

1 APRIL 2022 - 31 MARCH 2023

LINKES ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23



LINKES



200 Lincoln Avenue, Glasgow, G13 3PP
Tel: 0141 954 7554

www.links.org.uk
contact@links.org.uk

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

It's been another busy year here at Linkes. As always, we have continued to tackle the impact of poverty and to provide opportunities for learning and well-being on the estate and surrounding areas. I'm not sure I thought it possible for this year to be more challenging than the last, but that's been the reality for the team at Linkes and for the local community.



As well as recovering from the impact of the pandemic, local people have had to contend with the cost of living crisis and spiralling costs for essentials like food and fuel. As an organisation, we are seeing more demand for our services while at the same time the funding context has become increasingly challenging. It's not been an easy year but we are proud of what we have achieved.

It's been great to have all our groups and classes back meeting face to face and to see our community base filled with people and laughter again. Our regular groups meet on a weekly basis throughout the year (Women's Group, Men's Group and Senior's Lunch Club). We have also had two English classes running throughout the year as well as piloting our new Conversational ESOL. Our Click and Connect service has not been as well used this year but we were delighted to run a beginners computer class, as well as a new Face painting and Business class. It was wonderful to see so many people come along to our Summer Fun Day, including the sun, which doesn't usually make an appearance!

Our playwork has gone from strength to strength with our afterschool play sessions and our holiday programme running at full capacity. The downside of this is that we have had to restrict numbers and haven't been able to enable new families to access the service at this time. However, we are delighted to be running our own weekly Youth Club as well as coordinating a new Youth Social Action project, working with a group of young people to support them to take action in their local area.

Supporting people has remained a key priority, through both our food hub, delivered from our new shipping container, and our regular support and signposting drop ins, helping people to make phone calls, access services and making relevant referrals. Our local volunteers have made a key contribution to this work, including designing and planting our new Forest Garden on the estate.

There's a lot to celebrate, including our Vice Chair winning the Community Champion Awards from the Scottish Power Foundation, but there's also a lot still to do and we continue to work hard on behalf of the local community. My thanks go to everyone involved in the work this year: my fellow board members, our volunteers, sessional workers, staff, partners and funders.

On behalf of the board
Robert Smith | Chairperson

ABOUT LINKES



LINKES is a registered Scottish Charity (since 2006) and a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Membership is free and is open to everyone who supports our aims. LINKES is directed by a board of local people. The board meets bi-monthly to oversee the running of the project. For 2022/23, the board members are as follows:

Chair	Robert Smith
Vice Chair	Fatima Mohammed
Treasurer	Salma Ishaq
Secretary	Susan MacAskill
Member	Claire Lyall
Member	Toni Spencer
Member	Samraa Mohamed
Member	Robert Geddes
Member	Fatma Alnagem
Member	Euan Girvan
Member	Zamzam Ghanem
Member	Paul McCann
Member	Dania Aljader (elected Sept 2022)
Member	Fatemah Ghanem (elected Sept 2022)
Member	Kat Boyle (stood down Sept 2022)
Member	Sanaa Alsabag (stood down Sept 2022)
Member	Gaferea Mutasim (stood down Sept 2022)
Member	Niema Faisal (stood down Sept 2022)
Honorary Member	John Wright

STAFF TEAM

Senior Development Worker
Senior Development Worker
Children and Youth Development
Worker
Development Worker (Food)
Development Worker (Groupwork)
Finance Officer

Elaine Connelly (job share 17.5 hrs)
Niki Logan (job share 17.5 hrs)
Heather McGill-Crawford (34 hrs)
Ingrid Fitzsimons (21 hrs)
Tina Loewe (28 hrs)
Sunshine Wood (14 hrs)

Sessional Staff

Play/Youth Workers

Ashley McRae | Esther Olaleye | Sehar
Shabbir | Atlanta Kasekende | Rachael
Hardy

Click & Connect
Women's Group
Men's Group

Christine Cather | Adam Laidlaw
Fatima Mohammed
Thomas Cheyne



VOLUNTEERS

A huge thank you to all our volunteers over the year!

