

Linkes Annual Report 2021/22



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Letter from our Chairperson

Hello,

It has been another year of trials and triumphs at Linkes. We have remained true to our commitment to tackling the impact of poverty and providing opportunities for learning and well-being on the estate and the surrounding community. We are proud of what we have achieved over the last year.

Emerging from the restrictions of lockdown, we were reminded again that meeting in person matters. As we struggled to repair and reopen our Community Rooms, we worked with local venues to relocate our **English classes** and creche to nearby Knightswood Community Centre. **Boogie Babies**, also based there, is thriving as preschoolers and their caregivers meet again for some much needed fun. The **Men's Group** were delighted to access their model railway in Knightswood Congregational Church. The **Women's Group** have unexpectedly thrived online. The **Seniors Lunch Club**, a stalwart service at Linkes, is back in full swing on site. Our **play work** has been steady and busy throughout the year, providing a safe space for children to laugh, learn and play together - all the more important in light of the challenges families are facing.

Food remains a focus on the estate, a sign of the times. Our committed volunteers in the Food Group have been progressing creative longer term solutions to providing good food on the estate and we look forward to working with Wheatley Homes in the coming year to establish a new Community Pantry on the estate. Our winter **Community Meal**, gave us a welcome taste of community events again, providing a hearty meal for 50 people.

Sadly, we've been responding to more people in crisis. With wider services being reduced, moving online or with long waiting times, we introduced a **weekly signposting session**, with an Arabic translator to bridge the gap locally as well as providing telephone support throughout the week. We will continue to look for solutions to emerging needs.

Throughout the last year, we have been constantly reminded that kindness is key and that a little kindness goes a long way in easing burdens, addressing crisis, and planning solutions. Our staff, board and volunteer team and our members have demonstrated great kindness to each other and that is evident in the warmth at Linkes and what we are achieving together. Our strapline for Linkes: 'All People, One Community' remains at our core.

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

Scottish Charity Awards 2021



Run annually by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), the Scottish Charity Awards celebrate the best of Scotland's voluntary sector.

We were delighted that Robert Smith, chairperson of Linkes Community Project, has been recognised as the winner in the 'Trustee of the Year' category. His nomination tells of his impact in the local community over the last year:

'Robert Smith is the co-founder and driving force of Linkes community project (2006), serving as chairperson. He is a treasure and the best of Glasgow: open, canny, a born activist, warm neighbour, a community man through and through. He has dedicated the last three decades of his life to working and volunteering within the community.' He has been an unstoppable force for good in response to Covid-19, generously and relentlessly building an inclusive community response to the pandemic and rising to every challenge thrown at him. Between March – September 2020, Robert's team of volunteers at Linkes delivered a whopping 18,000 meals to older/vulnerable people and 2,000 grocery packs to families. Since October 2020 Robert has overseen logistics of a weekly food-hub.

Robert makes the magic happen, whether he is running board meetings, bulk buying food, driving the van, supporting new volunteers or making friendly phone calls – he is an unstoppable force for good.'

In response to winning the award, Robert stated:

"I would like to thank the amazing team of staff, board and volunteers at Linkes, our partners and funders and everyone else in the community who contributes to what we do. I'm really proud of what we've achieved in what has been an extremely difficult year and on behalf of the team at Linkes, I'd like to say a big thank you for this award."

Linkes Staff Team

Senior Development Worker	Elaine Connelly (job share 17.5 hrs)
Senior Development Worker	Niki Logan (job share 17.5 hrs)
Children and Youth Development Worker	Heather McGill-Crawford (34 hrs)
Development Worker (Food/ Groupwork)	Ingrid Fitzsimons (28 hrs)
Development Worker (Groupwork)	Tina Loewe (21 hrs)
Finance Officer	Sunshine Wood (14 hrs)

Sessional Staff

Playworkers	Ashley McRae Esther Olaleye Sehar Shabbir
Women's Group	Fatima Mohammed
Men's Group	Thomas Cheyne

Linkes Board

Chair	Robert Smith
Vice Chair	Fatima Mohammed
Treasurer	Salma Ishaq
Secretary	Susan MacAskill
Member	Toni Spencer
Member	Samraa Mohamed (stood down Sep 2021)
Member	Claire Lyall
Member	Yunming Lin (stood down Sept 2021)
Member	Euan Girvan
Member	Gwen Brock (stood down Sept 2021)
Member	Zamzam Ghanem
Member	Kat Boyle
Member	Fatma Alnagem
Member	Sanaa Alsabag
Member	Robert Geddes
Member	Gaferea Mutasim (elected Sept 2021)
Member	Paul McCann (elected Sept 2021)
Member	Niema Faisal (elected Sept 2021)
Honorary Member	John Wright



