



LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 / 2019



Leith Community Centre is one of the busiest community centres in Edinburgh and approximately 3,000 people come through its doors every week. It is situated on the first floor of the Newkirkgate Shopping Centre, in the heart of Leith. It was refurbished in 2004 and boasts a Sports Hall, a smaller Hall, 4 general purpose rooms, a room which is suitable for crèches and also a Café.

The Centre is extremely well used throughout the week, by more than 120 local groups and is in high demand as a venue for meetings, training events, AGMs and conferences.

We hope that this annual report provides you with a useful oversight of what has been happening in the centre over the last year.

Leith Community Centre
12a Newkirkgate, Edinburgh, EH6 6AD
0131 554 4750 | info@leithcommunitycentre.org.uk

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2018 / 2019

Wow. What a year it has been here at Leith Community Centre!

Over the last year I have met many centre groups and centre users, and I'm always pleased to hear about the positive difference the centre is making in peoples lives.

I am never more pleased than when I come into the centre and it is a hive of activity. The wide & varied programme we have here at the centre is in itself impressive. With a range of occasional and regular opportunities for people to learn, live a healthier more active life, meet new people & make new friends and of course to have fun.

I have been able to speak with many centre users over the past year, and it's been a real privilege to hear the important place the centre holds in people's lives. From speaking with people about their memories of the centre over the course of its fifty years or hearing about how the skills they have learned, or the confidence they have grown within the centre has supported them to move into employment, further education or generally a more happy & settled place in life.

Trustees

Members of Leith Community Centre Association SCIO elect a group of Trustees each year to form the Management Committee, who oversee the running of the charity and manage the centre in partnership with the Council.

At the last AGM (September 2018) members elected the following Trustees:

- Michael Traill (Chair)
- Caroline Leslie (Vice Chair)
- Kenny Clacher
- Margaret Bremner (Resigned March 2019)
- Adrian Graham (Resigned October 2018)

Over the course of the year Trustees co-opted four additional Trustees:

- Loraine Duckworth (November 2018—June 2019)

- Jan Rule (November 2018)
- Halina Pasiecznik (June 2019)
- Dorothy Terhune (August 2019)
- Amy Evans (August 2019)

Over the last year we have:

- Continued to work with the Council to meet the conditions of its 'Community Centre.
- Handbook', the planned changes to the buildings lease and changes to the service level agreement with their Facilities Management service.
- Continued the transition from the previous cohort of Trustees to the current Trustees. Many of which will be seeking to remain in post for another year. Particular thanks go to Hilda Hand and Ilene Davidson for their enormous support over the past year as a source of guidance and support.
- We are working on a planned refurbishment of the Kinnaird Hall.
- We organised a series of events to celebrate the centre's fiftieth anniversary.
- We funded a number of community learning activities in the centre.
- We have increased centre opening hours to provide maximum opportunities for the community use the centre. Introducing later opening Monday to Saturdays, and instigated Sunday opening.
- We have purchased new centre equipment such as a PA system, indoor bowling matts and sewing machines.
- We have instigated the twice yearly Leith Volunteer Fair, to support our community to access volunteering opportunities.
- We have begun efforts to promote the centre as a place to participate in community activities and to ensure that people know we are here to support them.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- We have began exploring closer partnership working with other organisations in the Leith area, and the North East Locality area.

Over the next year we plan to:

- Increase signage on & around the centre.
- Increase promotional & marketing activity throughout our community.
- Instigate a twice annual Training & Employability Fair.
- Develop a greater understanding of the Centre's usage.
- Develop and implement a centre development plan so we are clear about what we are seeking to achieve, and to be held accountable to it.
- Maximise use of the centre, especially during quieter times such as school holiday periods (Summer, October, Christmas & Easter).
- Continue to work with City of Edinburgh Council as we transition towards a new lease, and towards their Community Centre Handbook.

Thank you

On behalf of Trustees I would like to thank all the City of Edinburgh Council staff based in the building who have supported our centre & community over the past year.

They include a team of cleaners who are in the building six days a week to ensure it is clean & safe.

