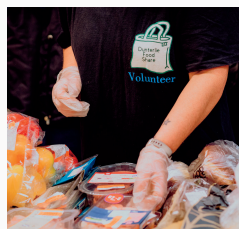


Dunterlie



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING - WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



SNAPSHOT

It has been an exciting but challenging year for Getting Alongside Communities in Dunterlie. Groups were finally able to come together again properly as the effects of the lockdowns reduced and the community began to recover. However, the cost of living crisis presented new challenges for the community and the various groups in the area.

Alongside this, Dunterlie had a change of Co-ordinator in April as Laura went off on maternity leave and Neill took on her role. This, of course, presented other challenges as the community built trust with Neill and he got to know local people, the groups and the wider community.

However, the change went really well, thanks to the amazing support given to Neill by the local community and partner organisations. This allowed a continuation with the recovery and an opportunity to build momentum post-lockdown and for a number of new activities and projects to develop including:

- Foodshare – £25k funding, development of creative waiting room/warm space, Beyond the Foodbank project.
- Dunterlie Action Group – Awards for All, MUGA re-development, Community Enterprise support.
- Holiday Programme – programme of summer activities, funding, development of groups.
- TRACS, Creative Waiting Room and Folks Music Project – Burns Night, Music Provision and stories becoming part of the community.

All of these new developments have made Dunterlie an exciting place to be in 2022 with new people and projects coming to the community and creating a sense of hope as groups came together again for their first Christmas events since 2019 and rebuilt a sense of togetherness, cohesion and renewed community in the area.

Dunterlie Action Group – Recovery and control

The Dunterlie Action Group have begun meeting again regularly and recovering from the issues presented by the pandemic and lockdowns. In May they received a grant of £10k from the National Lottery Awards for All scheme to cover the hall let costs of all the groups involved in the application, to promote the centre and encourage new groups to take up lets. Working in partnership with Culture and Leisure, the group were able to offer free slots on a Thursday and Friday which have enabled the Folks Music Project to provide free come and try music sessions and tuition, and for the Foodshare to work in partnership with the Village Storytelling Centre to set up a new space originally titled the 'Creative Waiting Room' but now a Warm and Welcome Space offering free food, advice, support, music and stories.

The Action Group have also continued to develop their partnership with East Renfrewshire Council's Economic Growth and Inclusive Development Department (EGID) around the re-development of the football pitch at the rear of the centre and wider developments in the community.

Unfortunately, the planned re-development of the pitch that the group had partnered on the consultation for didn't happen due to an increase in material and building costs and they agreed to send a response to EGID regarding the consultation. The group were disappointed with the way this had been handled and that despite lots of hard work on their part and working with the council they had been left no further forward in terms of getting the pitch back into operation. EGID responded well to this and the group are now working closely with them to develop plans for a new smaller pitch and other potential developments for the site which will be put to the community in 2023.

The committee have also begun working with the Community Enterprise Accelerate programme to review their structures, develop their mission statement, strategic priorities and a plan for the coming years. This is a hugely important step as the Action Group begins to take on greater responsibility in the centre and the wider community. All of this reflects a clear interest amongst the group in having greater control over development in the centre and the surrounding area, and a clear understanding that if they don't do this then other organisations will not do it for them.

Music and Stories return to centre

Initially through the TRACS project 'Harp and Carp', then followed on by work independently developed by the Folks Music Project (FMP) and the Village Storytelling Centre (VSC), the tradition of music and storytelling in the centre has been revived and developed. This has brought lots of new people to the centre and allowed many to find new ways to be part of the community.

“It's a great way to actually be together... it brings a peaceful harmony, a wee tonic

The value of stories and music in the centre is also apparent in the storytelling work carried out by VSC for Corra which produced an amazing video telling the story of the centre before and after Corra started working in the area. This video can be watched here: rb.gy/dmbr

“When there's music or stories it creates a place where people can connect

The work of VSC and FMP has also provided a bridge between activities and to bring new people to the centre and its groups. While FMP are continually building on their work in the centre and hope to have funding for year round free music provision in the centre by the end of 2023.



Dunterlie Foodshare – The Magic Grows

The Foodshare continues to reduce poverty, build connection and spread more of it's magic in Dunterlie and Barrhead 2022, while also recovering from the effects of the pandemic and facing up to the new challenge of the cost of living crisis.

The group provided over 3000 bags of food to local people in 2022 worth around £85k. This is an incredible achievement for a group of volunteers and has had a huge impact in the area. Something reflected in the fact that volunteers devoted over 1500 hours of their time to the project.

Alongside this amazing achievement there have been a number of other new developments in the Foodshare this year. Perhaps most significant of these has been the development of the Creative Waiting Room/Warm and Welcome Space each Friday prior to the Foodshare.

Working in partnership with the Village Storytelling Centre and bringing in new volunteers, this space has created a much greater sense of welcome and belonging for those using the Foodshare. The value of creating this welcome and providing support around financial, social and health issues is now very obvious in the centre with around 10 people who use the space attending the centre's Burns Night Ceilidh and 3 of them either singing, reading poems or addressing the haggis.

