

It has been a very difficult time for the Centre as we worried about being able to keep open and stay open in the future after lockdown. But we were blessed as the community rallied. The online Crowdfunder pulled the community together and we reached our fundraising target. We were also given monetary and donations and donations of goods, food, etc by anonymous benefactors.

During this time we forged stronger links with other local groups - The Cottage, Linktown Community Group, Greener Kirkcaldy, CIC, the North School, the Kirkcaldy Masons and many more. We were also inundated with offers of time by people offering to volunteer and to this end, I do need to mention a few - Shorty who came in to cut the grass, Kris who helped with the fresh food every day without fail, Eve who helped with cooking, baking and cardmaking, George and Frank who popped in and who helped with deliveries on a regular basis - the list could go on.

COVID19 gave us the opportunity to look at and update our different policies; read and ensure that the Constitution is appropriate and being implemented and look to putting in place safety measures for the safe return of our groups. Mandy has looked at new initiatives and funding applications.

My report could continue indefinitely if I were to start mentioning all the groups benefiting from using our Centre, the staff making their mark and working together as a strong team and the volunteers giving their time. Please note that we appreciate each and every act of kindness and support.

So in closing, I would like to thank the committee for all their support, the staff and volunteers for excellent teamwork and Mandy for her strong leadership and her caring dedication in continuing the ethos Jim Raitt had in his vision when he started the Boys Club wishing to support those in the local community.

There is a saying I really like:

Believe what you do matters and will make a difference in people's lives. You don't have to save the world in one stroke but you can make a difference one person at a time.

At the Linton Lane Centre this is done on a daily basis. On that note, I would like to once again thank everyone involved in the Centre for their care, dedication and support; and I hope to welcome the committee back for another year as we move forward into the 'new normal'.

LORRAINE WILKINSON—Chair

CENTRE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER REPORT 2020

Another year flown past, marking 24 years for myself as Centre Manager. It has been a difficult year with staff changes: Billy, after being with us for over 16 years, had to leave due to on-going ill health. Billy was dedicated in his role to the Centre and I know his work was much appreciated. Dennis stepped in again and is always at the end of the phone for any help we may need. Cheryl joined our staff team until family circumstances caused her to move from Scotland but her support was also appreciated. Rachael has now joined the staff team with Alan, Laura and Michael which I hope will be settled.

We were all hugely saddened by the death in 2019 of Mary Walls, who did so much for the Centre and community and was a caring friend to everyone.

Samh has been a much-appreciated asset to the Centre programme and wider community. Grassmarket projects were funded for another year which due to COVID-19 it had to cease but it is hoped they will show their final piece of work in the Centre by the end of the year. The Homework Club ran well with support from Cheryl, Karen and Wendy along with funding support from NewCraigs Church—this funding has now ceased but will hopefully run again.

This was the last year of the Lottery programme which supported six groups. This was worrying for the groups/staff/volunteers but we have now been granted funding for another two years, although with slight changes to some activities.

We had our first change of Chairperson for over 19 years as Norman stood down as Chairman. His support and guidance to myself was always appreciated. Lorraine stepped into the role very well, and, with wide and varied experience in the community, she is already proving to be a huge asset to the centre.

Building relationships with other community groups always makes the Centre support to the community easier. Kirkcaldy Foodbank plays such a large role to the community which we strive hard to help, NewCraigs Church through Frank and Karen again makes teamwork better while also making friendships.

I can't write a report without touching on the effect on the Centre of Covid-19. At the end of March, we wondered if we would ever open again as the financial pressure is huge with little income coming in. The support — this time not us giving but receiving — was immense. The Crowd Funder raised over £11,000, plus various grants to offset loss of income. Funding to support individuals saw over £66,000 to keep our doors open. There are so many stories—the kind words we have received that made me realise how immense the loss of Linton Lane Centre would be to the community.

On this thought I want to thank everyone who volunteered, donated and sent supportive messages; also staff who were Furloughed but still at the end of the phone, as at points I felt isolated. Special thanks to Lorraine who took over at a difficult point in the Centre's history but has given me immense support. As we slowly open our doors again we can start welcoming everyone back with smiles.

MANDY HENDERSON—Centre Manager