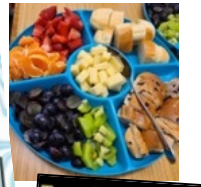
Cardowan Community Meadow

Chair's Report for 2025 AGM

It's been (exactly) 15 months since the last AGM in July 2024. Since then, we've been able to strengthen and add to the groups and work we do to support and advocate for our community members, as well as care for and make the most of the green spaces around us. We always aim to ensure what we do remains within the capacity of the wonderful volunteers that run Cardowan Community Meadow. This report shows how much every volunteer does and for that I give heartfelt thanks to all, past and present. Please consider joining in to help <u>your</u> community. Annmarie Kirkland, Chair.







Regular Groups

Each week, we ran a range of free wellbeing activities open to everyone and advertised on our social media

MONDAY	9.30-11.30am	Jumping Joeys (St Joseph's Parish Centre) Parent/guardian and toddlers group
TUESDAY	7pm-9pm	Never Alone Support Group (The Happy Hub)
WEDNESDAY	4pm-6pm	Active Travel Cycle Hub (Frankfield Playpark) Minor repairs, maintenance, flat tyres, brakes
THURSDAY	12pm-3pm	Health & Wellbeing Sessions (The Happy Hub) Arts and crafts with a chat and a cuppa
FRIDAY	1pm-2pm	Health Walk (start from The Happy Hub)
Last FRIDAY of the month		Holistic Therapy Sessions (The Happy Hub) From soundbaths to natural remedies for health

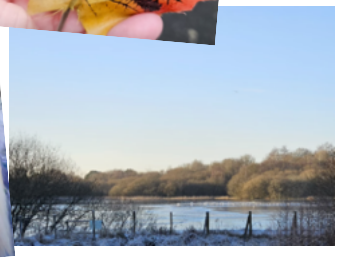




















Summer 2024

★ The **Health and Wellbeing Group** was nominated for the Creative Lives Awards. These awards celebrate the achievement of voluntary and community-led creativity across the UK and Ireland.

Creative Lives Awards

★ The **Community Garden** continued to be maintained by volunteers over the Summer months.





★ We ensured the **Cardowan Meadow** was featured on film as part of the national environmental campaign Scotland Loves Nature calling on the Scottish Government to set legally binding nature recovery targets and increase funding to restore nature, helping communities like ours to protect and restore local environments.

★ I was invited by Community Land Scotland to share our experience of **bringing Kilpatrick Drive playpark into community ownership**. Cardowan was represented at the major national event in Glasgow which was also broadcast on BBC Alba television.



The **Active Travel Hub** at Frankfield Park grew from strength to strength from April to October 2024:

★ Around 200 children and adults were supported by the team.
★ The community members involved increased their own confidence to extend their skills.
★ We've grown strong partnerships with other active travel organisations in neighbouring villages.
★ We held a Cycling Gala Day in September 2024 offering bike safety checks, free bikes, and trying our e-bikes.
★ The success has encouraged us to start gathering community feedback on getting a Cardowan pump track installed.









Autumn 2024

★ In the Happy Hub, we hosted a Priority Service Register **info event** opening up access to support and advice from SP Energy Networks.



★ With Pop Idol winner Michelle McManus, we featured in SP Energy Networks' **partnership video** for the Cloudberry Communities community-run car club.



★ We were successful in achieving funding for our **Spread the Happiness project** from the Growth Pot Fund which has strengthened our capacity to support community members to engage and participate in their own health journey. Two project worker posts were funded alongside volunteer training, running the Happy Hub, and access and travel costs for community members.



★ The **Health and Wellbeing Group** had a great time attending a local event in aid of the Auchengeich Memorial Fund.





★ In partnership with Northern Corridor Community Volunteers, a new **heritage trail** was installed in and around the area with signage, beautiful sculptures and information boards.

★ And we got to work maintaining the **Kilpatrick Drive playpark** we brought into community ownership last year with an Upcycle Week - where the community got together to freshen and fix up the playpark, its first since it was originally built by the property developers.







WINTER 2024

★ The Happy Hub was one of ten community centres offering **Warm Welcomes** across the Northern Corridor area For three months we provided a weekly warm, safe and welcoming local space with free tea, coffee and hot soup.



★ We had glorious winter sunshine for the Eco-Museum of Scottish Mining Landscapes visit to map the **'Cardowan: Lanarkshire's Last Pit' walk** round the village.