Play sessions:

Khatera Ainy
Khatera Kohistani
Susan MacAskill
Rohey Conteh

Peer Volunteers

Simon Ogundiwin
Andrew Carruthers
Andrew Revadillo
Liam Wareing
Hayleigh Rhodick

Food Group:

Dania Aljader
Euan Girvan
Fatima Mohammed
Paul McCann
Toni Spencer
Zamzam Ghanem

Senior's lunch club:

Marie Smith
Zamzam Ghanem

Fare Share Food Hub:

Laurie Hutton
Marie Smith
Paul McCann
Albert Fielding

Forest Garden:

Laurie Hutton
Monika Scott
Ben Scott
Michelle Woods
Jackey Smythe
Jaymo Cruzy
Heather Mann
Graham McDougall
Rod Sanchez



SCOTTISH POWER FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY CHAMPION

FATIMA MOHAMMED



We were absolutely delighted when our Vice Chair Fatima Mohammed won the Community Champion award from Scottish Power Foundation for going that extra mile to support her local community. This included cooking lunch at our Senior's Lunch Club, providing support and signposting information to local people in both Arabic and English and facilitating our Women's Group. During the height of the pandemic, she helped deliver over 18,000 freshly cooked meals and over 2000 grocery packs within the community. She's also a fabulous Board member, always willing to get stuck in and do what she can to help, and a huge support to both the team and the community alike.

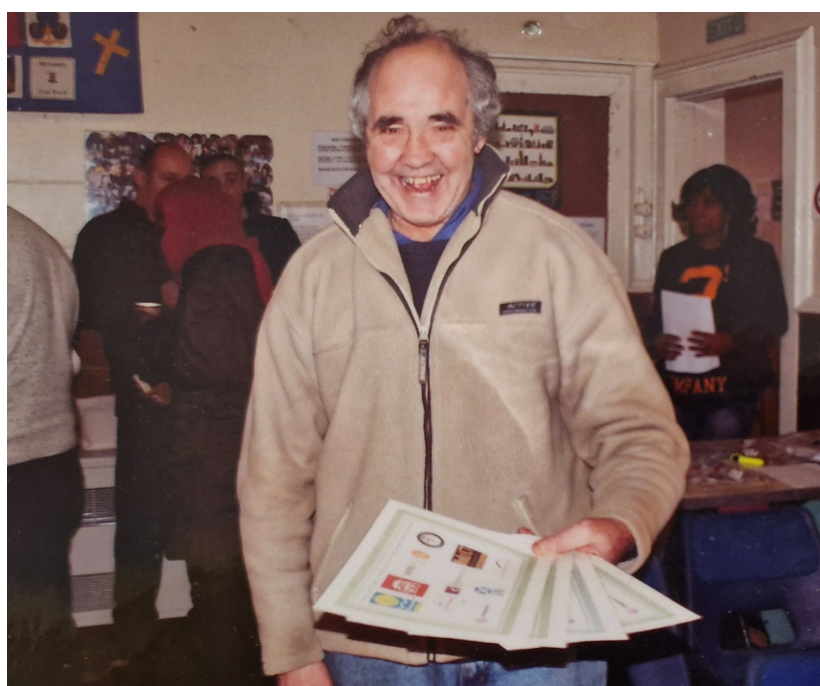
Fatima said "I'm absolutely thrilled to receive this award and would like to thank the amazing team at Linkes, our partners, funders and, of course, the Scottish Power Foundation. It's such a team effort at Linkes and the prize money will be a huge help to support our community activities."

A huge well done Fatima for all your hard work!



IN MEMORY OF JOHN WRIGHT

We are sad to acknowledge the passing of John Wright, founding member of Linkes and Board member for over 15 years. John moved to the Lincoln Avenue estate with his family in the 1960's and was an active member of the local community, with a wealth of local knowledge. During his time at Linkes, he took on a number of roles, including Vice Chair and Environmental Officer, and was latterly recognised as an Honorary Board Member. A real character and cheery soul, John is very much missed by all at Linkes. Our thoughts are with his partner, Catherine, his family and friends.



COMMUNITY



We ran a busy programme of community activities, learning opportunities and events throughout the year.

GROUP WORK

60 women participated in our weekly Women's Group via Zoom and in person and 104 women participated in our What'sApp group.

32 members participated in our weekly Seniors Lunch Club for a freshly cooked three course lunch, bingo, fun and friendship.

7 men participated in our Men's Group and learned skills to build a model railway. The group also attended the Perth Model Railway Show and a tour of Central Station.

COMMUNITY LEARNING

32 students attended two accredited 32 week ESOL classes (Literacy and Elementary level) delivered by Clyde College, with each class taking place for two mornings a week, one class with creche provision.

15 women attended our 14-week Facepainting & Business course delivered by Clyde College and with vital creche provision.

53 people participated in our pilot conversational ESOL class, delivered in Partnership with Glasgow ESOL Forum, working with learners in groups at different levels, and with vital creche provision

25 people participated in our Click and Connect sessions or took part in our computing course.

