Chair's Report
for the 2026 Annual General Meeting

Registered SCIO SC050197



Heartfelt thanks to one and all. You are the Heart of Cardowan. Participating, engaging, volunteering and supporting our projects at Cardowan Community Meadow. We have had a quick, busy and productive year since our last AGM. With a new exciting year ahead of us. If you would like to be part of our journey, get in touch. We have varied opportunities available to all. All welcome.

Annmarie Kirkland, Chair

A big thank you to the CCM Volunteers!

Firstly, Cardowan Community Meadow wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the local residents who give up their time. It's that simple. Every day, every week, every month – the CCM volunteers show up for their community.

Each week this year, the volunteers continued to run a range of free wellbeing activities open to everyone and advertised on our social media.

It can be leading health walks, facilitating arts and crafts workshops, offering peer support from their own experience, being in the Happy Hub for a chat, making sure everyone is safe, making everyone a cuppa, cutting the grass in the Playpark, representing Cardowan at Council meetings, posting on social media, keeping the Community Garden tidy, attending Trustee meetings to make decisions, sharing thoughts as part of our evaluation, and much more.

The hard work of the volunteers in the last year runs throughout this report. But there's also so much people do that often goes unnoticed. Even when they've got a lot going on their life too. This is seen and very much appreciated 💛



Our new activities flyer designed in the team

Autumn 2025



OSCR
Scottish Charity Regulator

★ In October 2025, we had a **successful AGM** – thanks to everyone who came. Having strong governance structures in place means we operate within the rules set out for registered charities. And it's important that we're transparent in how we run CCM. Members agreed the accounts and these were lodged with the charity regulator OSCR and are available to view on their website: www.oscr.org.uk.

★ We've also been **making every penny of funding we receive count**. We make sure we're not paying out for anything we don't need to. So this year we worked through all the admin to achieve charitable exemptions for water rates and business rates for The Happy Hub, our base on Dorlin Road.

A big part of our work is **making sure the voices of Cardowan are heard** by those who currently make decisions about our community.

This may sound like a tough challenge but statutory bodies like North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) are looking for community consultation. We believe they need to be held to account on where and how public money is spent.
So our volunteers spent a lot of time this year working to bring decisionmaking powers closer to Cardowan. Meetings we attended this year include:

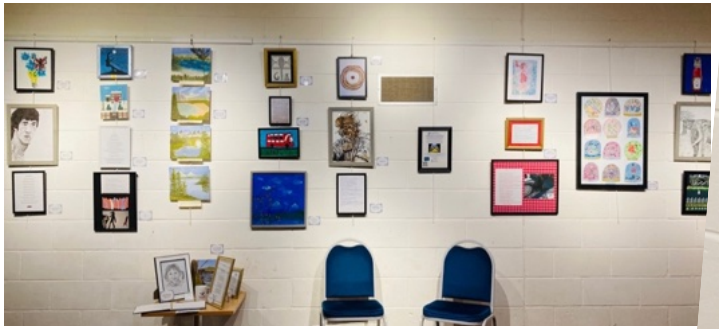
★ NLC Northern Corridor Community Board meetings
★ NLC Community Board Sub-groups in Transport, Health Inequalities, and Digital Inclusion
★ Stepps and District Community Council
★ Northern Corridor Community Forum
★ Participation days and Network meetings with North Lanarkshire Disability Forum, Lanarkshire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

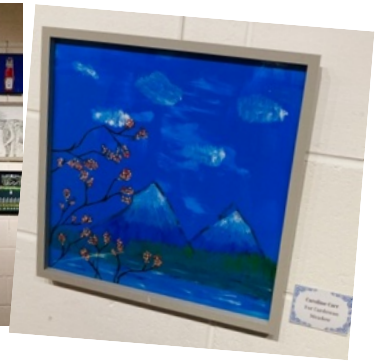


★ A good example of the impact we're making is CCM putting pressure on FirstBus and SPT to **bring back the much-needed 38C bus** into the village. We're still fighting for an arrival date but the plans are in place for the return. Definitely a win for the community of Cardowan.



Winter 2025





★ As part of our Time for Me funding, we were asked to gather stories (or case studies) about **the impact of our work with unpaid carers has for them** – in their own words. We're grateful to the group members who agreed to share their experiences with us. It helps us review what we're doing, making sure it's what people need. Here's some direct quotes:

★ One of the **Health and Wellbeing group** members (who is also a committed CCM volunteer and project worker) had their artwork exhibited at the prestigious Chatelherault Country Park gallery space. They were invited by CCM partner and mental health charity Lanarkshire Links to submit some of their beautiful work. The group went along to see the exhibition and shared in celebrating the amazing talents.