The Foodshare group were also able to complete their work with SCDC's Knowledge is Power project and produced their wonderful The Magic of Dunterlie Foodshare report and promotional video, which have been shared at a variety of events and been a big boost to the group. You can watch it here: <https://rb.gy/i90o>

A number of volunteers from the Foodshare also took part in the Farming, Food and Countryside Commission's Beyond the Foodbank's research project. This included hosting a roundtable discussion with delegates from across the UK exploring the crisis in food systems and the role of community project like Dunterlie Foodshare in developing new solutions.

Hosting the event in Dunterlie was a really great experience and opened up a number of discussions within the Foodshare group and built new connections with other similar groups. It was also a great opportunity to share the group's The Magic of Foodshare report, to realise their value within the wider food provision ecology and to begin to think about how they can grow and develop what the Foodshare does in line with this.

The group also hosted their first Foodshare Xmas lunch since the start of the Covid lockdowns in 2020. This was a huge success with over 50 people attending and receiving a 3 course Christmas lunch cooked and served by the Foodshare volunteers.

The day also included performances by Dunterlie Adult Drama, The Folks Music Project and the Village Storytelling Centre. Delivery of the event was also supported by staff from Corra and Barrhead Housing Association. This was an important event in terms of bringing people back together again post lockdowns and a huge step in the recovery of the centre.

“ I save about £30 a week - what I get in the bag helps me put the heating on in the afternoon for an hour



“ I feel wanted down here and people don't always feel that way, they can feel alienated

“ I'm a pensioner and sometimes you feel past it but this makes you feel like there's still things you can do and learn



Holiday Partnership – working together for local children and families

The growth and development of the Holiday Partnership (HP) has been another hugely positive development in Dunterlie in 2022. The partnership now includes Dunterlie Arts and Crafts, Dunterlie Parent and Toddlers, ERA, Barrhead Housing Association, Corra and Carlibar Nursery, and delivered an amazing programme of events over the summer and a further highly successful Halloween event.

The progress of the HP is really inspiring with a wide variety of groups and local people coming together to make it happen for local children and families. The partnership now has representatives from across the community and is working towards creating a sustainable yearly programme of events and activities for young people and families in the area. To support this, the group have already begun applying for their own funding and developing the structures they need to make a difference long term. You can watch a video of the summer fun day here: rb.gy/4h28

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“It was great to have something free to do with the kids in the summer



“Really nice to have something to do for children with no pressure

What have we learned?

This has been another challenging year for Dunterlie, but the groups have responded well and continued to build on the recovery from the lockdown and work together to meet new challenges.

Similar to 2021, it was clear to all the local groups and volunteers that when the community in Dunterlie works together it can create amazing activities, events, projects and change for the local people, and that the work they are doing has support from a wide variety of local partners.

However, there remain significant barriers to creating change and the development of community both in the way spaces such as Dunterlie Resource Centre operate and how agencies and organisations approach working with local community organisations.

There is however a real opportunity to build the kinds of partnerships required to make long lasting change in Dunterlie by re-thinking the way local systems operate and the barriers they create to building vibrant, strong and sustainable community activity and organisations.

“The community side of it wasn't there...I missed that side of it during the pandemic as I have contact with people again... and there's enough time to spend with them to catch up



What happens next?

The momentum created in Dunterlie in 2022 feels like a potential tipping point in the development of Corra's work in the area.

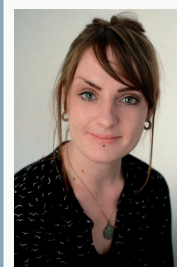
Organisations such as Dunterlie Action Group and the Foodshare have an opportunity to think more long term as we move on from the pandemic and lockdowns. This chance to look to the future will give them the opportunity to think about their role in the community and how they can develop to build upon the work which has been done in the area since Corra first arrived.

Dunterlie Resource Centre is now a vibrant and exciting place to be, with a growing interest in the activities happening there and getting involved.

The next steps in building on this involve thinking about how the community can have greater control of the space in order to realise the ambitions they have for the centre and it's role in the community.

The continued development of partnerships with organisations such as EGID, BHA, Culture and Leisure will be central to this and a move towards thinking about how the work Corra have supported the community to develop can be sustained and built upon in the long term.

“The thing about this place, is you feel at home, you can ask anything



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People in Place - Moving Forwards

Communities are facing a critical moment of transition as they begin to emerge from the pandemic and grapple with the rising cost of living. We are seeing and hearing, in addition to deep and difficult issues, new priorities emerging and an urgency to act from community members.

The time is now! We know from communities, local authorities and other partners that this a 'moment in time' for communities to create changes that address immediate issues and to truly imagine a better future.

To support that process, we will focus our work around three key elements.

- Priorities – we know that communities' priorities are changing. We can play an important role in supporting priorities to be shaped and shared.
- Plans – supporting communities to set out their priorities and actions to achieve them in a 'community-owned' plan.
- Partnerships – we have a key role to play in connecting with partners who can help to produce the plan and/or help deliver on community priorities.

These 'three P's' help build upon the strong foundations – of skills, knowledge, trust and relationships - that have been established to date and will continue to be instrumental in the work.



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