

# The Neighbourhood Echo

Winter Edition 2022

A TOUCHING memorial service was held in Clydebank on Thursday the 27th of October to celebrate the lives of members of the town's Neighbourhood Network who sadly passed away during the Covid pandemic.



Members of Neighbourhood Network  
Clydebank



Ronnie Creamer reads out his speech  
dedicated to his friend Derek Blair



Three commemorative plaques were installed at the  
allotments in memory of the members the group has lost

# Welcome to the Autumn/Winter Neighbourhood Echo Edition

This Edition was edited by:

Peter, Morven, Raymond, Albert, Ronnie, Jack, Frank, Stephen, John all from the Clydebank and Dumbarton Networks.

The front cover shows members of Clydebank and Dumbarton Neighbourhood Network Group, unveil a touching tribute to the friends who lost their friends to Covid during the pandemic.

Everyone from Clydebank and Dumbarton Networks would like to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope there is plenty opportunities to meet up in 2023.





## Green Helping Hands



One of the Tranent members, Stacey, came to me in July and asked if her fellow members would be interested in helping her with her Garden as it is pretty big. She asked if they would help her to clean it up by taking out the weeds, cutting down a tree and trimming some shrubs. I met with the members and asked if they would be willing to help her and they said yes. The following week I made up some sandwiches for the members, they provided the juice and crisps and we got to work. We all met at Stacey's house and a few members got stuck right in while one of the others was more interested in playing with the rabbit! By the end of the day, we had a good system going, two members were taking out the weeds and the others were cutting back shrubs, it was great to see. Once we got most of it done, we stopped for a break and a well-deserved sandwich. The members have decided to make this an ongoing project and will help Stacey with her garden a few times a year.

# Congratulations on your engagement!

A tale of true love.

Let's go back to the beginning, Sally a member of Lanark Network met her Romeo Bobby once the world had started going out again. Sally took herself off with her friend to the local pub. Across the room, she spotted Bobby the dashing knight on the karaoke.



They started talking, with Sally building her confidence in going out on her own, meeting new people and trying new things. The date nights started in the local pub, bowling green and meals out.

Sally being cautious took things slowly getting to know this new dashing knight and Bobby was ever the gentleman.

Sally shared this good news with the network and with excitement the proposal was done (even on one knee), Sally said yes to her star-crossed lover.

The invites were sent out, and plans were made for the members to join her in the local pub for the engagement party of the year.

With food shared and drinks flowing the date was set for the wedding.

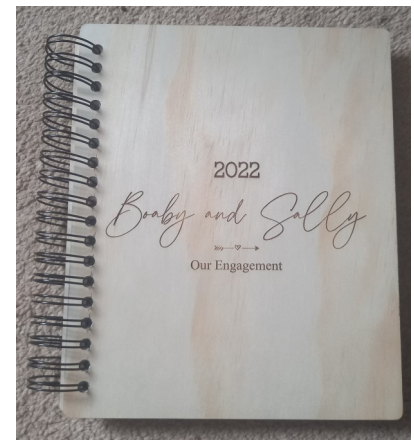
Sally says, "She has never been happier and confident with Bobby".

Sally's best friend says, "Sally has found her true knight in shining armour, Bobby adores her and will do all he can for her".

Rosie a Lanark member said, "I am so happy for her and great to share in the party, great when people find true happiness".

Watch this space for the ongoing love story as plans are made for the wedding of the year.

Congratulations Sally and Bobby!



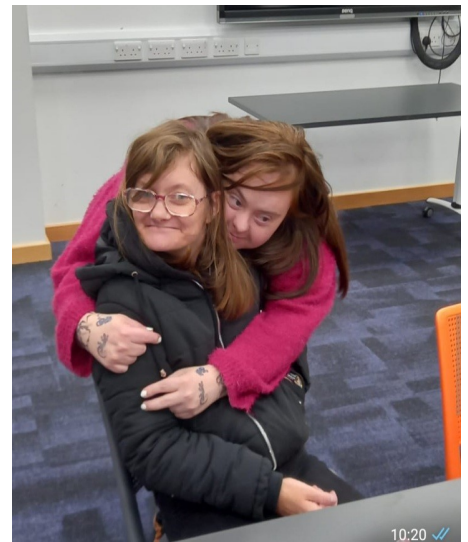


## A Sad Loss for Denny

The Denny Network recently lost our friend and member Debbie. We are all so sad about her loss but we are helping each other by remembering all the good times we shared.

Debbie loved going to bingo and when she joined the network, she discovered her talent for bowling and her creative side. She was very caring and liked to look after all of her friends.

Debbie was a massive part of our network and we will all miss her so much.



## Shirley's Shift!



Shotts member Shirley has been a great volunteer at the Healthy Living Cafe, where she helps staff set the tables, prepare food and clear up dishes after the weekly afternoon tea event. She has been a great worker and staff have praised her commitment to help everyone who attends, great work Shirley, well done!

## A Valued Volunteer!

Stuart Florence has started volunteering at the Debra Charity shop in Cumbernauld. Stuart is learning new skills and has been serving customers on the till and sorting through donations. He is working with a lovely team of supportive colleagues and is excited about his future and the new opportunities that he will get from working in the shop.





## Good Luck Marco

"Hi, I'm Marco, and I'm a member of the Cumbernauld 2 network. Among other things, I'm interested in games development. I've been working on a game called Operation: Pinkeye for 4 years now, and have recently released it on Steam, Itch.io and GameJolt, with a physical copy coming early next year, once I get all of the bugs ironed out. The game is a first person shooter taking inspiration from Goldeneye and Perfect Dark, and is set in an alternate universe where the UK never formed, and Scotland & England remain separate countries, the tensions between which are very high. You play as a Scottish secret agent sent to investigate what the Scottish Secret Service (The SSS) suspects is another attempt by England to invade Scotland.