★ Over the Summer and Autumn we also worked with Claire Williams at Cloudberry Communities on a **Community Health Impact Assessment** which was competed in Winter. This was as a direct result of feeling powerless and ignored and frustrated and exhausted. We needed to have our voices heard in the decisions being taken about our community. Claire took us through a lively learning and sharing process that resulted in a video, report, case study and a list of questions to ask of our community to get the real picture of health and wellbeing in Cardowan.

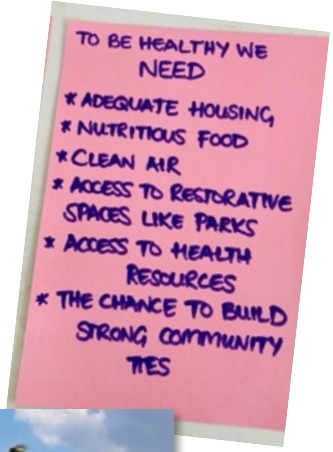
The Winter months also often mean more meetings organised by the statutory bodies like North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) looking for community consultation. A lot of our volunteers' time is spent attending these meetings, holding those statutory bodies to account, and **speaking up for the community of Cardowan**. Meetings we attended include:



★ NLC Northern Corridor Community Board AGMs and Conference
★ NLC Community Board Sub-groups in Transport, Health Inequalities, and Digital Inclusion
★ Northern Corridor Community Forum
★ Participation days and Network meetings with North Lanarkshire Disability Forum, Lanarkshire Links, NHS Lanarkshire, and Voice of Experience
★ Carers Network Meetings with North Lanarkshire Carers Together











SPRING 2025

★ A much-appreciated development in our growing team of lovely volunteers is all the hours of hard work being put into **maintaining the land now in community ownership** including: Kilpatrick Drive playpark, Dewar Road, and the historic woodland paths that connect us as a community with valuable green space.

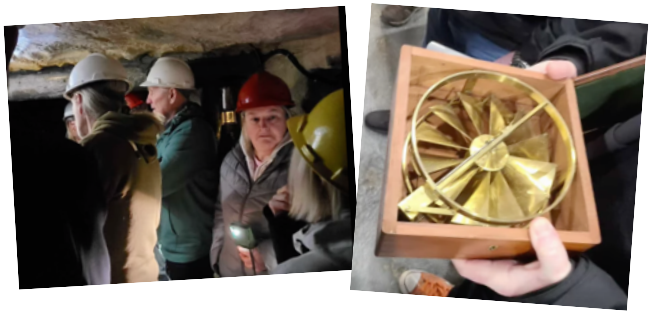


★ We often run **litter picks** in the regular groups like the Health Walk. And as part of Keep Scotland Beautiful's Spring Clean, we hosted a litter pick with Green Action Trust.





★ We organised a **community visit** to Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life with the Eco Museum to see the artefacts and history held about Cardowan Colliery and its miners.



★ The Multi-Use Games Area finally opened for all. We **campaigned** the Council to locate the funding for this that was due to the village for the community's benefit.



★ Cardowan Community Meadow was selected as Red Deer Village's **chosen charity** in May. A team of volunteers attended a special residents' event where we met Katrina Murray MP and raised key issues her constituents were facing.



Summer 2025

★ In a partnership with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, we were able to offer 21 local children access to coaches and equipment for the Game On **Football Camp** over the Summer holidays. The feedback from the kids and parents was really positive.





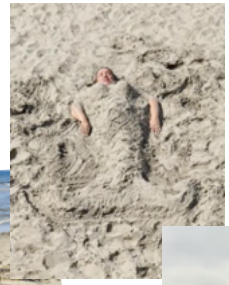






★ The **community garden** work re-started again with the good weather and this time we had a helping hand from a team of volunteers from major engineering business AtkinsRealis.









★ We were successful in achieving funding from North Lanarkshire Carers Together. The Time for Me fund specifically **supports unpaid carers** and we were delighted to be chosen. The funding has meant we're able to go on trips like this Summer to Ayr beach.

★ After a number of attempts at seeking more **long-term funding throughout the year**, we were finally successful with the National Lottery Awards for All. This provides us with financial stability for the next year for the core costs of the Happy Hub, Active Travel Hub, volunteer travel, and the project workers. Allowing us to be able to look to the future and support more people in the community.

★ And all **our work was recognised** as Cardowan Community Meadow won the Northern Corridor Excellence Award in this year's NLC Provost's Award. Some of the team were there to pick up the award.





Our work is supported by:

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY | AWARDS FOR ALL SCOTLAND | Coalfields Regeneration Trust | NORTH LANARKSHIRE carerstogether | Lanarkshire Links Service User and Carer Involvement in Mental Health