Facilities Technicians (our janitors) who are in the building from opening until closing each day helping set up rooms, dealing with enquiries and ensure our building is a safe & welcoming place.

Business Support who manage the centre lets, administration and provide an important contact point for centre users.

And our two Lifelong Learning Development Officers who work from the centre providing learning & development opportunities for children, young people & adults.

There is also a much wider team at City of Edinburgh Council who support the centre in many ways to whom we are grateful. This includes (but is not limited to) officers in North East Locality, Facilities Management and Corporate Property.

Goodbye

A familiar face in the centre is Kieran Farmer, the Councils Business Support Administrator who supports the good running of the centre.

Kieran is going to university to study for a Masters degree in Social Work.

On behalf of all the Trustees of Leith Community Centre Association SCIO I thank Kieran for all his work in the centre, and wish him all the very best for the future.

EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

From Monday 2 September 2019 we have invested in extending centre opening hours, in order to maximise opportunities for our community to access the centre.

Our new opening hours are: Monday to Friday from 9am until 9pm. Saturdays & Sundays from 9am until 5pm.



Email as at: info@leithcommunitycentre.org.uk

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

LEITH VOLUNTEER FAIR

In June 2019 we organised & hosted the Leith Volunteer Fair. 32 organisations came along to speak with potential volunteers.

Volunteering has many benefits such as it being a great way for people to make new friends, learn new skills, live an active lifestyle.

We received lots of positive feedback and will be holding our second Leith Volunteer Fair in October 2019. Why not come along?



50TH ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated our 50th anniversary on Sunday 10th March 2019, having opened on Monday 10th March 1969.

To celebrate we held an afternoon / evening of celebration to which the whole community were invited.

We held taster sessions in the afternoon where people could try something new such as art, exercise and sport. In the evening we had a party with entertainment for children and adults which included dance performances by highland dancers, belly dancers and some flamenco.



LEITH COMMUNITY CEILIDH

In June 2019 we held our first community ceilidh as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations and Leith Festival 2019.

94 members of our community came together to make new friends and socialise during an evening of Scottish food & dancing.

We received lots of positive feedback on the event, with many commenting how nice it was to meet new people, and enjoy an evening out without alcohol as no alcohol was permitted at the event.

We look forward to seeing you at our 2020 ceilidh.



TREASURER'S REPORT

FINANCIAL NOTES

Over the last year our income has been generated primarily through the letting of rooms & halls, with a small income received from bank account interest.

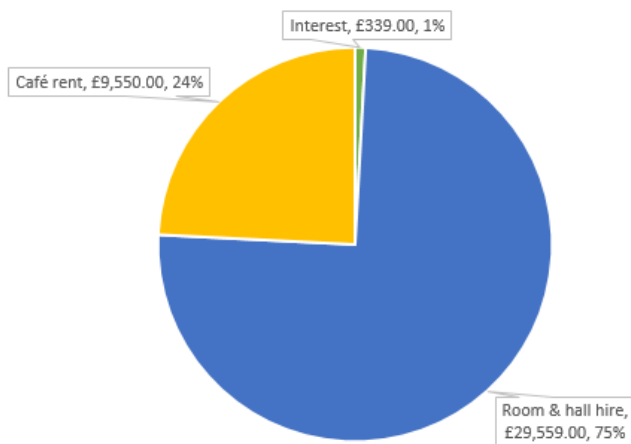
All the money we generate is used by us to manage our charity and develop the centre as we work towards achieving our charitable purposes.

Every year our accounts are audited by an independent examiner, the accounts can be viewed on our website or you can request a copy in the centre however, included in this report is an illustrative overview.