***"I've never eaten so well since I attended the lunch club."
"I like the company. Sometimes you get a laugh with people
and good conversation.***

***There is nothing worse than sitting at home alone."
"I liked that the class was not very formal. We learned, not
just from the teacher, but a lot from each other too."
" I learned lots of good skills through this course."***

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



PLAY SESSIONS

174 weekly after school play sessions, working with 156 children, between Lincoln Avenue and Kirkton Avenue.

YOUTH CLUBS

25 young people attended 40 sessions across the year including outdoor activities. We also had 6 peer volunteers who contributed over 160 volunteering hours at our holiday clubs

YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT

This 18 month project began in December 2022 with community engagement session with young people in and around the Lincoln Avenue estate to find out what change they wanted to make in their local community. Their first project was helping out with the forest garden community planting day. The group are now working on a campaign to improve the play area on the estate.

CYCLING

11 young people in our BMX group had a busy year, improving their BMX skills, trying out the Velodrome and even got to meet a few heroes and be interviewed on TV for Children in Need!

HOLIDAY CLUBS

9 exciting weeks of holiday clubs, with 864 attendances. Activities included trips, sports, arts & crafts and a whole lot of fun! We also served up 276 breakfasts, 272 lunches, 852 snacks and 712 dinners.

BIKEABILITY

48 children learned how to cycle in partnership with Glasgow Eco Trust.

SCHOOL WORK

We ran weekly lunch time play sessions in a local Primary School for part of the year.

BOOGIE BABIES

80 families attended our weekly music and storytelling sessions, benefiting 90 children under 5yrs old.

“They enjoy it every time, giving them time out to themselves, making new friends and always something to do and fantastic staff who give the kids their time and support and keep them kids happy. It’s a much needed and fantastic club for kids and hope its around for a long time.”

FOOD & SUPPORT



FOOD HUB

We distributed 12 tonnes of food and groceries through the delivery of 48 food hub sessions, directly benefiting over 130 people.

Six local people met up every six weeks as part of our Food Group to discuss food insecurity on the estate and consider what to do to address it.

15 weekly sessions of Lincoln Community Kitchen were delivered by St Vincent de Pauls (providing freshly cooked hot food) and The Invisibles (providing clothing, household goods and toiletries).

FOREST GARDEN

Nine local volunteers worked with The Orchard Project to design a Forest Garden which was planted by volunteers and local people, consisting of four fruit trees and 58 shrubs.

VOLUNTEERS

17 volunteers contributed to the delivery of the Food Hub, the Forest Garden and participated in our Food Group.

SUPPORT & SIGNPOSTING

93 people accessed our support and signposting drop in appointments, with many using this service multiple times throughout the year. Enquiries included assistance with welfare support, Glasgow City Council Services, contacting energy providers, as well as referrals to foodbanks and other support agencies.

“I cannot thank you enough for your total support, my life just got that bit easier now after the help I received from you.”

EVENTS



FUN DAY

Approximately 600 people attended our Fun Day in August 2022, the first one in three years, enjoying children's activities, food, music and entertainment.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

70 women and their children participated in an International Women's Day event, delivered in partnership with Kingsway Community Connections and Women's Support Project. Women enjoyed food, music, games, stalls and dancing.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Our Community Meal on Saturday 8th October at Knightswood Community Centre was attended by 75 people, surpassing our target by about 40 people! Feedback from the event was really positive, with people telling us they loved the food and their kids had fun.



“Please do more of these events it's good for the kids and parents.”

“We would like to come back again.”

“We're having a lovely time, thanks.”

All people: One Community

Thanks to all our partners, supporters and funders

Antonine Court
Big Voices Mobile Creche
Corpus Christi Primary School
Drumchapel Money Advice Centre
FareShare Scotland
Glasgow Clyde College
Glasgow Community Food Network
Glasgow Eco Trust
Glasgow Kelvin College
Kingsway Community Connections
Knightswood Community Centre
Knightswood Connects
Knightswood Congregational Church
Maryhill Mobile Creche
Merry-go-round Glasgow
North-West Glasgow Voluntary Sector
Network
NWGVSN Network IT Recycling Project
Propagate
Scottish Pantry Network
St David's Church
Society of St Vincent de Paul (North
Glasgow)
The Caravan Project
The Invisibles
The Orchard Project
The Trussell Trust
Well-Fed Scotland
Wheatley Homes Glasgow



Registered Scottish Charity No:SC037175

Registered office:

Linkes

Community Rooms

200 Lincoln Avenue

Knightswood

G13 3PP

Website: www.linkes.org.uk

Email: contact@linkes.org.uk

Contact us: Tel: 0141 954 7554

Facebook: Linkes Community Project

Glasgow

Instagram: Linkesyouth

X: Linkesgla