★ We know that **The Happy Hub** at 12 Dorlin Road is a safe and peaceful haven for everyone who attends our regular groups. It's a place folk can drop into when a quiet space is needed. This year we renewed our agreement with the Council to offer **free period products** in the Hub. The volunteers manage regular deliveries and stock control, and anyone can come in when we're open to pick up what they need.

★ The Happy Hub is also a space that external organisations can bring their services to the people of Cardowan. This year the CCM Trustees agreed **a rental rate card** for enquirers to hire the Hub for health and wellbeing activities. All income raised from rentals goes straight back into the running of the community activities.

Hire the Happy Hub

Un-funded groups + projects - £10 / hour
Funded groups + projects - £20 / hour
Statutory Service Providers / Commercial - £30+ / hour*

*This rate may be more as agreed by Trustees on a case-by-case basis, depending on volunteer time and resources required.

Unpaid Carer Case Studies

"I'm proud of the art I produce. Proud that I got a chance to sit myself down and do it. And in an environment I feel safe in, with people I know and trust."

"Being in the Health and Wellbeing Group means I have more confidence and belief in myself. The group is a sanctuary for me."

"The group offers me an opportunity to offer peer support to other carers in my community. In turn, I know that I can ask the group anything."

Spring 2026



★ This last year we've been working on a number of **funding applications**. The aim is to keep CCM stable and free up time for the volunteers to do what they do best: helping the community to improve their health and wellbeing and fighting for the local historic greenspaces everyone needs and uses. Time for Me funding has allowed us to run the **regular Health and Wellbeing group on Thursdays**. The group also said they wanted to go out on visits and try something new. By partnering with Central Scotland Adventures at Auchinstarry Marina, we had a perfect opportunity for group members to **try out the confidence they've all gained with the support of CCM**. It was a beautifully sunny day and everyone enjoyed it!



★ In the Easter holidays, local children became Woodland Adventurers at our **Forest School**. They were building dens and exploring the nature on the Meadow. Even seeing what the night vision camera captured during the week...

★ Funding was raised for the Tuesday evening **Peer Support Group** from the Local Activity Fund. This means the group can continue to offer a safe space free of stigma to share and talk through your own experiences.



★ Throughout the year, a new group of volunteers has been dedicating their time to maintaining **Kilpatrick Drive playpark** and **Dewar Road**. CCM recently bought the land the developers left behind in and around Crowwood Grange so now it belongs to the community. We're very grateful to the local residents who gathered for a meeting at The Happy Hub to work out a way towards ensuring the land is safe for everyone to use.

Summer 2026

★ We had an army of lawnmowers and strimmers out for the first grass cut of the season in May at **Kilpatrick Drive Playpark**. We promoted it at the Stepps Food Market and welcomed new members along for a successful community tidy up.











★ At the **Active Travel Hub**, a generous donation of children's and adult's bikes were serviced by our brilliant bike mechanic/project worker Caroline. When they were safe and ready to go out, they were given away on Saturday afternoons at Frankfield Park where the Active Travel Hub sits.

★ The Happy Hub hosted one of local MSP Fulton MacGregor's surgeries in August. Maintaining this community space means more local community voices can be heard by the decisionmakers.



★ A highlight of the summer was the **Pathfinders Parade and Picnic** on 8 August. Over 150 local residents walked the historic paths on the Meadow to celebrate and highlight how important they are and were when the miners' families used them. We had live music, free food, dancing, and a true Cardowan community spirit that couldn't be dampened by the rain!









The Jar of Joy



So that we don't forget all the good things we do, we have **The Jar of Joy**: a place for anyone to write down something good that happened, a success or win, a positive thought. It's a good way to keep track of what we've achieved as a team and as a community.

Here's a selection of highlights from the past year:



Thank you to our funders:

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY | AWARDS FOR ALL SCOTLAND

NORTH LANARKSHIRE carerstogether

CORRA FOUNDATION voice • power • change

Coalfields Regeneration Trust BUILDING PROSPERITY & OPPORTUNITY

Lanarkshire Links Service User and Carer Involvement in Mental Health

Culture for Climate Scotland

The Year to Come...

It's taken a lot of work to build the confidence, reputation, and impact of our work to achieve three years of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund. We're delighted to have achieved this. It means exactly what we proposed in our application: a chance to grow together. The funding is restricted to supporting the solid foundations of The Happy Hub, project workers focused on supporting the volunteers, and funds to run the groups and advocacy work that our community needs.

In the past year, we have also felt the need to ensure we have a code of conduct for The Happy Hub and ensure all volunteers, staff and group members feel safe to participate. We look forward to continuing to provide safety, peace and space to breathe for all members of the community.