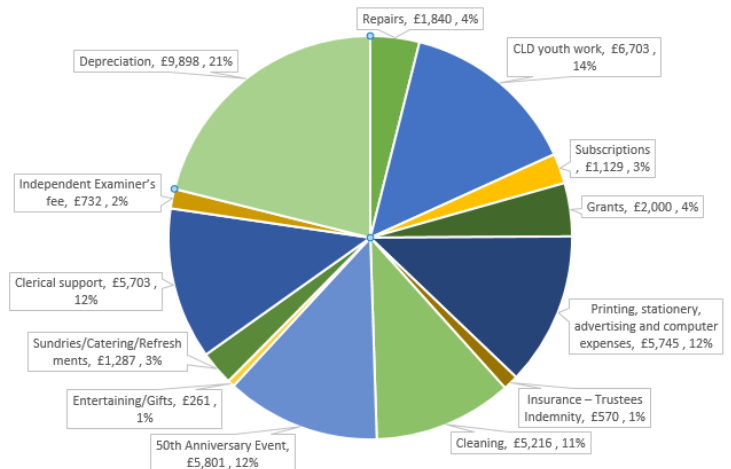
The total income for the year under review was £39,448 (2018: £51,754) and the expenditure was £46,885 (2018: £31,449) giving rise to a deficit of £7,437 (2018: surplus of £20,305). Net Current assets have decreased from £105,939 to £93,115. Capital expenditure of £15,284 (2018: £4,024) was incurred during the year, due to the purchase of a large assortment of Fixtures and Fittings in addition to multiple laptops/computer equipment/sound equipment.

The balance held as unrestricted funds at 31 March 2019 was £134,730.

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



We are grateful to Hilda Hand (who was our Treasurer for the 2018 / 2019 financial year) for her hard work and diligence with our finances. And also to David F Rutherford & staff at Cowan & Partners Ltd for continuing to act as our Independent Examiner.

GROUP REPORTS

LEITH SWI

The Leith branch of the Scottish Women's Institute celebrated their 5th birthday in September 2018. Over the past 12 months we've held a craft night on the second Tuesday of each month with each member taking a turn to teach a craft. On the 4th Tuesday of each month we've had a great range of speakers including colour styling, aromatherapy and Leith Lapidary club. A highlight for us was hosting a sold out Macrame event in June as part of the Leith Festival.



We look forward to celebrating our 6th birthday at our AGM on September 24th and a varied programme twice a month on 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 7pm-9pm.

VARIETY GIRLS

The "Variety Girls" have been together over 4 years now and although two of us are in our seventies we still have a lot of fun planning and practicing new sketches, acquiring music, and making props and costumes.



This past year we performed two different one hour shows in church halls. There were over 60 people in each venue and fortunately, they seemed to have really enjoyed the shows according to the lovely comments and cards we received. It's a win win situation.



We do so appreciate our rehearsal room at the centre and always look forward to our Tuesday afternoons. Many thanks to the janitors for setting up our table and chairs and all the staff at Leith Community Centre.

THE CHEYNE GANG

The Cheyne Gang is a community singing group for people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and other chronic lung conditions.

We currently have six groups in Edinburgh and the Borders. The Leith group meets in the community centre from 2-4pm on alternate Mondays throughout the year.

We are a small and friendly bunch and tea and cake are very much part of our sessions. In the past year we have been fortunate enough to take part in an event at The Scottish Parliament alongside The British Heart Foundation. This was very much enjoyed by our members.

We also performed at the Stockbridge Summer Festival where we were extremely lucky to find the weather on our side that day!

A few months ago we welcomed the MSP for Leith, Ben MacPherson to one of our Monday sessions. He was impressed by the enthusiasm of our members, and of course, our singing! He promised to promote The Cheyne Gang in any way he can.

This coming year, we hope that our group will grow in numbers so that more people can take advantage of the physical and mental benefits that singing is proven to bring.

GROUP REPORTS

EDINBURGH DODGEBALL



Since moving to our new home at Leith Community Centre, in May 2019, Edinburgh Dodgeball has gone from strength to strength; attracting new players, establishing a solid group of regulars and building a real presence in the Leith area.

Open to players of all ages and abilities, our regular Wednesday night training sessions run from 6.30 to 8.00 pm. Each session focusses on a mix of skills development and games, with a balance struck between the two, depending on the skill levels of the people that have turned up that night. First and foremost, we aim to make the evening fun.



