



Loanhead Community Learning Centre



Annual Report 2009



Chairperson's Report

It has been another successful year at LCLC. Despite the difficult economic conditions we've continued to offer opportunities to a wide range of users in the local community whilst being prudent with regard to the running of the centre and the long-term sustainability of what we do. The number of groups using the centre has continued to grow and it's encouraging to see the progress all the different groups have made. Each of these groups has made a valuable contribution to the day-to-day lives of people in the local community. I'd like to thank all the staff and volunteers involved in making this happen.

We continue to make good progress towards the realization of our plans to build a fantastic log cabin having recently secured planning permission. The log cabin would provide us with considerable additional space enabling us to offer a whole range of additional facilities and services. We eagerly await the decision of The Big Lottery in December 2009 regarding our funding application.

I'd like to personally thank Irene, Paula and all the staff and volunteers at LCLC. Their passion, energy, time and commitment are inspirational and valued and appreciated by all the users of the centre. I'd like to also thank everyone on the LCLC board for generously giving of their time and expertise.

I look forward to another successful year for LCLC.

Derek Cummings
Chair

Treasurer's Report

The Loanhead Community Centre is once again in a financially stable situation. Due to the present financial climate our turn over is less than the previous year but I am pleased to say that with the efforts to secure funding for project work we are keeping our heads above water. The accounts for the financial year have come back from the accountant and all is well.

The Centre has been doing well since the summer holidays with increases in Room rentals and user groups.

The Centre staff keep to a very tight budget to ensure that the centre's expenditure is as low as possible.

Renee McLay
Treasurer



Manager's Report

This has been an other very busy year in the life of the Loanhead Community Learning Centre, I am delighted to furnish you with a short summary

Youth clubs at LCLC

We have had 3 youth clubs running over the year:

- Monday Club 6.30pm – 8pm mixed youths primary 5 to 7s. Average numbers attending 35 - this is a popular club with a waiting list
- Thursday Girls Club 6.00pm Junior club till 8.00 senior club till 9.00. Unfortunately the senior club had to be suspended due ongoing incidents of vandalism
- Friday junior youth club 6.00 - 9.00 this is our most popular club with 55 children attending and a waiting list.

As we no longer have a Community Education Worker attached to our youth provision to avoid the closing down of our services I have agreed to take on the management of the clubs in the short term with support from the CLD team leader Jake Herriot and CLD worker Andy McDonald.

Log Cabin

A lot of very hard work, particularly over the last couple of months, has been put into putting together the various applications and reports to make the Application to the Big Lottery along with other applications to other funders. Our big lottery application was finally submitted in October and we hope to have a decision from them in December! A big thank you to Paula and Susan for their support with the application.

Campus Café

The Campus Café has benefited from a new dishwasher and cooker during the last year. This has improved efficiency within the Café. We were also delighted to see the Café break even for the first time early in 2009. With the Community Nursery now taking a contract with the Café to supply lunches, I envisage that this will continue to be the case and provide a platform for improvements over the coming year. My thanks go to Anna, Kirsty (who has now left), Emma and Debbie for their hard work over the last 12 months.

Conservatory/Mezzanine

I am delighted to say that we have now installed an air conditioning unit in the conservatory area this has been very warmly received by the After School Club, Wednesday Additional Needs Club and Bright Start. A big thank you to Councilor Owen Thomson who kindly funded this project.

We have installed a curtain in the mezzanine area to allow Bright Start privacy while they have group session with their clients. We were very great full to receive funding for this project from RBS last year



Publicity

LASC Breakfast club were picked to represent a community project for Scotmid DVD. The Club are supplied by Scotmid breakfast food and were filmed having their first meal of the day in the café setting and following their usual routine. This will appear as commemorative footage to celebrate Scotmid's 150th anniversary DVD.

STV's Scotland Today programme also filmed in LCLC over the last 12 months. In a feature on good Volunteering Practice, LCLC were chosen as an example and the crew filmed some of our volunteers hard at work in the Community Garden.

Gala Day Fun Run

Once again, LCLC hosted the extremely successful Family Fun Run with an increased participation of over 25% on last year. The event went extremely well, however ran at a small deficit for the Centre. We have now come to an agreement with the Gala that they will take over the financing of the event in future years and we will continue to contribute our support.

General

With the increase in the number of groups and those using them, it's been a very good year for LCLC. The excitement of the Log Cabin Project will, I hope, carry over into the New Year when it's hoped that we will receive the funding and we can start to expand even further. Once again, I'd like to thank all the staff who've made everything happen over the past 12 months, their time, effort and dedication is much appreciated not only by me but those who use the facilities as well and I look forward to another exciting year at LCLC.

Irene Hogg
Head of Establishment



After Schools Club

It's been another busy year at the Loanhead After Schools Clubs with our numbers growing all the time. The children, and parents, continue to give us great feedback on the activities and events that are provided for them and we look forward to not only consolidating on that feedback but helping to grow it even further.

