

STREET LEVEL

Carluke Churches' Youth Project
"Investing in young people"

Keeping our supporters up
to date with
Carluke Churches' Youth
Project

Summer
Edition
June 2021

Newsletter

Tree Planting up The Moor

In April this year, Street Level joined forces with One Carluke Area Network (OneCAN)'s Environmental group on a warm day at Moor Park to do their bit in battling climate change and helping the wildlife. Some of our regular attendees and a newer, but just as enthusiastic, group from Kirkton Primary P7 helped plant around fifty trees.

Some were put in a boggy area which can get so wet that it had previously been fenced off. Two types of willow, alder and elder bushes which like such wet conditions will now help to dry out the area. As well as carbon capturing, the trees will attract insect life and eventually provide homes for birds.

On the adjoining slope beside the few existing trees, we

planted wild cherry and downy birch trees. When grown, the trees in this area will provide a wood for children to play and shade for visitors to the nearby play park.

Jim McIntyre – Street level's Project Leader said: "Although it was quite hard work in very warm weather, it was great to see the young folk getting a chance to do their bit for the environment and the community. Thanks to Christine Warren from the Environmental group for arranging this venture and inviting us to work in collaboration with them. It only took a couple of days for my old knees to recover!"



Megan Lannigan, the newly appointed ONECAN communications officer, was also there lending a hand and she has added Carluke's efforts to the Countryfile Plant Britain interactive map.

Carluke's new trees have joined over half a million other plantings recorded nationwide.

We're on the map!

Is Anybody Listening?

"Often we need to talk to someone who will really listen to us."



When the Street Level centre was open on a regular basis before lock-down, one of the valuable additions to what we offered to our young people was the presence of "The Listeners" - A group of dedicated ladies who gave of their time and talents to "be there" for the young people. The closure of the centre has meant we were unable to make use of their skills but they are still able to offer a free service for anyone who just wants to talk and be listened to.

Often we need to talk to someone who will really listen to us: someone who will give us space to talk without interruption. Someone who will give us time to explore and express our feelings. Someone who will listen respectfully and in strict confidence.

Carluke Listeners are here to do just that. We are now able to offer limited face-to-face sessions as well as the following alternatives:

Telephone listening sessions.

To find out more call or text 07434 843518

Zoom video listening sessions

To find out more email Carlukelisteners@outlook.com

All our listeners are fully trained and supervised.

A view from our current “Student on Placement”

I am a student at the University of Glasgow studying BA community development and before this I was at Glasgow Kelvin College studying HNC Working with communities. I am currently on placement with Street Level/Universal Connections and have been on placement since October 2019.

While on placement doing my HNC I feel that through the support of Brian and other staff members I gained a lot of skills and experience which gave me the confidence to apply to university.

Since August a lot has changed due to Covid and the new guidelines that have been put in place. I have been introduced to new types of youth work, mainly outreach

and digital. At first, I found this quite challenging but also enjoyable.

This year’s placement has given me many more opportunities to learn different skills and put them into practice such as working with the young people over zoom. I have enjoyed this as the young people came up with many fun and challenging activities some of which had me running around my house participating in the weekly scavenger hunt. My parents were not too fond of this as many items would go missing like potato mashers, light bulbs, and random vegetables etc and then be found many weeks later after the rest of the house had been turned upside

down looking for them as I had forgotten to take them back to their rightful place!!!

I am looking forward to many more fun activities as more and more face-to-face work is starting to emerge.

Jade Watson



Jade working with P7 group

UWS having a look at Street Level

Street Level has commissioned the University of the West of Scotland to conduct an external, independent evaluation of the Street Level project. The review was announced at the 2020 Annual General Meeting, and work started last year despite the COVID lockdown.

Street Level chair John Wilcox commented, “Street Level has been around for over 25 years and many of the team have been involved for much of that time. We thought it would be useful to get a fresh look at what we do and how well we do it”.

The analysis is being undertaken by Professor Ross Deuchar and Dr Annette Coburn who have just completed an evaluation of published reports and news items about Street Level. Among their initial conclusions, they found that Street Level communicates its mission very well, in a way that is accessible to a wide audience. They noted that the stories of doorstep deliveries, confidence-building and fun, indicate that Street Level makes a



valued contribution to communities and individual young people.

They were also complimentary about the partnership between Street Level and Universal Connections which delivers the service to young people, noting that it brings added value to both partners.

The next phase will include face-to-face interviews with staff, young people and supporters and it is planned to begin work on this after the summer holiday period.

Thank you CHOICES

Many thanks to Choices for financial support so generously given to Street Level over many years. We are especially grateful that this support has continued during the time of Covid restrictions when the shop was unable to open.

Here at Street Level we send our congratulations on the opening of the newly refurbished premises and send our very best wishes for a long and successful future.