We're delighted to be able to say that every week we've been in Leith, we've had new faces joining us and trying dodgeball out for the first time. Many have come back a number of times and some players have even gone on to compete for the club in tournaments against other dodgeball teams from elsewhere in the UK. The result is that our club has at least doubled in size since we've moved to Leith, but we don't want to stop there!

One of the club's proudest moments this year was being able to enter a team into the Scottish Dodgeball Championships in Aberdeen – where we secured a 4th place finish. The team that travelled up represented the club brilliantly, played some great dodgeball, learned some valuable lessons and, most of all, had a great time.

Entering teams from the club into competitions is something we'll look to build on in the 2019/20 season, with a Scottish Super League and Scottish Open to participate in, amongst others.

If you're interested in attending, feel free to get in touch with the club through our Facebook page or just drop by one Wednesday evening. We'd love to see you there.

STREET SOCCER SCOTLAND

Street Soccer Scotland is a Leith based charity (the SCVO Scottish charity of the year 2017) and provides a wide range of free football programmes, opportunities and support services for socially disadvantaged young people and adults across Scotland. We have been using Leith Community Centre as one of our hubs for many



years for many different activities. In partnership with the YMCA in Leith Street Soccer run a free weekly Friday night football activity for local 10-16 year olds which is mixed male and female of all abilities and runs 50 weeks per year, the youth group also access free fruit and healthy snacks, youth work support and mentoring, competitions and regular free tickets for Hibernian FC home matches.

Street Soccer Scotland also organise a busy weekly Thursday afternoon drop in football session at Leith Community Centre sports hall aimed at adults with a range of issues such as isolation, exclusion, homelessness, poor mental health and inactivity and we also use the centre to run regular personal development courses and employability support for our participants working with local partner organisations.

In April this year with the support of the centre management Street Soccer began a weekly walking football group in the centre running at 11am on Thursdays, this is an increasingly popular slower version of football aimed at older people particularly those who may be isolated or inactive. Street Soccer Scotland would like to thank Leith Community Centre staff and management for their ongoing support with our activities and look forward to many more years using the centre.

Visit our website at: www.leithcommunitycentre.org.uk

GROUP REPORTS

LEITH HARBOUR AND NEWHAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

We have our regular monthly meetings at the Centre and are always welcomed and provided with any additional facilities if required. The Centre has also provided accommodation for other ad hoc meetings throughout the year providing excellent service for various sized group meetings.

The Centre has supported many excellent community events enjoyed by and beneficial to our CC. An example was the Volunteer Fair giving us the opportunity to make ourselves known and discuss our role to members of the public and other groups. The attached photo shows members of the three local CCs enjoying the event.



We were delighted to be invited to the Centre's 50th. Birthday Celebration event held on 10th. March, enjoyed by all who attended. The Centre was again the venue for the annual Leith Chooses event in February when we enjoyed being part of this providing volunteers and celebrating the success as over 1200 people passed through the doors to cast their votes.

MULTI CULTURAL FAMILY BASE

MCFB has two groups which meet weekly in term-time at Leith Community Centre. We are very appreciative of the venue, at the heart of Leith, and the support of the Centre staff.

Strawberry Group

Strawberry Group (so named because that is our favourite snack!) is an ethnically diverse parent and toddler group run by staff and students from the

Multicultural Family Base. The group is run on a **referral only** basis. We provide play opportunities for children and parents in the Peevers crèche room. The large space and the selection of equipment available means we can offer good opportunities for messy play, safe physical play and imaginative play with small toys.

Most of our service users are socially isolated and have few support networks. Many speak little English and have come from places of conflict and danger. We aim to facilitate good parent child relationships, social interactions and to provide information and advice on promoting childrens' healthy development.

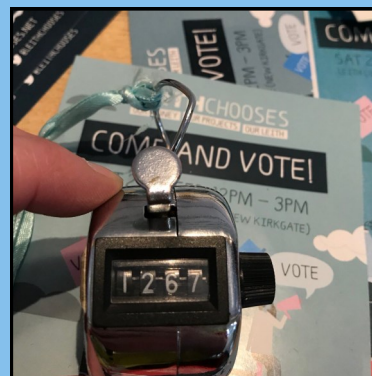


Chinese Flower Group

This is a group which focuses on play for Mandarin-speaking families with children aged 0-3 years. The group is run on a **referral only** basis. It is facilitated in English and Mandarin.