In addition to our own numbers, the last 12 months have seen us hosting Crèches for other organisations. Midlothian Childcare Partnership approached us to put on a 6 week Crèche for their Introduction to Childcare course at the end of May while we welcomed once again, children from all over Midlothian through "Women Onto Work".

Last year's opening of the Ramsay Campus on Edgefield Road saw us open another centre. At the end of our first full year at this Project, we've seen the numbers grow steadily and have recently extended our Breakfast Club's 'Walking Bus/pick up service' service to that Campus also.

A source of growth this year has been the extension of the age range we now cater for. In late 2008, we received our registration to take two year old children in addition to the pre-school nursery children we already catered for. Due to our growing 'child base', we are delighted to have brought on new staff across all our Projects. Nathan Hunter (Loanhead Paradykes), Gemma Hogg and Lisa Webster (both Roslin) have joined us in the last 12 months while Nicola Quinn and Trevor Hannant have both arrived to assist in the Administration side of the Club.

Our staff and the Club itself have been successful in obtaining further honors. Johnny Hogg achieved his HND in Sports Coaching while Lisa Webster also received her HNC in Early Education and Childcare at a graduation ceremony last year. Also congratulations go to Yvonne Todman, John Hogg and Samra Akram who have completed their level 3 in Playwork and good luck to John who is working towards his level 4 in Playwork. An initiative led by Eolith Denholm, with the assistance of a sub group of staff, to encourage staff to eat healthier and walk more helped the Club receive Healthy Working Lives Silver and Bronze Awards. Attaining both awards in a single year is a major achievement and credit goes to all those involved.

Fundraising continued to keep the children busy over the course of the last year. Following on from the successful Giant Sleepover last year, which raised £1500, a further £3,000 was received in sponsorship and Corporate donations enabling the full amount needed for the playground project in West Africa to be handed over to the International Play Association in November. Funds were also raised for the Seed To Soup Project (Loanhead), Marie Curie (Roslin) and Comic Relief while we have been invited back to Costco for Carol singing and bucket shaking after a successful visit last Christmas.

Finally a big thank you to all our staff and board for their dedication and hard work over the year.

Irene Hogg Manager



“Having fun in the garden”

Bright Start

Over the last year we have had another busy year. Laura Page has returned from her maternity leave and settled back into Bright Start.

We have been working on implementing our plans that we have developed through our birth – 3 training and on continually improving what is on offer at Bright Start.

During the last year we have had families move on – either to Nursery or parents onto work. This has been in partnership with Jane Ellis our Back to Work co-coordinator who has supported the parents/carers in achieving these goals of returning to work.

Within our Friday session we have incorporated sessions at the Logy gymnastic centre to allow us to offer a varied programme to our families and have covered various courses with the parents/carers including First Aid.

We are looking forward to another exciting year ahead.

Bright Start Staff Team

Campus Café

Welcome once again to another year of survival at the Campus Café, it's been one of the hardest I must say due to the financial climate. However, we push on trying every term to stimulate new interest, new menus, to welcome new groups, to make the café the “hub” of the Centre, a totally welcoming place with good food, reasonable prices and some fantastic home baking. Thanks to my new team I can concentrate on the savory while Emma, Debbie and Kelly concentrate on the scones, cakes and tray bakes. Lucy remains my loyal Saturday girl. We must get new groups on board to up the ante but Bright Start's young mums prove to be my most reliable customers, of course the Teachers and Nursery staff remains loyal. We realize that the way forward with the café is to



concentrate on who comes through the door or those close by as passing trade still proves slow. My aims this term are to push for more groups to meet in the café area for Bingo or whatever we can come up with as long as I can feed them! and make the whole visit enjoyable whilst also making some money for our wonderful Centre.

Anna MacGregor, Café Supervisor

Debbie Burns, Assistant

Emma Watson, Assistant

Kelly Staines, Volunteer

Lucy Denholm, Assistant

Café Bingo

Thursday Bingo has several core attendees, fully established and targeting the over 65s, it has declined a little due to clients suffering sickness and death. We have promoted this session and will again, work with Loanhead Miners to attract further clients.

Paula Jackson, Development Worker

Child Minders and Tots

Child minders' and Tots changed its frequency to every 3 weeks to accommodate clients from Penicuik. Child minders' organise the group and how frequent they wish to meet. There have been some changes due to their support system and coupled with the children moving up into school they have ceased meeting until after the Christmas Break.

Paula Jackson, Development Worker

Football Training

(Loanhead Miners Youth Football Club)

This was held in our large gym hall on a Wednesday evening during the winter months.