The Great Outdoors

One of the outcomes of not being able to use the Street Level building as much, during the Covid crisis, has been the increase in outdoor meetings between staff and young people of the town.

This has mainly entailed a trip up to the skate-park on Thursday evenings when staff hand out water, juice, crisps and a variety of Gregg's produce to around 20 young people and get a chance to catch up with what's happening in their lives.



Steak-bakes at Skate-park

Friday afternoons and after school some Wednesdays has seen us take a box with a variety of sports equipment—pop-up net, bats and balls etc. up the Moor park for a bit of fun and games.

Even after things get back to some kind of normal, it is likely that our future youth work will be a mixture of centre-based activities, on-line and outdoor contact.

During the Summer break, we are looking to get involved with Karen Dobbins and "Forest Friends" to do some consultation and eventually

some work in making the Jock's Burn area of Carlruke more accessible and better used.

It is also hoped that we can help out with OneCAN's project to create an outdoor community garden at the High Mill site.



Fun & Games up the Moor

Emma & Tracy do summit for Street Level

Street Level would like to say a great big THANK YOU to Emma & Tracy for their efforts in raising some much-needed funds for the Street Level Youth Project.

They took on the challenge of walking 100 miles in a month and decided to give all the sponsorship money to Street Level. Through rain, hail, sleet, snow and the odd bit of sunshine, they trudged their way around Carlruke and

surrounding area; culminating in a grand finale at the top of Tinto Hill!

The total amount they raised for Street Level was **£865.72**

Well done you two and to all who donated.

"Why is there an odd 72p in the total?" I hear you ask. Well, that's due to the exchange rate from the donation in dollars all the way from Colorado U.S.A.!



Chapman Butchers Raises £1,000 for Street Level

A huge "THANK YOU" to the customers and staff of the Carlruke branch of Chapman Butchers. They, along with some other local businesses kindly agreed to have one of our collection cans on the counter of their shop but theirs is one which is most regularly filled up. Earlier this year, the running

total of income for Street Level from Chapman's can passed the **£1,000** mark. This is an amazing testament to the generosity of their customers and a very welcome part of the income of the Street Level charity.

If you own or manage a business in Carlruke that would be able to accommodate a counter-

top collection can, and you would like to support the work of your local Youth Project, then please get in touch with us and we will gladly drop one in to you.

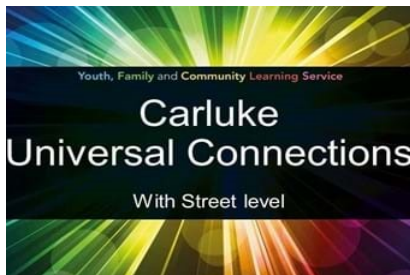


Street Level works closely with our partners South Lanarkshire Council's Youth, Family, Community Learning Service - YFCL to enable both organisations to contribute to the wellbeing of our community to greater effect.

The combination of a well established, highly regarded local charity and the local authority's Universal Connections allows us to provide a unique and tailored support to the citizens of Carluke and the surrounding areas.

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Street Level is supported by

Six Carluke Churches:

Saint Andrew's Church of Scotland

Saint Athanasius' Roman Catholic

Saint John's Church of Scotland

Kirkstyle Baptist Church

Kirkton Church of Scotland

United Reformed Church

Moving Forward - but with "Baby Steps"

It goes without saying that these have been difficult times for many people: families struggling financially and emotionally; young people having to cope with isolation, disconnection, missing out on school and all the mental health issues that come with all of that.

In spite of this, the way that my fellow Street Level workers, my colleagues from Universal Connections, my volunteer management team and the community as a whole have come together and rolled up their sleeves to get on with what was required, has filled me with hope.

Thanks to the commitment of all of the above, and a fair bit of Scottish Government funding that we were able to access through the S.T.V. Children's

appeal, we were able to provide emotional, financial and practical support to a huge number of children and families.

We were able to provide digital devices to allow people to access the internet. We also had some great community responses to various appeals for clothes, toys, furniture and household items which we were able to pass on to those who needed them. It was also good to be able to give some folks shopping vouchers instead of bags of food, which allowed them a bit of control and dignity in doing their own shopping. But as often as not, it was the time we spent chatting on the doorsteps that was appreciated just as much as the practical help.

So, things are starting to open up a bit more again: Our Young

Carers' group is back on on Wednesday nights, we have a drop-in on Friday afternoon and Sunday evening. We are hoping to arrange some P7 transition groups soon and are in the middle of planning a varied Summer programme which will include a fair bit of adult learning opportunities.

In the meantime, I would appreciate it if you could keep me and my colleagues in your thoughts and prayers as we head into a new way of doing things, and save a couple of prayers for the young people and their families who have gone through such hard times. But hopefully, with baby steps, we will all come out of this OK.

Jim McIntyre: Project Leader