickers and copy editors – it is they who keep this organisation moving.

Here's to another great year.

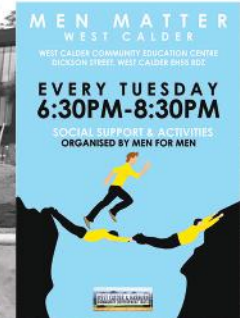
Gavin Henderson
Chairperson



In 2020 we plan to:

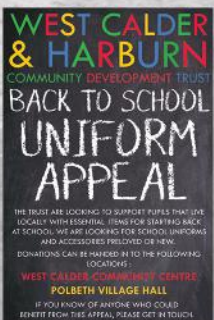
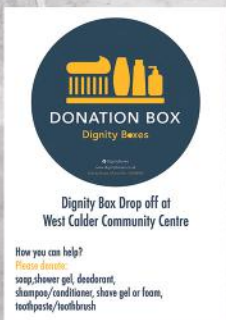
- Raise the Stage One funding to build a Scottish Cooperative Discovery Centre and Events Hall
- Upgrade Union Square through the Town Centre Fund
- Move The Brunch Club onwards to sustainability in its second year
- Hold a spring event to officially open the new Skatepark
- Work with the Community Garden to produce more flowers, veg and a community workshop
- Work with and support the new CEA SCIO to develop services at the Community Centre
- Produce a quarterly community newsletter
- Deliver even better and more sustainable community events

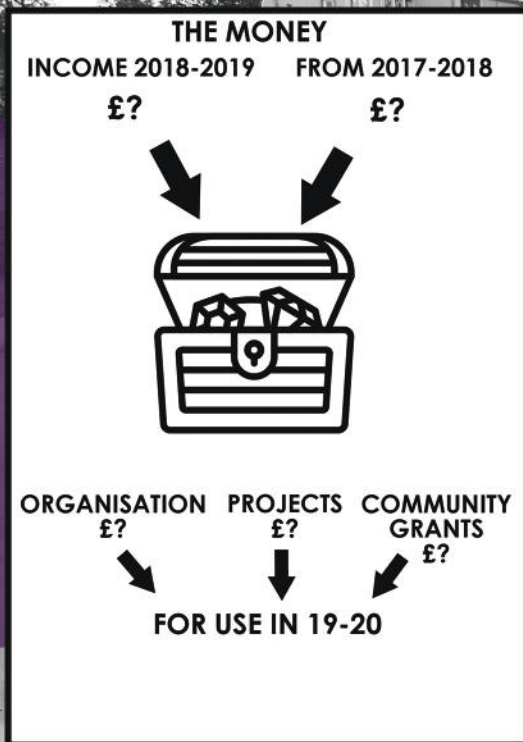
WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



Quotes from the community

- “The days for us as a family at Christmas, fireworks etc are a great time for the community to come together.”
- “Village has been spruced up and there is an element of pride in the village”
- “More community events getting better and better each year”
- “Brighter courtyard area in high street, more/better communication on up and coming events”
- “More community events, more community togetherness between groups and physical improvements”
- “I like the interest the CDT has taken in the history of the area and I’m keen to see and learn more about West Calder and Harburn’s heritage”
- “I like taking my kids to the community events, the fireworks and the gala day, brilliant old-fashioned fun days out”





TRUST TEAM

Matt has been Trust Manager now for over two 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** is in charge of community communications, events and design, she is from Fauldhouse. **Niamh** joined us as a STEPSN2WORK placement in November last year and has stayed on with the team. She is also from Fauldhouse and does project support, volunteer and general admin and is also contracted out to the Polbeth Hub based after school activity club.

Denise and **Leona** are in charge of the Brunch Club and split cooking, serving, ordering and café management between them. Denise is from Polbeth and Leona is from Fauldhouse as well.

We also welcome **Amy** and **Róisín** on board. Amy is our new Volunteer Coordinator who we share with The Community Garden. She is from South Queensferry. Róisín is a Project Delivery Officer who will deliver local environmental projects working very closely with Amy. Róisín is from West Calder originally although she now lives in Edinburgh.

TRUSTEES (NOV 19)

Chair: Gavin Henderson, **Treasurer:** Steph Gibbs, **Secretary:** Carolyn Craig, Craig Meek, Alan Bryce, Frank Boles, Kate Sneddon, Willy Findlay & Joan O'Donnell

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