The game is available primarily in Scots and Scottish Gaelic, with voiced dialogue being in the former. One aim of the game is to promote our languages and make them more mainstream and accepted in our society, or at the very least get the ball rolling.

As of writing this, I've sold 61 copies, and 900 people have wish listed it on Steam. I hope to sell 300 copies by this time next year. The game is still in the process of being polished and many reported bugs being patched out.

Thanks,  
Marco Cafolla

## A Message from Ross

Hi my name is Ross Watson, and I've been a member of Neighbourhood Networks since 2013. I became a board member in 2016, and chairperson three years later.

I wish to tell my story about my time on the board, before and during my time as chairperson.

In the beginning, it was an eye opener for me, I was trying to get to grips with what the board discussed, and how we as board trustees could make a difference to the whole organisation. In addition, there were also non member trustees from the outside, such as accountants who provided their expertise.

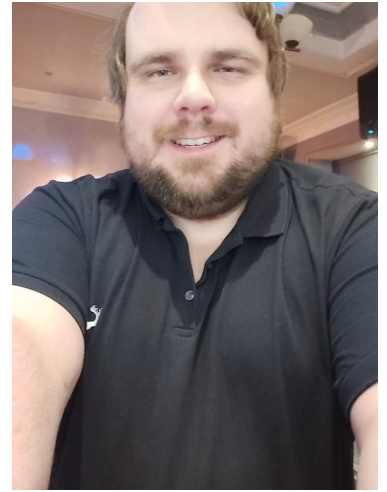
I had a buddy during my time on the board, Karen Kirkpatrick for the first three years, and Neil Park in the latter three years, both of whom were of tremendous help and assistance during my time, and a fundamental reason why I learned quicker than even I could have expected.

In addition, I also served as part of the finance sub committee, a group that met to discuss the financial side of the organisation.

But it's really my time as chairperson that I wish to share, as it was a chance for me to take the lead in a group, something I've always wanted to do. I felt like I took the lead in events outside the board, so I had lots of experience of doing it.

My role was to announce the agenda and to welcome and thank the other trustees for coming. I had to have confidence and a good voice, and I felt like I could do it well.

Overall, my time on the board was enjoyable, and it showed me what staff do that other members don't really see, such as discuss new networks in different areas, and it's very interesting.



For those that are wanting to apply to be Member Trustees, I'd say go for it, because you really get to see what the board do to make Neighbourhood Networks better, and that you can provide a voice as well, because it's the members who know what a network likes and wants to participate in.

I'd like to thank all of the staff for making me welcome in the beginning, something that grew as time went on, and say that I would not change my time on the board for the world.



# A Warm Welcome from the Haddington Network

To their two new members, Rebecca and Daniel.





## Giffnock Green Fingers

Back in August Giffnock and Thornliebank members joined Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire Community Hub's gardening group. Each Tuesday we meet at Young Enterprise Scotland in Rouken Glen park. Where we do various gardening tasks including planting seeds, harvesting crops, watering, weeding and picking any spoilt vegetables and fruit to be turned into compost. We have even grown cat grass for the cat's protection Glasgow adoption centre. The grass was taken to the rehoming centre and each pot was put with a cat to help enrich their environment and help with their stress and wellbeing whilst they await their new home.





## Successful Start for Stevenston!!

As a newly established network just this year, Stevenston 2 members have been having a lovely time getting to know each other and developing some great relationships. In particular, members have loved getting together for lunch on a regular basis and this has really helped to cement fantastic peer support and friendships! One of our members favourite spots for lunch is the Saltcoats Wetherspoons pub in Saltcoats...who doesn't love a Spoons lunch!

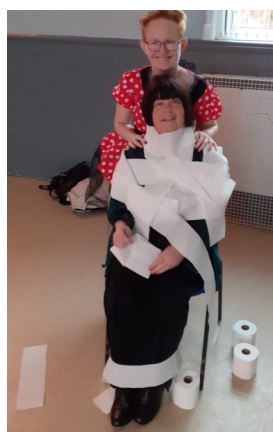


The past few months have been particularly exciting with the network filling up with members and we have welcomed our most recent members Ryan and Laura-Anne.

Ryan Gibb has been a great addition to the Network, and he got off to a busy start by getting involved in the interviews for the new North Ayrshire Networks Manager. He gave great input in these interviews and came up with his own questions to put to the interviewees. Ryan enjoyed being part of this process and was a great help in doing so! Being active within the network has continued for Ryan and we are proud to have him representing Stevenston 2 as the new Net Rep so I'm sure we will be hearing a lot more from him very soon!



Newest member Laura-Anne has enjoyed joining the network and getting involved with different activities. When the North Ayrshire members came together for a fun filled Halloween party, Laura-Anne loved getting dressed up and meeting members from the other North Ayrshire Networks. She had a ball joining in with all the Halloween games, especially making fellow member Jane into a mummy! Laura-Anne would like to improve her digital skills within the network and is looking to get involved with the many digital activities that Neighbourhood Networks offer.



The Stevenston 2 network looks forward to more activities, more lunches together and sharing their different skills with one another!

# Hello's!

## We would like to welcome some new staff to Neighbourhood Networks



Amanda Cameron

Community Living Worker Dumbarton



Andrew Burdge

Digital Co-ordinator

Neighbourhood Networks, Pavilion 5A, Moorpark Court, 25 Dava Street, Govan, Glasgow G51 2JA

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