LEITH CHOOSES

Once again this year we hosted the Leith Chooses voting event, this year welcoming over 1200 people into the Community Centre to take part in our local participatory budgeting process.



GROUP REPORTS

LEITH LINKS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

We meet in Leith Community Centre on the last Monday of each month (except July and December), usually in the Shore Room from 6:30PM. All members of the community are welcome to attend. We are joined by City of Edinburgh Councillors, Police Scotland and many others.

We work to make this community a better place through direct action and by acting as a representative voice of the community (to the city council and to other local groups and campaigns).



We participate fully and actively in all consultations – record numbers this year, it seems – for example on trams, Open Streets, City Transformation, traffic-free zones around schools, short-term rentals, transient visitor levy, and fireworks to name but a few.

We try to engage with the community in different ways; we collect and provide information, consult you for your views, and pass these on to the relevant bodies, to try and ensure that your voice is heard.

We are grateful for free use of rooms at Leith Community Centre to help us undertake our work representing our community. In the centre over the past year we have held sub committee meetings (such as our parks & greenspaces sub committee), thematic meetings (on subjects such as trams and the Seafield noise & odour issue) and networking meetings (bringing together North East Edinburgh Community Councils).

Further information is available on our website at www.leithlinksgc.org.uk.

PEOPLE FIRST SCOTLAND



People First Scotland is the national self-advocacy organisation for people with learning disabilities in Scotland. It is a Disabled Person's organisation; run by our members for our members and is managed by a Board of Directors, all of whom have learning disabilities. Directors manage the whole organisation including the staff and the finances.

Members say: 'We believe we have a right to the support we need to take part in society and live an ordinary life. We want to be fully included in all areas of our lives and to be treated as equal citizens.'

The Sticking Up for Your Rights Group (SUFYR) uses Leith Community Centre every second Thursday morning. The group has around 12 members. It is a collective advocacy group and discusses issues that affect people with learning disabilities. Some of the subjects the group has discussed over the last year are: transport, hate crime, relationships, The Edinburgh Plan, accessibility, amongst other subjects. The group also welcomes guest speakers to discuss relevant topics.

The Edinburgh Advocating Together (EAT) Group uses Leith Community Centre. This is also a collective advocacy group and has representatives from each of the People First Groups in Edinburgh. The group gets together on a monthly basis and discusses what is happening in each of the groups and the Board of People First. The group makes decisions about campaigning, what to take forward to the People First Board and disseminates information to the local groups. The group takes part in community planning and feeds into the Council about issues that affect members.

We are delighted to use Leith Community Centre as it is accessible, central, friendly and has a great café where members can have a cuppa and snack during the break.

GROUP REPORTS

HAIDONG GUMDO KOREAN SWORD MARTIAL ART

Haidong Gumdo, with its fast and powerful sword fighting techniques, has become one of the fastest growing martial arts in the last decade. Still very unknown in the UK, Haidong Gumdo is practiced in a few privileged locations around the British Isles.



Hyun Mu Dojang is the only club in Scotland in which Haidong Gumdo, Korean Sword Martial Art is practised on a regular basis.

Hyun Mu Dojang was established in 2015 and is led by Instructor Kino Alvarez, 2nd Dan Black Belt Degree in Haidong Gumdo.

We are very grateful towards Leith Community Education Centre for allowing us to practice this incredible Martial Art within their premises.



If you want to know more about what we do please do not hesitate to contact us!

감사합니다! (Thank you!)

LEITH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

June saw us once more on Leith Links for the "Gala Day". Mixed weather and high winds saw us battling to keep our tent from blowing down. Plenty of enquiries but few new members.