Volunteers

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

Susan MacAskill	Play Worker
ZamZam Ghanem	Seniors Lunch Club & Food Group
Morris Baxter	Senior's Lunch Club
Anna Baxter	Senior's Lunch Club
Marie Smith	Senior's Lunch Club
Andrew Carruthers	Peer Volunteer
Simon Ogundiwin	Peer Volunteer
Hayleigh Rhodick	Peer Volunteer
Zuzanna Haupa	Peer Volunteer
Meghan Urqhart	Peer Volunteer
Dania Al Jader	Food Group
Fatima Mohammed	Food Hub & Food Group
Toni Spencer	Food Hub and Food Group
Euan Girvan	Friendly Phone Calls & Food Group
Paul McCann	FareShare Food Collection & Food Group
Clive Baxter	FareShare Food Collection

I love volunteering at Linkes because it gives me an opportunity to work with others.



Food



“
The food, the gathering of people from my community, seeing the people around me in one place.
”

Over the year our food work has continued to grow.

Local volunteers contributed **429** hours across our Food Project, including our community meal, foodhub, food group and friendly phone calls.

49 weekly food hubs distributing essential groceries to the local community. This was used by over **180** households.



24 local people attended one of our three Balcony Growing Workshops in June-July 2021, delivered in partnership with Propagate where participants learned how to grow herbs and vegetables in their own homes.

240 referrals to the local Food Bank, supporting **39** households.

6 local people met **10** times as part of our Food Group, to consider key issues around food poverty on the estate and how best to address them.

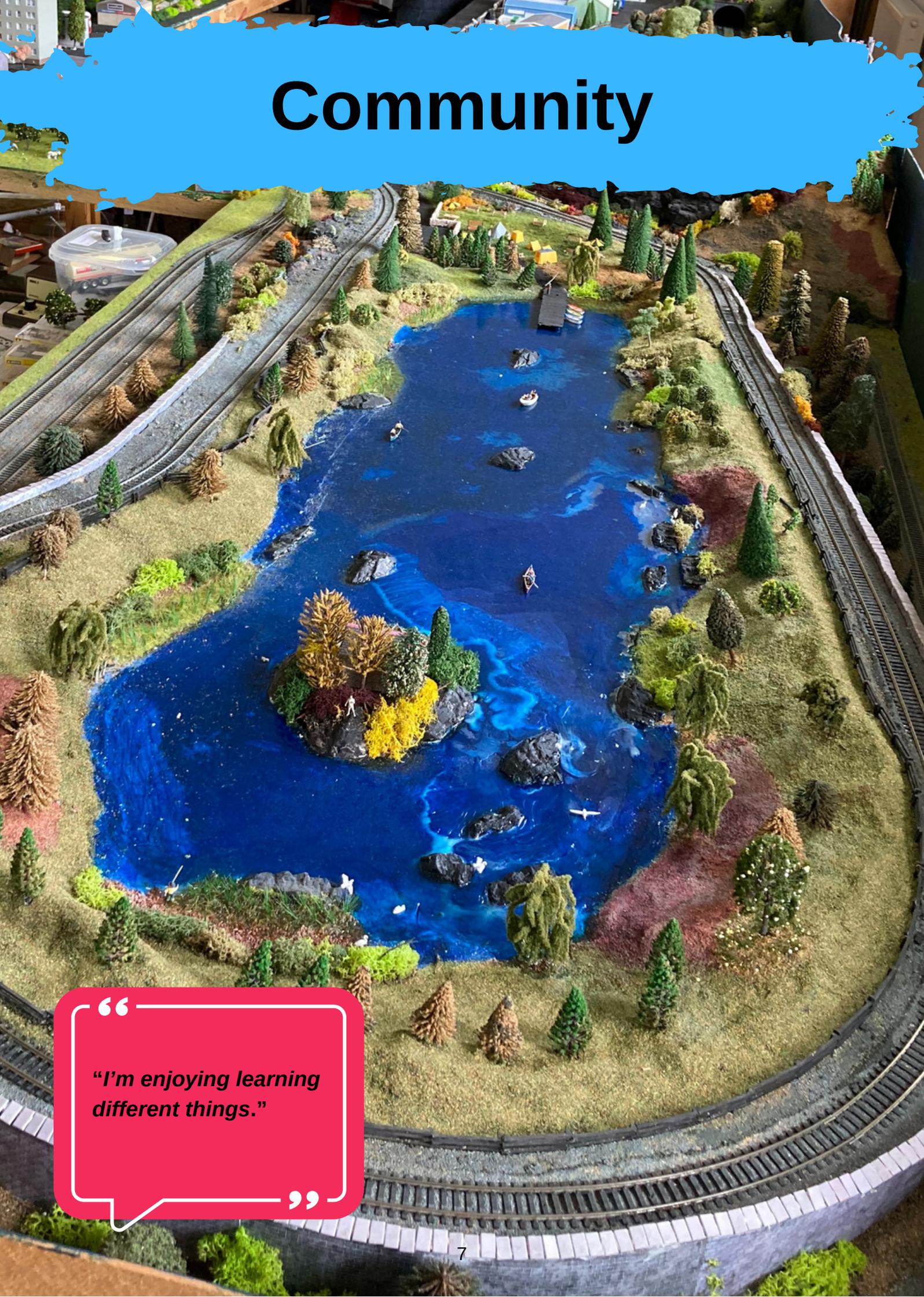
8 Local people, including our **2** volunteer cooks, received free REHIS Food Hygiene training with Clyde College as part of our Community Meal in March 2022.