Seed 2 Soup Project

Seed 2 Soup Project involved adults and children from a variety of user groups with different abilities to grow vegetables and fruit from seed, transplant them into the garden, maintain and watering, harvesting them and using them in smoothies, sandwiches, salads and soups. Everyone enjoyed growing food from scratch, learning all about where food comes from and how to look after the plants but best of all eating them. Awards for All supported this project and made it possible for our clients to learn about fresh food.

Paula Jackson, Development Worker



Garden Project

Over the last year, there has been rapid growth in the garden. Having had much more than average amount of rain this year, trying to keep it as weed free as possible has been hard work but with the help of volunteers, our garden club has managed to keep the garden looking beautiful. We have planted various types of ground cover plants which will gradually fill spaces in which weeds are constantly growing. In the forest garden area we have shaped and laid winding paths, as well as fencing this area off, again with help from volunteers. Late in 2008, we created a shelter from willow which was cut from trees in Burghlee Park. This summer the willow has taken superbly and we have been cutting and weaving the new branches in order to shape and strengthen our shelter. In the vegetable garden we are currently harvesting our spring vegetables as well as planting potatoes, leeks, carrots and broccoli which will be ready in spring.

Lindsay Wright
Daya Feldwick



“Making paths in the Forest Garden”



“Building Fences”

Loanhead Disco Dancers

This has been another successful year for Loanhead Disco Dancers. The group practices every Tuesday and Thursday and numbers continue to grow until we have around 60 girls attending at least once a week with most coming along twice.

The first highlight of our year was our Annual Show and Presentation held in early February. The girls put in a great deal of hard work and the show was very well attended by friends and relatives. It was a great success and we are already looking forward to next years.

Our next big event was the Gala Day celebrations with the girls being asked to take part in several of the events including the Fancy Dress Parade, the Gala Parade but unfortunately our afternoon display in the Memorial Park was cancelled due to wet weather. Once again it was to good see so many of the girls taking part in the family fun run from the LCLC.

The girls also entertained the crowds who came to see the turning on of the Christmas lights at Fountain Green last December. They will be taking part at this event this year as well as a possible performance at Dobbies at the end of November to welcome the arrival of Santa.

*Rhoda Cherrie
Tracy Carr*



Parents and Tots

Parents 'n' Tots we have Active Tots as part of the session on a Monday, PEEP (Parental Early Education Partnership) on a Wednesday and duplicate PEEP session and bouncy castle on Fridays. Attendance has peaked and troughed throughout the year, this is typical due to children moving on to morning nursery and school. We intend to now market these sessions to new mothers and include a progress of the baby element and new baby equipment.

Paula Jackson, Development Worker

Saturday Dancers

(The Stephanie May Performance Centre)

The dance class is held on a Saturday from 9am until 1.30pm in the large gym hall. The dancers took part in the Loanhead Community Fair.

Tuesday Seniors

The Tuesday Senior Session has been popular from four attendees up to ten attending several sessions, choosing to play dominoes, reminiscence and lunch club. This club has recently encountered clients being off long term sick and death, we are currently working towards building the attendance back up again by working in partnership with Gain Prince of Loanhead Miners to progress a programme of weekly groups specifically for the 60's.

Paula Jackson, Development Worker

Wednesday Special Needs Club

The Club is still flourishing although our numbers are down. Sadly Alex died during the summer holidays and of course we all miss him and Eileen who died last year.

We have had several outings including a visit to the Kings to see Cinderella, which was enjoyed by all.

In the Spring we joined in the Gardening Project – sowing the seeds, watering regularly, transplanting into bigger pots and gro-bags and finally eating the results.

We went out for lunch on the last day of term, which was good and during the school holidays we went as usual to Linlithgow. Unfortunately Christina and Marjorie were unable to come and we all missed them but Pamela our driver still came and stayed with us and another two helpers (Andrew and Maureen) came to fill in the gap which was a great help.

*Wyn Slater
Christina Donaldson
Edna Smith
Marjorie*



Weight2Go

Weight2Go remains successful with peaks twice per year being in January and after the summer holidays, these are traditional times that people want to lose weight and shape up. Feedback from our clients is that they value being measured as well as being weighed, as well the affordability of still being £1.

Paula Jackson, Development Worker

WaistAway

Our new gentle, chair based exercise class has attracted several core clients. This class is a direct result of feedback from Weight2Go clients requiring exercise that doesn't necessarily need legs to do; it is promoted via doctors, health clinics and word-of-mouth. This session is a collaboration of LASC's donation of Johnny Hogg's time and expertise and with my support so that we can produce this half hour session to our clients for the little cost of £1.

Paula Jackson, Development Worker

Youth Clubs

Monday Club for P5, 6 & 7's runs from 6.30-8.00pm and costs £1.

Thursday Girls Club for P5-P7 runs from 6.30-8.00pm, cost £1.

Friday Junior Club for P1, 2 3 & 4's runs from 6.00-8.00pm and costs £1.50 including snack.