Our monthly talks began in September with Ken Nisbet on "Exploring your First World War Family History" and this was followed in October by Elizabeth Bryant who gave a very good talk on the "History of Riddell Court". In November we

welcomed Richard Newman who subject was "Disease, death and burial in Medieval Leith". This talk got us thinking about the number of bodies which could actually be buried on Leith Links. This half of the session ended with our usual Christmas part followed by a short talk.

2019 started with Duncan Bremner giving us an insight into the activities of Citizen Curator then in February Fraser Paterson took us on a power point tour of Greyfriars Churchyard. Kenneth Williams gave us an amusing account about "Old Edinburgh & Leith Trams" and to finish the session we heard about gentlemen of the "Enlightenment" who played golf on Leith Links given by Jim Scanlon, our honorary Vice-President.

We have continued to support all the open days at Custom House and we have actually gained members from these events (more than on a cold day on the links). We do, however, need to increase our membership. Why not try to bring along a friend. If everyone did so we would therefore double our membership.

VIEW OUR ARTWORK

We have artwork throughout our Community Centre including our Persevere Room, Café, Trinity Room, corridors, toilets and sports hall.

Please feel free to come in and have a look around.



GROUP REPORTS

LIFELONG LEARNING (CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL): ADULT LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Two Stories Courses for English Learners with creché ran during the year, **reaching 22 learners.** **Conversation Connect - English Conversation** ran with creche at Access 2-3 level from January 2019 (12 learners). **Upper-Intermediate English** also ran for 30 weeks (18 learners). Family activity **Play and Connect** ran in Jan-March 2019 offering holistic play and social opportunities to 12 families. Quotes from learners and families: "Sometimes it is the only time that I get to speak to other adults. Everyone here is really nice and I have made new friends." "My wee girl loves the chance to meet and play with other children - we don't get the chance to do that very often." "My life has been stressful and coming to the group really helps, it stops me from feeling really lonely." In Jan-March 2019 a mental well-being project ran funded via the NHS to make a fabric '**Friendship Mandala**' art piece, involving 8 learners.



Via the Syrian Resettlement programme, a 10 week Family Learning with English ran attracting learners from Syrian and other nationalities; this programme also ran Family Games sessions. Funding for the different programmes was received from City of Edinburgh Council, Scotland's Colleges ESOL fund, plus support with thanks from the centre Management Committee.

Contact Heather at the centre for more information about these and new groups at the centre.
Heather.muchamore@ea.edin.sch.uk.



BECOME A MEMBER OF...

LEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION SCIO

Leith Community Centre is managed through a partnership between City of Edinburgh Council, and Leith Community Centre Association SCIO.

Leith Community Centre Association SCIO is a two tier membership based organisation. Each year its members elect up to nine of its members to be Trustees of the charity. These Trustees oversee the charity and help to manage the centre.

If you would like to become a member of the charity pick up a membership form from the centre or download one from our website.

Members of our charity are entitled to a 10% discount from Mumma Bear's café if they show their membership cards at the time of ordering.

YOUR FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOMED

As both Leith Community Centre Association SCIO and City of Edinburgh Council work to develop Leith Community Centre we are always pleased to hear your feedback and suggestions.

Positive feedback lets us know we're getting it right. It also helps us to recognise achievements.

Negative feedback lets us know we aren't getting it right, and need to take some action to improve matters.

Suggestions help us to develop the centre by meeting the needs of centre users and the wider community. We are not able to take forward every suggestion, but we do consider them all.

Get in touch today.

Visit our website at: www.leithcommunitycentre.org.uk



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BOOK ONE OF OUR ROOMS & HALLS

Here at Leith Community Centre we have eight rooms & halls available for use by our community which can be used for a wide range of purposes at very reasonable rates.



Over the last year our Sports & Kinnauld Halls have been used for parties, sports, exercise & dance activities, large community events, youth groups and Conferences to name a few activities.

Our rooms have been used for activities such as history classes, english classes, dance classes, yoga, youth groups, art classes, sewing classes, public meetings various training events.



This report has been compiled, printed and published by Leith Community Centre Association SCIO, which is a registered charity in Scotland, SC047512, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Our registered office is 12a Newkirkgate, Edinburgh, EH6 6AD.

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