25 adults and **25** children, along with **10** volunteers and staff, attended our Community Meal event on Saturday 26th March. The Community Meal aimed to bring local people together after the pandemic for a healthy meal to reduce isolation and connect with others in their local community.

“
I cannot thank you enough for your total support. I do realise there are many others struggling with the day to day situation but my life has just got that bit easier now after the help I recieved from you.
”



Community



“

“I’m enjoying learning different things.”

”



This year has been busier than ever with our community activities and group-work and it's been great to get back to meeting many of our groups face to face.

43 women participated in our weekly women's group via zoom and in person and **90** women participated in our What's app group.

32 members participated in our senior's lunch club (10 weeks of meal delivery, 14 weeks of afternoon tea and 19 weeks of freshly cooked three course lunches and much-loved bingo!)

32 students attended two accredited 32-week ESOL classes (beginners and elementary) delivered by Clyde College, with each class taking place for two mornings a week (one session online and one session in person).

13 women attended a 10-week course in IT and CV Building, delivered by Clyde College.

51 people were provided with IT support, including accessing digital devices and wifi, enabling them to join online classes/groups and access services.

9 men participated in our men's group, building a model railway and attending a Model Railway Exhibition at the SECC.

We supported local people with **65** enquiries through our drop in signposting sessions with an Arabic interpreter.



It's great to have the lunch club open again. It's somewhere to go and I get to meet a lot of people and discuss how things are going. I absolutely love it.

Children & Young People



“

“Linkes is the best youth club in the world. I always feel happy when I come into Linkes.”

”

Across the year we worked with **547** children and young people to deliver a vibrant programme of activities.

Term time programme:

We delivered **204** sessions across **36** weeks:

6 Friday night Pump Track sessions with DRC Youth Project – Introducing children to BMX pump track riding.

14 BMX sessions: Girls on Track - empowering girls to become accredited to ride the Olympic standard BMX track and try out the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome.



45 Lincoln Avenue Play – weekly afterschool sessions for primary school children, giving them the chance to relax, refuel and play on their terms.

32 Kirkton Avenue Street Play – giving children the chance to play on their street, in the way they want.

19 Youth Clubs – zoom quizzes, social media chats, trips, a place to come and hang out with friends.

24 Bikeability sessions – children learning how to navigate busy roads safely when out on their bikes.

30 School Play – free play for school children, who set what they want to play during their lunch break.

22 Boogie Babies sessions from under 5s, attended by **55** families.

Holiday Clubs

We delivered **36** play sessions and trips across **9** weeks:

Spring

25 activity packs and **60** fruit and veg bags distributed, feeding **165** children.



“Linkes is loud and fun.”

Summer

57 children participated in our **23**-session summer programme. **128** fruit and veg bags were distributed, feeding **180** children.

We also delivered **9** exciting trips, including tree climbing, canoeing, cycling, hill walking.

October

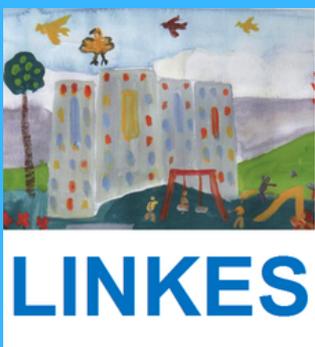
30 children enjoyed trips to the Tall Ship, Riverside Museum, Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome & canoeing. **55** fruit and veg bags were distributed, feeding **140** children.

All people: One Community

Thanks to all our partners, supporters and funders

Antonine Court
Corpus Christi Primary School
Drumchapel Money Advice
FareShare Scotland
Glasgow Clyde College
Glasgow Community Food Network
Glasgow Eco Trust
Glasgow Housing Association
Glasgow Kelvin College
Kingsway Community Connections

Knightswood Community Centre
Knightswood Congregational Church
Maryhill Mobile Creche
Merry-go-round Glasgow
Network IT Recycling Project
North-West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network
Propagate
St David's Church
The Trussell Trust
The Caravan Project



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Registered office:
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