

DUNTERLIE

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING - WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



SNAPSHOT

Community members in Dunterlie have continued to support each other through a really difficult year. Building support networks in online spaces, sharing information and connecting each other to emergency support and contributing to the response to the pandemic.

Following a short period of closure at the beginning of the pandemic, Dunterlie Foodshare volunteers have continued to provide their service, securing funding until March 2022 strengthening their relationships with local people and services.

Communities have been supported to connect with others across Scotland through the People in Place program and other national initiatives.

Dunterlie Centre User Group has continued to meet online and connected with partners building relationships and working on governance - looking ahead to getting back to face-to-face activity.

Comic Relief community-led grant making has been a different journey than anticipated. Volunteers have worked hard to come up with creative alternatives and have accessed safeguarding training. They are looking forward to providing small grants to local groups in the coming months.

Dunterlie Foodshare

Dunterlie Foodshare has gone from strength to strength this year despite the challenges we have all faced. A range of partners have been working with a dedicated team of local people since 2018 to run the weekly Foodshare and has been a lifeline to many throughout this year. Throughout 2020 the volunteers have continued to support each other and to provide access to free, nutritious food that would otherwise be at risk of going to waste.

Before the pandemic, Dunterlie Foodshare not only offered access to food, but brought people together to access services, share information and socialise. The Foodshare was nominated for the "All About Barrhead Initiative of the Year" award in early 2020. Volunteers attended a glittering event in early March to promote the initiative, recognising their hard work.

The Foodshare has had to operate very differently since the beginning of the pandemic. Following the first lockdown the expertise of Foodshare volunteers was invaluable in supporting the establishment of the Humanitarian food hub, providing access to emergency food parcels in the early days of the first lockdown. Volunteers have continued to support the establishment of the Foodshare in Thornliebank and have also been contributing to national conversations through Nourish Scotland.

The Foodshare has received donations from a range of local and national sources, as well as securing funding to run until March 2022 as part of Barrhead Housing Association's Climate Challenge Fund project.

"The foodshare really has been a life line for me as a volunteer. Depression and anxiety plague me every day and the foodshare is the one place every week I feel relaxed enough to enjoy it, I don't feel judged and feel accepted. I don't know where I'd be with out"

"I love helping out at foodshare, it gets me out of house & feel useful. Also I attend on days I'm not volunteering . The foodshare is a lifeline and a fantastic help in our community"

Partner Perspective

"There's been a tremendous amount of capacity work in Dunterlie over the last year. The volunteers in Dunterlie took up the challenge of fundraising in order to ensure that the Dunterlie Foodshare would continue after the coronavirus pandemic forced it closure in March 2020 – the Humanitarian Hub, which took its place, was spearheaded and run by ERC departments, but when the first lockdown finished the community lobbied East Renfrewshire Culture & Leisure to ensure that they would be able to restart their project. They also secured funding from ERC – Scottish Food Fund surplus – to enable them to carry out Health & Hygiene training, PPE, staples and fresh food funding as well as toiletries.

The community has been running the Foodshare from September 2020 running right through Christmas and New Year, have taken part in coronavirus safety training and safely delivered around 30 parcels of food weekly feeding over 100 residents in that period of time with extra parcels containing gifts of advent calendars, shortbread, cake and also toiletries. They are still serving their community." - Elaine (East Renfrewshire Council CLD worker)



School Holiday Partnership

The School holiday partnership was set up to bring families together to have fun and access nutritious food during the school holidays. Schools, nurseries and community activities have all been subject to disruption due to coronavirus.

The partnership were gearing up for Easter Holiday breakfast clubs and exercise sessions when the pandemic hit and had to think creatively about how to support families at this time. This has resulted in a weekly parent Zoom call with children welcome to join in with creative activities when schools have been closed or classes have been advised to self-isolate. We have brought parents from Carlibar Nursery and Primary School and St John's Primary to create a space for chat and skill sharing.

Parents have sewn and knitted together, shared information, recipes and ideas and continue to support each other during this challenging time. Meeting online has provided flexibility and opportunity to involve people who might not be able to come along in person. The group have also been working to gather lockdown experiences from within the group and the wider community. It is hoped that together we can document what life was like in 2020. Dunterlie has a long tradition of storytelling and the story of this year is one worth sharing.



"It's been great company and a lot of fun I've had being in the parent group, especially this difficult time during the current situation. Thanks to you and Louisa for all the hard work. Most appreciated"



Partner Perspective

"Working with Laura over the last year, particularly with the challenges that have come with the pandemic, has further strengthened our partnership. We share strong views on how best to engage and support the community. We have focussed on building partnerships with the Dunterlie community and surrounding schools/nurseries, bringing parents together once a week for a parent catch up, offering experiences which enable them to learn new skills and build their capacity in taking the lead. Within this forum parents have had the confidence to share challenges that they had been facing in their home life. This has enabled Laura and myself to signpost to support networks." Louisa (graduate at Carlibar Nursery)

What have we learned together?

Relationships - Time and energy spent building relationships, and the connections people have forged with each other and with services, have been vital to keeping people safe and well during the pandemic. It is due to these connections that we have found ways to keep in touch but also take forward some of the pieces of work planned before the pandemic.

Digital - There is a huge digital divide. The reasons for exclusion from digital community spaces are as varied and complex as the reasons for exclusion from physical community spaces - access to devices and internet connectivity are just the first step on the journey.



Community Space - The lack of access to community space has taken its toll on the wellbeing of people in our community. We have to be ready to welcome people back in to community spaces as soon as it is safe to do so. Getting involved in community activity might look different at the moment but community spirit is very much alive and well in Dunterlie. People have been keen to find ways to pull together - even if they cannot always be in the same place at the same time.

What happens next?

Learning - Dunterlie Foodshare volunteers continue to be involved in Scottish Community Development Centre's (SCDC) Knowledge is Power programme. They are now also connected with Nourish Scotland exploring the right to nutritious affordable food.

Digital inclusion - Working with a range of partners, we will continue to support people to get online and connect with us, with each other and with vital services.

Continued support for local people - Dunterlie Allotments and the Dunterlie Centre User Group have continued to meet and make plans. Looking forward to an exciting year of developments and ideas in to action in 2021.



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People in Place - moving forwards

People in Place continue to work alongside nine communities in Scotland, supporting local people to connect, collaborate on ideas and take action to create positive change. The local activity and learning from each community help shape plans for the place, the wider programme and policy.

Coronavirus has brought additional challenges to communities and amplified existing inequalities. Across each community the themes of participation, voice and space continue to be evident. Similar challenges were observed across the communities because of coronavirus, including food insecurity, digital access, and financial concerns.

Within each community, individuals, groups, and organisations responded quickly, coordinating support to those that required it, through local knowledge, connections, and access to resources. The pandemic has evidenced the importance and value of communities coming together, having a say in decisions and control over resources, and opened new relationships with local government. Community Co-ordinators were able to support local responses by helping to connect community members together with groups and partner organisations through the relationships established prior to the pandemic. Adaptability in approach was also key as well as providing support with accessing available funding.

Corra will continue to support communities to connect, share learning, and use their voice to influence systems and processes. This will require creative approaches that bring communities and partners together in spaces, whether physical or digital, without barriers to participation so that everyone, including those furthest from power, can contribute towards building forward better.



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